

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: Antelope Valley IRWM Stakeholder Meeting

MEETING DATE: 10/7/2020

LOCATION: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

ISSUED DATE: 10/14/2020

ATTENDEES: Evelyn Ballesteros, James Chaisson, Brian Dietrick, Keith Dyas, Jeff Hogan, Bruce Katz, Bob Large, Mike Shahbakhti, Brach Smith, Kari Eskridge, Matt Knudson, Erika Bensch, Scott Rogers, Holly Jones, Neil Weisenburger, Vickie Rouche, Max Storm, Pete Thompson

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

A. Welcome and Introductions (Kari E.)

- The Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Management (AV IRWM) Stakeholder Meeting was opened and led by Kari Eskridge from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks Division. Other agenda topics were led by Matt Knudson of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) and Peter Thompson of the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA).

B. Prop. 1 Grant Funding Status (Matt K.)

The Lahontan Funding Area (with six IRWM Regions) has a total funding allocation of approximately \$24.5 million for implementation projects. The Lahontan IRWM Regions agreed that the funds would be allocated proportionally as a function of each region’s population, land area, and an equal funding split. Using this methodology, the Antelope Valley IRWM Region has a total of approximately \$4.9M available in funding. The Antelope Valley IRWM Region requested \$3.9M of the \$4.9M in Round 1 and set aside \$1M for Round 2.

On June 9, 2020, the AVSWCA received an Award Notification Letter from DWR awarding the AV IRWM group its full proposal of \$3,895,595 in Round 1 Prop. 1 IRWM Implementation Grant funds. On June 16th, 2020, AVSWCA responded to DWR with an award acceptance letter. AVSWCA continued to work with the project proponents to submit additional documentation to DWR for grant funds. DWR is expected to provide AVSWCA with the Draft grant agreement late October/early November 2020. AVSWCA will review and approve the grant agreement and then contract the grant administration to Woodard and Curran. Peter Thompson from the AVSWCA will be the primary contact with DWR.

Table 1: Final Awards List-Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Solicitation

Project Name/Sponsor	Total Cost	Revised Request
SNIP Phase 2 AVEK	\$26,656,000	\$881,208
Antelope Valley Regional Cons. Project AVRCD	\$410,650	\$290,763
Phase 2 Distribution System PRWA	\$8,540,876	\$881,208
Littlerock Dam Sediment Removal PWD	\$15,754,429	\$881,208
RCSD WWTP Rehabilitation and GW Protection RCSD	\$12,183,078	\$881,208
Grant Administration AVSWCA	\$80,000	\$80,000
Total	\$63,625,033	\$3,895,595

Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association acting as Grant Administrator on behalf of the region.

C. Project Updates (Matt K.)

Project sponsors provided brief updates regarding the projects included in the Prop. 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant application.

SNIP Phase 2: Matt Knudson (AVEK)

Completed CEQA, R/W acquisition, moving on to the Design Phase of the project. Expect to award the contract for Design in a few weeks. Pursuing additional federal funding for the construction part of the project.

Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Project: Neil Weisenburger (AVRCD)

Waiting for the funds to be released. Environmental complete. Project is ready to go once they receive funds.

Phase 2 Distribution System: Mike Shahbakhti (PRWA)

Finishing up the supplemental environmental process for the project. Exploring additional funding sources. Plans have been approved.

Little Rock Dam Sediment Removal: Scott Rogers (PWD)

In negotiations for final sediment placement. Environmental complete, Plans 90% complete. Once negotiations are complete, the project will be put out to bid.

RCSD WWTP Rehabilitation and GW Protection: Brach Smith (RCSD)

Under construction with the expansion part of the project. Construction started at the end of October 2019 and is about 50% complete.

D. On-going Regional Funding through MOU (Pete T.)

- Current MOU is expiring at the end of 2020. Propose another amendment to the MOU to extend it for 3 years to cover the cost of participation in the USGS program, consulting cost for grant administration, and continued support for the AV IRWM group.
- Review proposal letter submitted by Woodard & Curran for grant administration and ongoing support to the AV IRWM group.
- Propose the project proponents can front the money for the grant administration portion.
- AVSWCA to contract the grant administration out to Woodard & Curran for grant administration and additional support to the AV IRWM group (meetings, workshops, etc.)

E. CASGEM Program (Pete T.)

PWD currently provides the required groundwater data for the CASGEM program to DWR. The group is required to participate in this program in order to qualify for various grant opportunities. Propose that the AV Watermaster take over and report the CASGEM and USGS program data on behalf of the group.

F. USGS Groundwater Monitoring Program (Matt K.)

AVSWCA currently administers and monitors ground water level and quality for the USGS. Ground water level monitoring is done annually for 170 wells and semi-annually for 23 index wells. Ground water quality monitoring is sampled on a three-year rotational basis. Propose to shift the contracting entity to the AV Watermaster to administer the program. AV Watermaster relies on the data collected from this program to monitor the basin and prepare their annual reports.

G. Vacant Advisory Committee (A-Team) Members Seats (Kari E.)

Advisory-Team Seats (Category)	Current
Agriculture	Nominee: Gene Nebeker (Stand-in: VACANT)
Conservation, Environmental, and Water Quality	Nominee: Neal Weisenberger (Stand-in: Claudette Robert-Beck)
Industry and Commerce	Nominee: Zachary Ahinga (Stand-in: Mark Beuhler)
Municipalities	Nominee: Bruce Katz (Stand-in: Julie Worrell)
Mutual Water Companies	Nominee: Mary Woods (Stand-in: VACANT)
Public/Land Owners/Rural Town Councils	Nominee: Bob Large (Stand-in: Yvonne Malikowski)
Urban Water Suppliers	Nominee: Kari Eskridge (Stand-in: Scott Rogers)

H. Public Comments (Kari E.)

- None

I. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other items

- None

J. Next Steps

Next Stakeholder meeting: Feb 3rd, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (MS Teams Virtual Meeting)

Quarterly Stakeholder meetings scheduled: June 2, 2021, Oct. 6, 2021

Responsible Party	Task	Due Date
AVEK/AVSWCA	Draft Amended MOU	
Woodard & Curran	Provide update on future funding opportunities	