

Meeting Notes
DWR Funding Area Meeting with Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
March 14, 2007

Attendance

DWR: Tracie Billington, Joe Young

SWRCB: Erin Ragazzi

Approximately 45 local agency representatives and interested parties were in attendance from both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Major items of discussions

- There are three IRWMP efforts within the two Counties
 - Greater Los Angeles County IRWMP (adopted 2006)
 - Watershed Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP (adopted 2006)
 - Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP (being prepared)
- Representatives from each of the three areas provided a brief update on the background, status, and next steps of their IRWMP efforts.
- The three regions want to keep their autonomy and are not be interested in preparing a super umbrella IRWMP for both counties.
- Representatives from the three IRWMP regions have met twice and will continue to meet to share ideas and discuss how to equitably divide the \$215 million earmarked under Proposition 84 for the funding area.
- DWR indicated that the State will take 8.5 % of the Proposition 84 funds, 5 % for DWR to administrator the bond programs and 3.5 percent for bond issuance fees and administration.
- Under proposition 84, the IRWMP dollars distribution was based on a minimum level of \$25 million per region with the remainder being allocated based on population.
- In terms of population, LA County has about 10,000,000 residents, Ventura County has about 900,000 residents and Upper Santa Clara has about 200,000 residents.
- Ventura County indicated that they do not support a split of IRWMP grant funds based solely on population.
- DWR implied that funding allocation should not ignore water supply and water quality needs
- DWR indicated that Proposition 84 does include \$300 million for flood management related projects.
- All three regions prefer that DWR take a “performance based approach” rather than a “competitive approach” in upcoming grant awards. The three IRWMP regions acknowledged that intra-regional competition is inherent as each region prioritizes its respective projects.
- DWR will expect all IRWMPs to meet a higher level of standard than previously deemed acceptable and will use the information from the IRWMP from the various regions to update the California Water Plan.

- DWR would like to provide a general framework to guide development of “decision making structure” and “project prioritization and integration” under the IRWMP and allow each region to select the format that best fits the region.
- DWR anticipates allocating the Prop 84 funds over four years with funding cycles in years 1, 2, and 4.
- For the first funding cycle year (FY2007-08), DWR will allocate \$145 million under the current proposed State budget. The majority of the funding will occur in years 2 and 4.
- It is expected that DWR will have an expedited round 2 of Proposition 50 IRWMP funding this calendar year. DWR hinted that IRWMP regions that received funding under the first round may not be eligible to compete for these funds.
- DWR hopes to have draft guidelines in May or June and final guidelines later this year. DWR desires that guidelines be applicable statewide and not by region.
- DWR is encouraging regions to start prioritizing their projects now rather than waiting for the guidelines. Regions will have to explain what criteria they used for prioritizing projects.
- DWR and SWRCB are expected to provide feedback back to each region on its adopted IRWMP.
- DWR will meet with the various funding regions more routinely to provide support and guidance.