

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY [DRAFT]
JUNE 24, 2015**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CA**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Hildebrand for Gail Farber (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)
Chair, Leadership Committee

Leighanne Kirk for Richard Nagel (West Basin MWD)
Chair, South Bay Subregion

Grace Kast for Chris Cash (Gateway Water Management Authority)
Chair, Lower San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Subregion

Rob Beste (City of Torrance)
Vice-Chair, South Bay Subregion

Andy Niknafs for Dave Pettijohn (Department of Water and Power)
Chair, Upper Los Angeles River Subregion

Mark Stanley (Watershed Conservation Authority)
Vice-Chair, Lower San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Subregion

David Pedersen (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)
Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Subregion

Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster)
Chair, Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Subregion

Randy Schoellerman (San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority)
Vice-Chair, Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo Subregion

Barbara Cameron (City of Malibu)
Vice-Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Subregion

Sharon Green for Grace Hyde (County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts)
Sanitation Water Management Area

Guangyou Wang for Tom Ford (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission)
Open Space Water Management Area

Tony Zampielo (Raymond Basin)
Groundwater Water Management Area

OTHERS PRESENT:

Terri Grant, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Russ Bryden, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Virginia Maloles-Fowler, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Erica Sasman, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Alexander Mena, Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability
Dan Sulzer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Edward J. Caldwell, South Bay Subregion
Eliza Whitman, One Water LA, City of Los Angeles
Lenise Marrero, One Water LA, City of Los Angeles
Erik Conard, Los Angeles County Counsel

Esther Rojas, Water Replenishment District
Greg Jaquez, MNS Engineers, Inc.
Jan Dougall, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Miguel Luna (DAC Coordinator), DAKELUNA
Mary Zauner, County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts
Nicole Ocha, Consultant for Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability
Paul Maselbas, Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts
Janice Gonzalez, One Water LA, City of Los Angeles
Wendy La, LASER, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Gary Hildebrand

- 1. Introductions:** Leadership Committee members, staff, and public present introduced themselves.
- 2. Approval of May 27, 2015 Meeting Notes:** Motion to approve the minutes was made by Grace Kast and seconded by David Pedersen: minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3. Old Business**

- A. Next Steps for GLAC IRWM Update from Planning Subcommittee. Chair called on Virginia Maloles-Fowler for an update.
 - i. Plan Implementation Items
 - ii. Future Opportunities

The Subregions and the Plan Update Committee (PUC) began the process to evaluate commitments made in the IRWM Plan, how the IRWM Plan was implemented, and to consider future opportunities for the IRWM Group. Progress has been made and the PUC is approaching the end of these tasks. Several items being finalized include: a draft Monitoring Plan for tracking progress of IRWM Plan Targets/Objective; research of database alternatives to OPTI; and identification of other funding opportunities to assist the Region in meeting its Targets/Objectives. Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo River Sub-Region submitted their review for enhancing the OPTI Database.

- iii. Memorandum of Understanding and Operating Guidelines

Steering Committees and Water Management Area representatives are continuing to work with the PUC and their legal counsels to make the final revisions to the MOU and Operating Guidelines. The PUC hopes to present draft final documents to the Leadership Committee in the fall.

- B. Prop 84 Implementation Grants - 2015 IRWM Grant Solicitation Update. Chair called on Virginia Maloles-Fowler for an update.

Ms. Maloles noted that the contract with RMC was amended to include up to 20 projects for a total cost of \$ 323,315, with a per project cost of \$16,166. Los Angeles County Flood Control District is fronting the costs of the application and is in the process of executing MOUs with project proponents to recover the cost. RMC completed the review of each

proposed project for “fatal flaws;” all projects passed. RMC is now working with each project proponent to compile information required to prepare the application. Notification will be given to sub-region chairs if any project does not submit information in time to meet the expedited schedule. The Leadership Committee will be notified if any projects are not able to complete the application and need to be removed.

C. Funding Future Grant Applications. Chair called on Russ Bryden for an update.

Mr. Bryden shared that at a previous meeting the Leadership Committee indicated a desire to revisit how application costs were financed. Some expressed that the current structure of equally dividing costs among project proponents prevents smaller agencies, NGOs, and DACs from submitting projects. Staff recommended a motion be made to refer this matter to the subregions for discussions and a report with options be prepared by the PUC. Sharon Green made a motion to this effect. Barbara Cameron seconded it. The motion was approved.

4. New Business

A. City of LA's One Water Program - Chair called on Ms. Eliza Whitman.

Eliza Whitman and Lenise Marrero presented the City of Los Angeles' One Water Program which integrates water management with different City of LA departments and programs. For additional information visit: www.Onewaterla.org.

B. Drought Messaging - Chair called on Paul Maselbas.

Mr. Maselbas, Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts, led a discussion addressing a motion made by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis calling for the Department of Public Works, through its leadership role in the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, to encourage coordinated, multi-lingual messaging among the water agencies throughout the County on the impacts of the drought and on the State Water Resources Control Board actions with which residents need to comply. Mr. Maselbas also shared an example of successful messaging achieved by adding the Google Translate option to their website: See <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/lacfd/drought/>. He also requested IRWM members to send examples of their messaging to drought@dpw.lacounty.gov.

C. DWR IRWM 2.0 Next Generation Conference - Chair called on Terri Grant.

Ms. Grant discussed some of the highlights from the conference and shared summaries of presentations she attended. She also added that Gary Bardini from DWR requested the GLAC IRWM to offer ideas to ensure that integrated planning continues even if IRWM funding ceases. She asked that if the LC has ideas to send them to Russ Bryden.

5. Committee Reports

A. Steering Committees

1. Lower San Gabriel & Los Angeles River Sub-Region - No meeting
2. North Santa Monica Bay Sub-Region – David Pedersen stated there was discussion of

changes to the MOU and Operating Guidelines as well as projects being submitted in the Prop 84 2015 application.

3. South Bay Sub-Region - No meeting.
4. Upper Los Angeles River Sub-Region - No meeting.
5. Upper San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo River Sub-Region – Kelly Gardner stated there was discussion on changes to the MOU and Operating Guidelines, a list of enhancements to OPTI Database, and the status of the sub-region's three projects in Prop 84 2015 application.

B. Water Management Areas

1. Open Space - Guangyu Wang identified several state funding opportunities and provided a brief summary of their eligibility requirements.
2. Stormwater - Gary Hildebrand provided an update on the region's MS4 Permit. The State Board recently upheld the MS4 Permit over the 37 petitions filed in 2012. There are 13 Enhanced Water Management Program (EWMP) group plans to be submitted by next week. LACFCD prepared a programmatic EIR, signed off by Board of Supervisors earlier this month, for inclusion in the Plans. The 13 EWMP Plans are estimated to cost \$20 billion.
3. Groundwater - Tony Zampielo spoke about actions undertaken by several working groups he participates in.
4. Sanitation - Sharon Green spoke about Congressman Huffman's proposed drought bill which may provide funding opportunities of up to \$150 million under US Bureau of Reclamation for western states. Congressman Huffman is visiting the County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts next week. Ms. Green also shared that SB 485 was recently amended.
5. Surface Water - No report

C. Legislative Committee - Chair called on EJ Caldwell.

Mr. Caldwell discussed upcoming legislation including: proposals by State legislators to allocate \$1.7 billion in response to the drought; SB 88 which contains a CEQA exemption for projects during a drought declaration; and several Federal drought bills including Congressman Huffman's. He also discussed an action item on SB 208 (Lara), which directly relates to IRWM, giving advanced payments for grants less than \$1 million to DACs or NGOs. Mr. Caldwell also mentioned a request by Senator Lara's staff to support this bill and suggested the Leadership Committee send a joint letter to that effect. Gary Hildebrand responded that due to authorization requirements by individual agencies, it would be difficult to send a timely joint letter. Mr. Hildebrand recommended instead that each agency be provided the drafted letter for suggested language and decide their position.

D. DAC Committee - Chair called on Mark Stanley.

Mr. Stanley provided an update on the Committee's Water Dialogue series. He indicated the Committee's intent to have Supervisor Kuehl, Fran Spivy-Weber, and Los Angeles City Council Member Felipe Fuentes speak at upcoming meetings. Miguel Luna then addressed the Leadership Committee and encouraged more participation from sub-regions. Mr. Luna indicated that in mid-October they are planning an OPTI Database training event to support submittal of new DAC projects. Randy Schoellerman and other Leadership Committee members requested that Mr. Luna provide the sub-region chairs with a report on how projects were scored for Prop 84 2015 DAC criteria.

6. Public Comment: No Comments

7. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items

Alex Mena from the Los Angeles County Office of Sustainability introduced Nicole Ocha who announced the Hero Program which provides support to home owners with financing water and energy conservation improvements. For more information, see www.Heroprogram.com.

Russ Bryden announced that the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management contacted him and expressed a desire to attend an upcoming Leadership Committee meeting to discuss coordinated planning during disaster response.

Grace Kast announced the City of Avalon is in the process of joining the Gateway Water Management Authority.

8. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. Next Meeting: August 26, 2015, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DRAFT