

**Meeting Minutes  
Stakeholder Meeting  
January 21, 2009**

**Participants:** Wayne Argo, Brian Dietrick, Melinda Barrett, Yvonne Malikowski, Cathie Campbell, Chad Reed, Larry Tyler, Robert Large, Rob Morrow, Dick Wells, Brad Bones, Travis Berglund, Curtis Paxton, Tom Barnes, Gordon Phair, Tom West, David Rizzo, Laura Blank, Richard Caulkins, Peter Zorba, Wendy Reed, James Welling, Juan Blanco

**9:00 AM – Introduction** (Dietrick): Distribution of Meeting Agenda, Minutes from 12/10/08 Stakeholder Meeting, and hard copies of final version of *Agreement on the Implementation of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan*.

**9:05 AM - Review of IRWMP Meetings to Date** (Dietrick): Today's Stakeholder Meeting is the 24<sup>th</sup> (the 5<sup>th</sup> since the Advisory Team was formed in late 2007). The Advisory Team has held thirteen meetings. There have also been numerous other meetings involving Tech Committees, the Roundtable of Regions, DWR workshops, legislative strategy/trips to Sacramento, the Lahontan Funding Area, and the MOU.

**9:10 AM - Technical Committee** (Dietrick): A Tech Committee was established to recommend projects for the "expedited round" of Prop 84, subject to revision when the Final Guidelines come out this Spring. At this point we don't even have draft guidelines, but DWR has given hints. The Tech Committee consisted of Barnes, Dietrick, Paxton, Phair, Rizzo, Rydman, Williams, and Zorba and met on 1/7 and 1/12 to discuss projects for Prop 84. The projects from the Prop 50 application were reviewed based on (1) AFY of water provided/conserved, (2) cost/AFY, (3) readiness to proceed, (4) potential benefits to Disadvantaged Communities, (5) number of entities working together, and (6) total cost relative to the probable grant amount of \$3M. The Tech Committee recommended two projects from the original suite of seven:

- (1) Comprehensive Conservation
- (2) Phase 2 of Backbone System

Other projects from the Prop 50 suite will likely be recommended for later rounds of grant funding. The Stakeholder Group expressed general agreement with these recommendations, with the understanding that project selection will be revisited when final guidelines are issued for the "expedited round" of Prop 84. In the meantime, the AV Water Conservation Coalition agreed to take the lead in developing the conservation project; and LA County Waterworks agreed to take the lead in developing the Backbone Phase 2 project. The status of each of the four component sub-projects in the comprehensive conservation project was given:

- (1) AV Watershed Conservation Brochure - ready in Spring, but needs funding
- (2) Rancho Vista Golf Course – complete, but may have additional phases
- (3) ET Controllers - partially complete, but has additional phases
- (4) Conservation garden – needs funding support

Tom West reminded the Stakeholder Group that Prop 1e funding might be available for projects related to flood control.

**9:20 AM - Region Acceptance Process (RAP)** (Dietrick): This is the first step to be eligible for Prop 84 funds. "Regions" must receive approval from DWR based on appropriate hydrologic boundaries, governance structure, and stakeholder involvement. The AV Region has made a lot of progress on hydrologic boundaries and stakeholder involvement, but needs better definition for governance structure. This will be particularly important during the "Region" interview process that DWR plans to conduct in March 2009. The Agreement (see below) will help in this effort. Draft guidelines on the RAP are circulating now, and generally provide a lot of detail. The timeline is short but is subject to change based on the extensiveness of the comments received and the State Budget problems. I explained that the Advisory Team would probably be able to put much of the RAP application together by cutting and pasting language from the IRWMP and Prop 50 application (something DWR encourages). But we may need in-kind assistance from other Stakeholder Group participants, and we may need to retain Kennedy Jenks or another consultant to meet the deadline. Kennedy Jenks has provided an initial estimate of \$30K to complete the RAP, but the number is based on a Region starting from scratch. With our progress and in-kind work, Dietrick estimates that the costs could be reduced by 50% or 75% (Note: the remaining budget of the RWMG is approx. \$120K (Waterworks) + \$55K (AVSWCA) = \$175K. More details on the RAP and cost estimates will be provided at the next Stakeholder Meeting. Dietrick and Rydman will attend a DWR public workshop about the draft RAP Guidelines on 1/22, and the Advisory Team will provide a comment letter on the draft RAP Guidelines to DWR by the deadline of Jan. 27. A question was asked about whether the Advisory Team had direct contact with DWR for these upcoming funding rounds. The DWR representative for the Antelope Valley is Jim Lin, and he has made it very clear that he is available to us.

**9:30 AM - State Budget Situation** (Dietrick): The Governor vetoed the latest FY 08-09 budget proposal from the legislature. There is no new news on a resolution. State grant programs, including Props 50, 84, and 1e, have been frozen until the budget is passed. There is no definitive information on how much this will delay the RAP or the "expedited round" of Prop 84, but the DWR is proceeding with the RAP original schedule. Meanwhile, the federal economic stimulus package will include approx. \$450M for the California State Revolving Fund program. It is likely to consist of a combination of loans and grants available for "shovel-ready" water infrastructure projects. This federal package is not directly related to Prop 84 or 1e.

**9:40 AM – Agreement on the Implementation of the IRWMP (Agreement)** (Dietrick): A conference call with all RWMG members and counsels was held on 1/14 and a final version of the Agreement was agreed to by all parties. This final version was distributed via email and on the AV IRWMP website. Hard copies were available at the Stakeholder Meeting. RWMG signatories are asked to take this Agreement to their boards for signature before the end of February 2009. The signed Agreement is needed before we sit for the "interview process" for the RAP, which will occur in March. Everyone said they would be able to take it to their boards in January or February except for Palmdale, who said it might be early March. The following are approx. board dates given by each signatory:

- Antelope Valley-East Kern – Jan. 27
- AV State Water Contractors Association – Feb. 12
- City of Lancaster – Feb. 10

- City of Palmdale – Feb. 18 or early March
- Sanitation District No. 14 – Feb. 25
- Sanitation District No. 20 – Feb. 25
- Littlerock Creek Irrigation District – end of January
- LA County Waterworks District 40 – end of February
- Palmdale Water District – Feb. 11
- Quartz Hill Water District – Jan. 21
- Rosamond Community Services District – Jan. 28

G. Phair reported that Palmdale believes it is necessary to include a separate resolution with the Agreement to approve the use of remaining funds (\$175K) for Prop 84 and 1e applications. The reason given was that this is not explicitly stated in the original Memorandum of Understanding or the Agreement. Palmdale is willing to provide a draft copy of the resolution they will be taking to their board, and recommends that the other signatories consider taking it to their boards.

**9:50 AM – Open Discussion/General Items of Interest (Stakeholder Group):**

- Palmdale Water District will be holding a public workshop on their Recycled Water Facilities Master Plan on Wednesday, 1/28, at 6 PM.
- W. Reed made a request/comment about writing the Meeting Minutes in a way that is more comprehensive and readable.
- Robert Large commented that he could assist with any “Region” definition issues that pertain to The Lakes area of the AV.

**10:00 AM - Adjournment**