

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
August 28, 2019**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PUBLIC WORKS**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Matthew Frary for Mark Pestrella (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Chair, Leadership Committee

Johanna Chang for Art Castro (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power)  
Chair, Upper Los Angeles Sub-region

Dave Pedersen (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)  
Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Sub-region

EJ Caldwell, (West Basin Municipal Water District)  
Chair, South Bay Sub-region

David Rydman (Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts)  
Vice-Chair, North Santa Monica Bay Sub-region

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

Esther Rojas for Robb Whitaker (Water Replenishment District)  
Vice-Chair, Lower San Gabriel River and Lower Los Angeles River Subregion

Grace Chan (Metropolitan Water District)  
Surface Water, Water Management Area

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

Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin Management Board)  
Groundwater, Water Management Area

Shahram Kharaghani (City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation)  
Sanitation, Water Management Area

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Alex Heide, West Basin Municipal Water District

Amanda Guzman-Perez, Los Angeles County Public Works

Giles Coon, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Tammy Hierlihy, Central Basin MWD

Wendy La, Laser, LLC

Dave Roberts, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Mary Zauner, Los Angeles County Sanitation District

Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation

Kimberly Henry, Wood Environment

Margarit Movsesian, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Virginia Maloles-Fowler, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Public Works

Jolene Guerrero, Los Angeles County Public Works

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Matthew Frary, who served as the Chair.

## 1. Introductions

Chair, Leadership Committee members, staff, and public present introduced themselves.

## 2. Approval of June 26, 2019 Meeting Notes

Motion was made by Esther Rojas and seconded by Dave Pedersen. No abstentions. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 3. New Business

### A. Governor's Water Resiliency Portfolio

Chair provided an update on Water Resiliency Portfolio. The document is a brief 3-page Executive Order from Governor Newsom containing several recitals acknowledging the importance of water and what the future of water can be. Agencies taking the lead in developing the portfolio include the California Natural Resources Agency, CalEPA, Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Department of Finance. Some major factors that were highlighted included promoting multi-benefit projects, natural infrastructure, innovation, regional approaches, and integration.

Tony Zampielo asked whether the County was planning on sending comment letter to the Governor. County is in the process of drafting a letter and has participated in discussions with Mayor Garcetti and the State earlier this month.

Dave Pedersen commented on the inclusion of IRWM in the feedback letters. There are several proposed water bonds under consideration; however, none include IRWM. The California Water Plan does mention of funding for IRWM. Mary Zauner asked whether the County's letter would recommend any funding for IRWM. County has already voiced its concerns at the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting and does intend to address funding for IRWM in its letter.

### B. Presentation – White Paper: Tapping into Available Capacity in Existing Stormwater/Wastewater Infrastructure to Create Water Supply and Water Quality Benefits

Dave Pederson shared information on the study underway. The effort started in early 2018 to look at challenges in handling stormwater and some of the more traditional methods. Las Virgenes' geology does not support infiltration and does not have usable groundwater, so the area needs different strategies. The study looked at providing alternative ways for dealing with urban runoff and stormwater. Main drivers for the study included a decline in wastewater flows, local water supplies, and compliance with MS4 requirements. These drivers provide an opportunity for collaboration to achieve common goals. Phase 1 was a high-level study that looked at total water for all treatment plants in the LA Basin both pre and post drought. The study showed a decline in wastewater production of approximately 100,000 AF in LA Basin with this trend expected to continue. Phase 2 will look at integration of systems and will engage more stakeholders. The conclusions of the white paper highlighted water and wastewater agencies as valuable partners on MS4 compliance, drought and long-term conservation efforts in reducing wastewater influent flows, and that alternatives make economic sense. The study is expected to be used as a roadmap by other cities. Final report expected in early 2020.

Shahram asked if study will include discussion on integrating funding sources for planning these projects. Study may address cost structure; however, funding is an agency by agency issue. Within LVMWD, there is already funding integration happening with the different enterprise efforts supporting each other. Sharon asked if any other parts of the country are looking at similar strategies. It is possible that this is happening in other parts of the country, but Dave is not aware. Other parts of the country have combined sewer systems. The region is controlled and strategic with treatments.

#### 4. Old Business

##### A. Summary of Current Grants/Key Updates (Prop 50 & Prop 84 Rounds 1 – 4)

Amanda Guzman-Perez reminded the Committee that the Project Status Report provided to Steering Committees each month and reported on the status of each grant.

##### i. Round 1 Amendment 7:

DWR approved Amendment 7; all current active projects are on schedule.

##### ii. Round 2 Amendment 3:

Project 8 – Peck Water Conservation Improvement – Requesting modification to exhibits including potential grant end date extension; pending feedback from DWR.

##### iii. Round 3

Project 9, USGVMWD Recycled Water Retrofits Project for USGVMWD and Project 14, Pomona Basin Regional Groundwater Project for Puente Basin Water Agency – Requested an extension to complete projects to June 30, 2021. Currently the grant end date is December 31, 2019.

##### iv. Round 4 Amendment 2:

- Project 4 – Franklin D. Roosevelt Park Regional BMP Project – Requesting a minor work plan modification. Modification request will be submitted under Amendment #2 that will include Project 14.
- Project 14 – Water LA Neighborhood Retrofits – NE SF Valley (ULAR) - The River Project (TRP) was unable to secure the anticipated funding match from LASAN and LADWP that was necessary to complete the full-scale project and the contractual obligations of the Grant Agreement. Ms. Winters provided an update at the June 26 meeting to address the project progress to install initial 20 parkway basins and 5 home retrofits. Staff has worked with TRP to prepare the required documentation for the modification request. Submission of formal modification request to DWR is pending TRP's submission of the required exhibits to focus on the installation of the 20 parkway basins and 20 home retrofits.

##### B. Prop 1 DACIP and GLAC DAC Committee

Margarit Movsesian reported that the DACIP Database weblink is available for viewing at: <https://watertalks.csusb.edu/>. This website will house additional information as the program implementation continues. The WaterTalks Facilitator Group Training Session was held at the East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice in the City of Commerce on August 6, 2019. TreePeople and Placeworks collaborated to provide participants with information on the purposes and goals of WaterTalks, and their roles and responsibilities. Participants were given an opportunity to provide their feedback and share their community water related concerns. The feedback provided by the Facilitators will help fine tune the materials being provided to the communities. Outreach events will begin in September. TreePeople has confirmed 4 scheduled dates. Those dates and locations will be available on the website.

CSUSB and West Basin continue to work together to amend their contract. The DACIP Task Force met on August 21, 2019 to discuss the timeline and strategy for scheduled outreach, progress reports and invoicing, and Task 3 Needs Assessment solicitation.

Task 3 - Needs Assessment solicitation has been finalized, and RFP will be issued in September by West Basin.

#### C. Prop 1 Implementation Round

Virginia Maloles-Fowler reported that the required pre-application documents were submitted on August 23, 2019 and the pre-application workshop for the Region is scheduled for September 9th at PW Headquarters. DWR is expected to provide written feedback by October 4th and the final application will be due to DWR by December 6th. All grant awards are expected to be completed by Fall of 2020.

#### D. Update on H2O4LA/Water for LA

Jolene Guerrero announced that the new Water for LA website will be launched later this week; the homepage is up. Website will house timeline, history of water in Los Angeles, along with educational information, and monthly or quarterly water campaigns. Different water messaging will be under the umbrella of Water for LA Program. The first campaign "LA is Thirsty" will be for water conservation and will be launched this week.

#### E. Update on Safe Clean Water Program

Chair provided update. On July 30, committee appointments were made, and new implementation ordinance was introduced. On August 6, the Board adopted the ordinance, which is being implemented in the Flood Control District code. Chapter 16 is the initial ordinance, and Chapter 18 is the new implementation ordinance. There are also additional guidance documents, which provides additional details as to how the credit works, and how the committee will operate on a standard basis. As of September 6, the 30-day notice requirement will be met, and guidance documents can then be adopted. Director will officially adopt guidance documents and all corresponding pieces can go live. Committees will be able to meet under those Operating Guidelines. Will start with Call for Projects expected in the fall. Committee orientation sessions have taken place.

EJ Caldwell asked whether orientation materials could be obtained. Introductory email was sent that contains hyperlink containing those materials.

Dave Pederson asked about conflict of interest issues. Committee members may need to file Form 700.

EJ Caldwell asked whether there will be a hosted workshop for the municipalities and if outreach was being provided to the smaller cities. Outreach efforts are still being coordinated. Jolene added that they are still working on language for the percentage of transfer funds, before they start reaching out to the cities for trainings. Chair added that they will still need Board approval on the fund transfer agreements.

### 5. Standing Committee Reports

#### A. Steering Committees

- i. NSMB – No meeting held. No update.
- ii. South Bay – No meeting held. No update.
- iii. ULAR – No meeting held. No update.
- iv. USGRRH – No meeting held. No updates.
- v. LSGLAR – No meeting held. No updates.

## B. Water Management Area Representatives

- i. Groundwater – Still spreading water from last winter out of Morris, which will end September 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been some issues where they have been asked to stop putting water into the river. They signed a contract with Metropolitan where if Metro had a surplus, they would be able to put water into their account basin, and which could be purchased over time.
- ii. Open Space – Not in attendance.
- iii. Sanitation – Section 1211 issues update provided. In 2018, a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for public comment. Based on the comments received, a draft EIR was prepared and is out for public comment until September 17<sup>th</sup>. The documents are available on the sanitation district website.
- iv. Stormwater Quality – Working on Ballona Creek watershed and are asking the Water Board for an extension. Preparing for regional permit. Draft expected by October 2019 and the regional permit by Spring 2020. Also, finalizing governance and project prioritization for municipal programs within the watershed and cities.
- v. Surface Water – Storage levels are good. Rivers are said to be so full and demand is low, so more water expected for 2021. For Colorado River, shortage is anticipated to be 0% for 2020 and 6% for 2021.
- vi. Stormwater Capture – Total rainfall from October 1, 2018, 19.6 inches. Stormwater capture at Groundwater recharge facilities has been 282,000 AF.

## C. Legislative Committee

EJ Caldwell provided update. SB1, the California Environmental Public Health and Workers' Defense Act - There is a lot of movement on this bill. Bill appears to be moving forward. Assembly Bill 352, a \$3.92 million bond - needs more detail.

## D. IRWM Roundtable of Regions

Giles Coon provided an update on the RoR. Quarterly meeting was held on August 22, 2019, via conference call. DWR provided an update on California Water Plan 2019. Talked about strengthening support for the IRWMP at state level. Funding amendment was included in the updated plan. They discussed Water Sustainability Atlas, and that it is not yet fully funded. They continue to work on making input into the atlas easier. It has been highlighted in the Water resiliency portfolio, and they may see funding in future. Success of the Sustainability atlas depend on the IRWMP regions providing update support. The Water Reliance Portfolio has been prioritized and Nancy Vogel would have a draft in October, and a copy to Governor by Thanksgiving. If there are any comments or input, they can be made on [www.waterresilience.ca.gov](http://www.waterresilience.ca.gov), or by e-mail [input@waterresilience.ca.gov](mailto:input@waterresilience.ca.gov). It is expected the water resiliency portfolio will play a role in the 2020 Water Bond.

RoR began coordinating with ACWA and CASQA. Recently ACWA adopted the IRWM policies through board motions. RoR has a new website: [www.Roundtableofregions.org](http://www.Roundtableofregions.org). RoR has finalized their charter and is working on establishing a schedule for quarterly meetings. Mavin's Notebook has offered RoR IRWM a blog on her site.

RoR has prepared a draft letter to Nancy Vogel on the Governor's Resilience Portfolio. Recommendations include that the State: 1.) Adopt IRWM approach as foundation for the portfolio; 2.) Work across agencies and with local regional water management groups to continue fund regional and multi-benefit planning projects; 3.) Work with interested stakeholders to recognize values and benefits of IRWM; 4.) Work with Roundtable, stakeholders and regional water management groups to address vulnerable communities; 5.) Review the success, barriers, and survey results related to IRWMP with the

roundtable, regional water management groups, and interested stakeholders; and 6.) Form a diverse stakeholder advisory group to prioritize future actions related to IRWMP.

Future Activities: issued a call for volunteers for working groups. Four working groups to be established are: 1) IRWMP 2.0; 2) Prioritization of stakeholder perspective recommendations; 3) headwaters working group; and 4) Working group for underrepresented communities.

## **6. Public Comment**

None

## **7. Future Agenda Items/Announcements/Other Items**

Chair stated that he would like to maximize the groups platform, bring up right discussions with meaningful topics, and help lead the way for our region and even beyond. Chair encourages any comments and updates

David Pederson added that the Water Reuse Action Plan is available on their website. He encourages review and comments.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Chair announced next meeting will be held October 23, 2019, 9:30 am to 11:30 am, with regular bi-monthly meetings to follow.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.