

**Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Meeting Notes – Upper Los Angeles River Watersheds Steering Committee**

**Draft Meeting and Project Prioritization Workshop Minutes
March 24, 2009, 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens, Suite 100**

Present:

Siya Araumi, LA County FCD
Edward Belden, LASGRWC
Mary Benson, LA Trails
Debbie Bruschaber, Mtns Restoration Trust
Russ Bryden, LA County FCD
Changmii Bae, County Parks and Rec
Joyce Dillard

Rebecca Drayse, TreePeople
Darryl Ford, City of LA Rec and Parks
David Gould, CVWD
Andree Hunt, Malcolm Pirnie
Mark Lombos, LA County FCD
Vivian Marquez, City of LA Sanitation
Lianne McGinley, Burbank Water and Power

Meredith McKenzie, Arroyo Seco Foundation
Ed Means, Malcolm Pirnie
Andy Niknafs, LADWP
Daniel Pankau, City of Calabasas
Jim Smith, County Parks and Rec
Patricia Wood, LA County DPW

Topic/Issue	Discussion	Action/Follow up
1. Introductions	Andy Niknafs opened the meeting at 1:30 pm with introductions.	• No Action
2. Approve 2/19/09 Meeting Minutes	The 2/19/09 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.	• No Action
3. Los Angeles County Clean Water Initiative	<p>Russ Bryden gave a presentation on the Los Angeles County Clean Water Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the initiative is to bring together all entities in the region and create a new revenue sources to address the TMDL problem • The proposal is for a property based stormwater quality fee to fund stormwater quality projects. • Funding obtained through the fee could only be used for stormwater aspects of projects, but partnerships could be put into place with other agencies and organizations to fund other components. • There are currently three advisory committees: municipal administrators, environmental, and other groups. The municipal and environmental committees will be holding their next meeting on April 8th and 10:00 am at LA County 	• No Action

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	<p>DPW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A telephone survey done in October showed over 60% voter support for the initiative. • Prop 218 requires a majority vote of those who return the ballot for a mail ballot election. Each parcel receives one vote, although there may be a way to split that vote if parties that own the parcel disagree. • Prop 218 stipulates that funding can only be used in the area from which it is collected. The FCD is proposing to distribute the funds by subwatershed. • The initiative would fund a mixture of regional and local projects. • There may be an opportunity to find the water quality component of IRWMP projects through this fee. • The County intends to use the modeling effort that it is undertaking to identify the best projects. • An engineers report will correlate the fee per property to services, based on imperviousness, land use, and property size. 	
<p>4. Project Presentations</p>	<p>Debbie Bruschaber from Mountains Restoration Trust gave a presentation on the Headwaters Corner at Calabasas project.</p> <p>Mary Benson from LA Trails gave a presentation on the Hansen Dam Grasslands/Walnut Woodland Restoration project.</p> <p>These presentations will be posted to the IRWMP project website (www.lawaterplan.com).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant will have the presentation and handouts posted to the IRWMP project website.
<p>5. Develop List of Priority Projects</p>	<p>The list of the top 20 projects and the completed questionnaires were distributed to the SC. Discussion included:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant will notify project proponents that have not submitted questionnaires that their projects will not be considered if the questionnaire is

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were several projects for which questionnaires were not returned. The questionnaires need to be send out to the project proponents again with a note that projects will only be considered for it the questionnaire is submitted. Project proponents include whether funds are lined up but are currently frozen. • The consultant will re-rank Project #245: Sun Valley Watershed- Strathern Pit Multiuse based on the updated data. • The consultant should e-mail project proponents for top projects requesting that they confirm that all data is accurate and, if there are any changes, update the data and notify the consultant immediately so that the project can be re-scored. • A process and schedule is now posted on the DWR website for the Regional Acceptance Process (RAP), which is the prelude to the implementation grants. • The plan is to begin holding project presentations for the top projects from each SC at the April LC meeting. • Project 1305 will not be ready for construction by December 2010. • For Project 426, the proponent needs to review the minimum funding request, as the amount needed for the remaining phases may be less than the \$7.2M listed • For Projects 228 and 245, the proponent will follow up on the status of the questionnaires and on whether the projects will be ready for construction by December 2010. <p>The discussion on project selection will be continued at the April SC meeting. The consultant will send the questionnaires to the SC at least a week in advance of the meeting. SC members are asked to review</p>	<p>not completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant will e-mail questionnaires to the SC 2 weeks before the April SC meeting. Project proponents will complete and send the questionnaire back to the consultant 1 week before the April SC meeting. Failure to submit the questionnaire and/or updating the database on a timely manner will result in removal of the project from consideration for the expedited round of funding. • Consultant to provide the (updated) project prioritization list including a key describing the scoring methodology to all SC members at least 1 day before the April SC meeting for review.

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	<p>the questionnaire and to consider which projects would best meet the goals of the sub-region/region and what funding split would be appropriate.</p>	
<p>6. Recommendations to the Leadership Committee on Project Selection Process</p>	<p>The Recommendations from the Project Selection Ad Hoc Committee were distributed. Comments from the SC included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fourth bullet should be changed to “Projects in List 2 must indicate whether the project is primarily a Water Supply or Water Conservation project. • The preference of the SC would be to cut projects from the bottom of the list if the grant amount awarded is less than the requested amount. • The SC agrees with the concept of setting aside money for Regional projects. However, a specific amount should not be allocated until a project is identified. • The Regional Projects Ad Hoc Committee should look at the highly ranked projects from each sub-region to see if any of the same projects are rising to the top of the list in multiple sub-regions. • The project selection guidelines should be reevaluated after all projects have been reviewed and after each funding cycle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SC’s comments on the project selection guidelines will be provided to the LC.
<p>7. DAC Project Discussion</p>	<p>Meredith McKenzie provided an update on the DAC ad hoc committee meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a lot of discussion at the meeting on how the guidelines for DAC projects are not as delineated as for other categories. • The committee is soliciting input on guidelines for DAC projects. • The committee is going to review the highly ranked DAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action

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	<p>projects from each sub-region.</p> <p>The SC discussed the goals and plan for bottom up outreach. Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be helpful to know the dollar amount that will be available for DAC projects before meeting with DAC communities in order to obtain feedback on how to best use available funds. • The guidelines for AB 31 funding for urban parks now require outreach before submitting a proposal. These guidelines may be a good example for the DAC outreach process. • Doing outreach to communities in their language at their churches and schools is more effective than meeting with neighborhood councils. Outreach needs to be done by someone who is established in the community. • Now is not the most appropriate time to begin outreach, as the amount of funding that will be available is unclear and the Region is currently trying to narrow down the project list rather than gather new projects. • A starting point for outreach would be to discuss with DACs which projects are currently in play in their communities. 	
<p>8. Leadership Committee- Discuss Draft Agenda Items and Provide Direction to Chair</p>	<p>The Draft Agenda was distributed. The SC had no comments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
<p>9. Next Meetings</p>	<p>The next Leadership Committee meeting will be March 25, 2009 at 9:30 am, at LACFCD, 12th floor.</p> <p>The next Steering Committee meeting will be April 21, 2009 at 1:30 pm, at LADWP Room 1471.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action

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	The consultant will be presenting the RAP application to the Leadership Committee on April 22 nd .	

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