

## **Kings Basin IRWMP Update Workgroup May 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Kings Basin IRWMP Update Workgroup was held at KRCD's office at 3:00 pm. In attendance at the meeting were:

Jim Maciel, Armona CSD  
Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners  
Peter Sanchez, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District  
Ronnie Samuelian, Provost & Pritchard  
Heather Bashian, Provost & Pritchard  
Eva Dominguez, Self-Help Enterprises  
Charlotte Gallock, KRCD  
Paul Peschel, KRCD

Paige Yang, Bakman Water Company  
Idalia Rodriguez, Bakman Water Company  
Jim Petty, Riverdale PUD  
Bill Stretch, Fresno ID  
Scott Sills, Laguna ID  
Soua Lee, KRCD  
Christina Guzman, County of Fresno

### 1. Call to Order

Self-introductions

### 2. IRWM Update Status

The attached PowerPoint slides were reviewed during the meeting. Ronnie Samuelian and Heather Bashian provided an overview of the updates to the IRWMP and also provided hard copies of the Workgroup Draft IRWMP.

#### **a. Workgroup Draft for Review**

- Substantial changes were made to Chapter 3.5 to address AB 1249. Knowledge of any existing or planned future projects that addresses nitrate, perchlorate, arsenic, or hexavalent chromium contamination should be shared with P&P so that those projects may be added to the table of past and future projects.
- Heather noted that all edits made in the Draft IRWMP are shown with track changes. Changes were made throughout the Draft IRWMP.
- Climate change information was updated throughout the Draft IRWMP.
- As a result of new requirements in the guidebook, the Project Information Form (PIF) will need to be updated to include the following sections: technical feasibility of project, project costs and financing, economic feasibility of project, contribution of project in adapting to the effects of climate change, and whether the project proponent has adopted or will adopt the IRWMP. It is not clear if existing projects on the IRWMP project list will be required to resubmit their projects using the updated PIF even though the process to place projects on the project list has not changed.
- Addressing the technical feasibility of a project might be problematic because it is not clear what level of detail is required. Additionally, the Authority has always encouraged conceptual projects to be placed on the IRWMP project list.
- The Authority's boundary do not match exactly with the Bulletin 118 Kings Groundwater Subbasin boundary. In recent years, the Authority has expanded its boundary into portions of the Tulare Lake and Kaweah Subbasins because those areas requested to be covered under an IRWM.
- There are a few areas where the Authority's boundary overlaps with neighboring IRWM groups. This may be an issue when the updated IRWMP is submitted to DWR. Soua shared that DWR has the Authority's current boundary; however, DWR requested additional documentation that proves coordination between the Authority and those IRWM groups

where the overlaps occurs before DWR will move forward with updating the Authority's boundary.

- Ronnie noted that the IRWMP will not cover certain topics that will be covered in a Groundwater Sustainability Plan such as the amount of pumping occurring in the Tulare Lake or Kaweah Subbasins.

**b. Proposed Schedule for Review and Adoption**

- Workgroup comments on the Draft IRWMP due to P&P by June 8, 2018.
- A follow-up Workgroup meeting will be scheduled to discuss comments received.
- Submit Draft IRWMP for DWR review in late June 2018. The goal is to have DWR review the Draft IRWMP for substantial compliance with the 2016 Plan Standards.
- Put the Draft IRWMP out for public comment in August 2018.
- Adopt Final IRWMP at October 2018 Board meeting.

**c. Grant Funding Update**

Soua referred to the Draft PSP Concepts handout and provided an overview of the proposed solicitation process for the upcoming Prop 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant.

- DWR released Proposal Solicitation Process (PSP) Concepts to the Roundtable of Regions to review and provide input. The new solicitation process will require the Funding Area (FA) to appoint a single agency to serve as the point of contact between DWR and the FA. The appointed agency will have the responsibility of setting up the date, time, and location of the pre-application workshop. The pre-application workshop will consist of a presentation by the IRWM group to DWR and other state agencies on their projects that will be competing for Prop 1 funds. DWR will provide feedback to the IRWM group during the workshop and will issue written comments after the workshop. The IRWM group will have the opportunity to consider DWR's comments and revise their grant application as they see fit. Final application submittal is due about 4 to 6 weeks after the pre-application workshop. It is expected that the IRWM group go through their internal project review process and select their highest priority projects prior to the pre-application workshop.
- Soua highlighted some new proposed requirements:
  - Non-DAC/EDA/Tribal projects must acquire CEQA documentation and any permits necessary to begin construction within 6 months of the final funding award. If CEQA is not complete within 6 months of the funding award, that project will be deemed ineligible and the total grant award will be reduced by the project amount.
  - A project benefitting a DAC/EDA/Tribal Group is exempt from having to obtain CEQA and permits within 6 months of the final funding award, but will need to go through the CEQA process if their project requires it.
  - Projects benefitting DACs/EDAs/Tribal groups may use grant funding to cover the cost of CEQA and permits.
  - Non-DAC/EDA/Tribal projects may not use grant funds to pay for CEQA and permits. Those costs can be submitted as local cost share.
  - Comments on PSP Concepts due to DWR by June 1, 2018.
- It was clarified that each IRWM group would submit their own grant application to DWR and compete with the other 6 IRWM groups in the Tulare-Kern Funding Area for grant money. The only coordination required of the IRWM groups is to agree on a pre-application workshop date, location, and percentage of funding that will be available in Round 1 and Round 2.
- Round 1 will make available \$12,034,056 for implementation projects and \$1,020,000 for DAC projects. The Funding Area has the ability to change the funding percentage in each

round. However, if the Funding Area cannot agree on the funding percentage, DWR will default to the current amounts shown.

- Per the PSP Concepts, the earliest pre-application workshops will commence in November. In order for the Authority to be ready by November, request for projects to be considered for Prop 1 funding will be issued as soon as the draft PSP is released. It is possible that agencies will be submitting their projects within 60 days from now.
- Souza asked the Workgroup if anyone sees any issues with acquiring CEQA and necessary permits within 6 months of final funding award. Scott Sills responded that an issue that Laguna ID experienced was their engineer was backed up on work and therefore CEQA was delayed. Ronnie also noted that sometimes an agency will not move forward with a project unless it is certain they will receive funding.
- Ronnie noted that since DWR is proposing a more simplified grant application, it would be interesting to see if the scoring criteria will be as detailed as previous grant rounds or if DWR will scale back.

### 3. Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP)

Ronnie Samuelian provided an overview of the development of the SWRP.

#### **a. SWRP Development Status**

- The SWRP is required to have a project list ranking process. The Workgroup was provided an opportunity to review the language for the project prioritization process and provide comment. P&P also vetted the process with the State Water Resources Control Board, which the State Board have conceptually approved our process for project list tracking.
- The next round of funding has about \$86M available statewide. Projects must be on the SWRP project list to be eligible for funding.
- Scott Sills asked what qualifies as a stormwater project. Ronnie responded that the project needs to have a stormwater benefit and show stormwater as a priority such as flood or stormwater damage reduction. Recharge projects are eligible, but will need to show a stormwater benefit.
- Ronnie noted that the Workgroup provided preference to delay review of the SWRP until a full draft document is complete.
- P&P is developing a roadmap for State Board to review the SWRP. State Board has agreed to review the draft plan prior to adoption.
- Ronnie stressed that the SWRP project list does not have enough projects, there is still time to submit projects.

#### **b. Meeting with Counties**

- Self-Help Enterprises is working with P&P to outreach to certain areas.
- P&P has set meetings with Fresno and Tulare County staff the week of June 4 to identify potential stormwater projects.
- Schedule: Hope to take the SWRP and IRWMP for public comment in August 2018 and adopt both documents at the Board meeting in October 2018.
- How will the SWRP be integrated into the IRWMP? The SWRP is currently referenced in the IRWMP as an appendix.

### 4. Next Meeting

The target month for the next meeting is June 2018.

### Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.