



**Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
Meeting Notes**

**Workshop # 3**

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Banning City Hall  
99 E. Ramsey Street  
Banning CA, 92220

**Attendance**

**Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

- Larry Ellis, Banning Heights MWC/Banning Bench Community of Interest Association
- Stan Houghton, High Valleys Water District
- Bob Krieger, Krieger & Stewart/Cabazon Water Agency
- Elizabeth Lemus, Cabazon Water Agency
- Calvin Louie, Cabazon Water Agency
- Peter Pitassi, Diversified Pacific
- Jason Uhley, Riverside County FC&WCD
- Art Vela, City of Banning

**Woodard & Curran Consulting Team**

- Persephene St. Charles
- Warren Greco

**Meeting Notes**

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

- Persephene St. Charles of Woodard and Curran welcomed everyone to the third Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) workshop. Ms. St. Charles facilitated the meeting.
- Art Vela (Banning) clarified that future SAC Workshops will be held at the Community Room of the Banning Police Department, next door to City Hall.

**2) San Gorgonio IRWM Program Update**

**a. Ongoing Membership and Outreach Activities**

- The RWMG has completed additional outreach to Caltrans Region 8, Habitat for Humanity of the San Gorgonio Pass Area, Western Riverside RCA, Banning Unified School District, and the Chamber of Commerce.

#### **b. Update on DWR Proposition 1 IRWM Program**

- The RWMG is continuing discussions with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) over the boundary of the San Gorgonio IRWM Region. The RWMG has continued to advocate for the original boundary submitted to DWR as part of the Regional Acceptance process.

#### **c. San Gorgonio IRWM Plan Development Schedule**

- Ms. St. Charles explained that the project team has completed drafts of two chapters of the IRWM Plan: *Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination* and *Region Description*. These are currently under review by the RWMG. Once all IRWM Plan chapters has been completed, a draft will be provided to the SAC and the public for a formal review period.

### **3) IRWM Workshop Topic: Objectives and Priorities**

#### **a. Proposed Process**

- Ms. St. Charles provided a review of the process for developing Objectives and Priorities for the IRWM Plan, including the requirements of DWR's 2016 guidelines.

#### **b. Review of Issues, Needs, and Challenges**

- Ms. St. Charles introduced the discussion of the needs, issues, and challenges for the San Gorgonio IRWM region. This was the topic of the previous SAC workshop on June 14, 2017.

#### **c. Draft Proposed Goals and Objectives**

- Ms. St. Charles introduced the discussion of the Goals and Objectives for the San Gorgonio IRWM region. A draft worksheet with proposed Regional Issues, Goals, Measurable Objectives, and Performance Measures was emailed to the SAC and the email distribution list prior to the meeting, and will be revised with input from the SAC and RWMG. This worksheet will form the basis of the *Objectives and Priorities* chapter of the IRWM Plan. The discussion from the SAC is summarized below:

#### **Water Supply**

- The imported supply from the State Water Project (SWP) to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) has a wide variation in annual reliability, and there should be an Objective to support options to enhance the storage of imported water within the region. The Plan should also address the overall reliability of the SWP, and support the California WaterFix.
- The SGPWA will play an important role in developing new imported supplies for the region, and there should be an Objective to support new agreements to enhance the reliability of imported water supplies. For example, SGWA has approved a water supply agreement with the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for a highly reliable supply of 1,700 AF per year of water for a period of twenty years, with a possible renewal for an additional 20 years.
- There is a "bottleneck" in the East Branch Extension of the SWP limiting the capacity for SGPWA to deliver their full Table A allocation, and there should be Objective to support efforts to increase the capacity of the region to maximize use of water supplies when they are available. For example, there are plans underway to increase the recharge capacity within the Beaumont Basin.
- There is a significant risk of a seismic event within the region, particularly to SWP infrastructure with the Region being at the current end of the SWP distribution system.

- Agreements with CRA imported water purveyors in Coachella Valley would benefit both Regions during emergencies that could impact SWP or CRA supplies.
- The Plan should include an Objective to support the development of useable tools to understand watershed and groundwater processes within Region. This includes the continued update and calibration of new and existing models.
- It was also noted that the City of Banning has shown resiliency by conserving about 2,000 AF during the recent California drought.

### **Water Quality**

- While water quality in the Region remains excellent, there are some localized concerns with nitrates, and an Objective of the Plan should support the expansion of centralized collection and treatment systems. The Plan should also recognize that some areas within the Region are on septic systems, so continued monitoring and enforcement will be important.
- The Region's groundwater does have low levels of naturally occurring Chromium-6. Recent regulatory changes to allowable Chromium 6 levels have resulted in some production facility exceedances. These limits are being contested, so it is not clear if the limits will remain. The Plan should include an Objective to remain engaged across the changing legal, institutional, and regulatory framework affecting drinking water standards.
- It was noted that there are also long term water quality concerns on the SWP from salinity levels in the Bay Delta.

### **Flood Management**

- Existing communities within the Region are subject to unconfined flooding and debris flows from the local mountain watersheds. The Plan should include an Objective to address the flood control needs of residents within the Region that are required to pay flood insurance.
- The Plan should include an Objective to support options to enhance the regional flood control infrastructure, including multiple purpose, multiple benefit, stormwater management projects that provide safe, sustainable, and livable communities.

### **Habitat and Open Space**

- The Plan should include an Objective to provide continued protection for aquatic and riparian habitat consistent with the planning work completed through the Western Riverside County and Coachella Valley MSHCPs.
- Due the natural variability of the Region's surface water supplies, water supplies in the region are not likely to further develop surface water supplies, and those will remain dedicated to environmental uses.

### **Disadvantaged Communities**

- The Plan should support the economic vitality of DACs, and include an Objective to support projects that provide safe, sustainable and livable communities and promote future economic development of local DACs.

#### **d. Prioritizing Plan Objectives**

- Ms. St. Charles introduced the discussion of whether the Plan will prioritize the Goals and Objectives. Options include equal weighting of all objectives, identifying priority and highest priority objectives, or individually ranking the priority of objectives. It is not recommended that the Plan rank each objective. This will be discussed further at the next SAC Workshop.

## **4) Summary and Next Steps**

- The next Stakeholder Advisory Committee Workshop will be on September 13, 2017 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. The main topics of the meeting will be a workshop on Climate Change and Resource Management Strategies. The final Objectives of the IRWM Plan will likely be updated to include references to Climate Change, based on the outcome of this workshop.