

**SF Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary  
 October 25, 2021  
 Conference Call Dial-in Only**

**1. Roll Call – Appointed Functional Area Representatives Present**

| <b>Water Supply-<br/>Water Quality</b>  | <b>Wastewater-<br/>Recycled Water</b>   | <b>Flood Protection-<br/>Stormwater</b> | <b>Watershed</b>   | <b>Communities/<br/>Tribes</b> |
|---|---|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Seedall, CCWD</li> <li>• Steve Ritchie, Chair, SFPUC</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheryl Munoz, City of Hayward, representing BACWA</li> <li>• Florence Wedington, EBMUD representing BACWA</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh Bradt, SFEP</li> <li>• Brenda Buxton, SCC</li> </ul> |                                |

Others Present:

Imelda Bautista, META  
 Devon Becker, ACWD  
 Marco Berger, Multicultural Center of Marin  
 Jonathan Cordero, Association of Ramaytush Ohlone  
 Julia Dowell, Greenaction  
 Maddie Duda, Lotus Water  
 Natasha Dunn, SFEP  
 Terrie Green, Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice  
 Ryan Hirano, Woodard & Curran  
 Janice Hunter, Greenaction  
 Jennifer Krebs, representing Sonoma Water  
 Darcie Luce, SFEP  
 James Muller, SFEP  
 Taylor Nokhoudian, SFPUC  
 Michelle Novotny, SFPUC  
 Olivia Ortiz, META  
 Charles Polc, DWR  
 Elke Rank, Zone 7  
 Kanyon Sayers-Roods, Association of Ramaytush Ohlone  
 Alex Tavizon, CIEA  
 Charlie Toledo, Suscol Intertribal Council  
 Chelsea Spier, DWR  
 Jing Wu, Valley Water

## **2. Status of Prop 84 Rounds 2-4**

Natasha Dunn reported she and James Muller attended a hybrid virtual site visit for Project 10 Redwood City with DWR and the local project sponsor. Prop 84 Round 2 will be closing at the end of the year.

For Round 4, Mr. Muller will be set up meetings with DWR on the late bloomer State Coastal Conservancy projects (Project 7 Mt View Shoreline and Project 8 Eden Landing). Brenda Buxton is retiring and so she is doing a knowledge transfer to new project manager.

Jennifer Krebs provided an AQPI update. The project received an extension for the grant to 2023. The project is on track with billing and invoicing. NOAA recently submitted a quarterly report that goes through June. Sonoma Water is reviewing the report and also working on contract extensions. The Rocky Ridge radar is coming along and potentially will be installed in December. The San Francisco radar is likely going to be installed next year. The project is looking at sites to locate a new C-Band radar. The agreement with Scripps has been signed. Scripps is working on a plan for operations post-grant.

## **3. Discussion of Actions to Improve Equity in Bay Area IRWMP**

James Muller indicated that the effort to finalize the Coordinating Committee governance structure is ongoing. Discussions will be occurring at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting following this meeting.

Taylor Nokhoudian commented on the statewide equity effort with the Roundtable of Regions. Katie Burdick representing Yuba IRWM will be leading a series of interviews with representatives from both community and agencies.

## **4. Status of Prop 1 IRWM DACTIP**

SFEP recently submitted an invoice and progress report to DWR through June-July 2021. SFEP will be submitting another invoice and progress report soon to get up-to-date. SFEP will likely be requesting a grant extension to the end of 2022 because the tap water quality testing program was delayed due to too delays with contracting with Simple Lab. The extension would allow the outreach partners at least 6 months to do the tap water quality testing. Simple Lab informed SFEP they are experiencing new delays setting up their systems.

Imelda Bautista and Olivia Ortiz presented on META's needs assessment. META is focused mainly in East San Jose and engaging the Latinx community. East San Jose is largely made up of Latinx and Vietnamese working class families and students. META's goal is to communicate with the community and do outreach. META is a women-owned business, made up mostly of single mothers.

META's needs assessment process started with surveys. They conducted the surveys in 3 languages from April to May 2021. A total of 260 surveys were conducted. The 2nd effort included focus groups. They held 2 meetings. The focus group participants were asked: what do you think of the quality of water in East San Jose? Participants responded that the water has a chlorine flavor, the clarity of the water is

yellow, and there's a bad odor. Most people think it's not safe to drink tap water and therefore, prefer to buy bottled water.

The community also expressed concerns with trash contaminating water ways, old pipelines, and the cost of water being high because the community is buying bottled water.

Community members expressed the need for solutions such as the city providing info on the quality of the tap water, including whether there are chemicals in the water. They are also seeking programs to help pay water bills, information on how people can save water and change out inefficient fixtures, conduct water quality testing, and keep sewers clean during storms to prevent flooding.

Steve Ritchie asked who is the water purveyor. San Jose Water Company is the water provider. They reached out to META to answer their questions.

Michelle Novotny commented in the virtual meeting chat that most water utilities are prevented from providing more low-income rate relief programs by Proposition 218. Electric utilities do not have the same restrictions. There are a lot of folks thinking about how to create a new approach to provide rate relief and various state proposals are under way.

Charlie Toledo congratulated the project on their work and agreed with the sentiment that water is a human right.

Maddie Duda presented on the regional needs assessment report. The final report will be submitted to the state at the end of December. The findings on regional priorities are consistent across the outreach partners. This represents a powerful picture of systemic disinvestment in these communities. The top priorities identified are drinking water, flooding, illegal dumping/trash, contamination/pollution, and access to green space. Ms. Duda highlighted how each of these environmental issues connect to public health. The needs assessment prioritized a strategy focused on community and Tribal led solutions. The report will include recommendations for best practices for integrating equity into IRWM. Ms. Duda encouraged the Coordinating Committee to review the recommendations.

The next steps for the outreach partners include holding further conversations, gathering data to understand context, conducting feasibility studies and engineering plans, and developing funding proposals.

Ms. Toledo asked when the findings will be made public? She made the comment that this isn't just a report; these issues are impacting people's daily lives.

Mr. Muller encouraged the Coordinating Committee to consider this information coming from communities we serve to improve how we engage communities, how we plan to engage with communities, and how to be successful in managing grants with many different partners.

Taylor Nokhodian asked how discussions have evolved to fund projects dealing with trash cleanup with water specific funding as historically that hasn't been possible. At the next Coordinating Committee meeting, Ms. Duda plans to discuss how to fund services for people experiencing homelessness. She also commented that this work is elevating how intersectional these issues are. Trash and water are intimately tied, particularly on the impacts to human health.

There was a comment that Caltrans funding for trash cleanup is available now. Also there is a Clean California grant program for funding trash cleanup. Ms. Duda and Ryan Hirano are doing a good job of connecting the outreach partners to grant opportunities outside IRWM.

There were no updates to share on capacity building and project development.

Alex Tavizon reported the needs assessments for the Tribes were finalized as of mid-October. The next phase of work will focus on a Tribal led process of creating a map of the Tribal villages and organizations throughout the Bay Area to help agencies to understand whose lands they occupy and who should be contacted. The map is not intended to be used as finalized territory boundaries and it will be adapted over time.

Mr. Tavizon introduced Charlie Toledo from Suscol Intertribal Council, a new Tribal outreach partner.

Mr. Tavizon also reported he attended the Napa pow-wow and talked with Tribal communities from the North Bay about this program. They were asked to fill out a small survey to understand their concerns about water. Mr. Tavizon report they have 20 Tribal partners wanting to participate in tap water quality testing.

Action Items:

- Mr. Tavizon will present on the findings from the Tribal regional needs assessment at the December Coordinating Committee meeting.
- Ms. Duda will present on the needs assessment from the outreach partners representing people experiencing homelessness at the December Coordinating Committee meeting.

**5. Status of Prop 1 Implementation Funding**

Quarter 3 progress report will be submitted at the end of next month. There are 2 agreements making their way through contract review. There will be an event for Project 2 Lower Walnut Creek this Friday.

Devon Becker provided update from the Planning and Process Committee (PPC). The PPC has been meeting periodically. The Prop 1 Round 2 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) is expected to be released in November or December. DWR is planning on 2 solicitation periods, one in the spring and one in the fall. The Coordinating Committee previously discussed and would like to apply in the fall. The PPC is putting together a memo detailing the process for how projects will be scored and prioritized. The PPC won't develop the final scoring process until DWR releases the final PSP.

Action Items:

- The PPC will provide the draft memo detailing the process for how projects will be scored and prioritized for the Coordinating Committee to review at the December meeting.

**6. Status of 4-Party Funds**

There were no updates from Mr. Muller. It is still in process to transfer funds from Marin Water to SFEP/ABAG/MTC.