

**SF Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary
 May 23, 2022
 Conference Call Dial-in Only**

1. Roll Call – Appointed Functional Area Representatives Present

Water Supply-Water Quality	Wastewater-Recycled Water	Flood Protection-Stormwater	Watershed	Communities/Tribes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Munoz, City of Hayward representing BACWA • Florence Wedington, EBMUD representing BACWA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Boucher, CCCFCWCD • Brian Mendenhall, Valley Water • Elke Rank, Zone 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Bradt, SFEP • Andy Rodgers, NBWA • Evyan Sloane, SCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan Cordero, Association of Ramaytush Ohlone • Adam French, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band • Terrie Green, Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice • Keta Price, ISPS • LaDonna Williams, All Positives Possible

Others Present:

- Lisa Bankosh, Vice-chair, Valley Water
- Marco Berger, Multicultural Center of Marin
- Chris Choo, County of Marin
- Maddie Duda, Lotus Water
- Natasha Dunn, SFEP
- Jarrad Fisher, San Mateo RCD
- Robin Freeman, ISPS
- Nicholle Fratus, CCWD
- Ryan Hirano, Woodard & Curran
- Anita Jain, West Yost
- James Muller, SFEP
- Taylor Nokhoudian, SFPUC

Michelle Novotny, SFPUC
Leslie Perry, SFEP
Charles Polc, DWR
Matt Sagues, Marin Water
Chelsea Spier, DWR
Alex Tavizon, CIEA
Charlie Toledo, Suscol Intertribal Council
Jing Wu, Valley Water

2. Status of Prop 84 Rounds 2 & 4

Natasha Dunn reported that Round 2 is nearly completed. SFEP is waiting for a few last deliverables to close out the round completely. Ms. Dunn reported that for Round 4, 2 project completion reports have been sent to DWR. Project 9 Novato Creek Flood Protection is nearing completion.

Regarding the AQPI update, Taylor Nokhoudian reported out on behalf of Jennifer Krebs. Sonoma Water is up to date with billing and invoicing. Scripps is seeking a new staff person to develop the CONOPS plan. The CONOPS Workplan has been finalized. Site selection and permitting is still being conducted for the C-Band radar, Rocky Ridge radar, and Sawyer Ridge radar. It is anticipated that the C-Band and Rocky Ridge radars will be deployed in June. The Sonoma radar is being repaired. The Valley Water radar is functioning well. NOAA and CIRA are still working on establishing the new system hardware at CIRA. It should be up and running later this calendar year.

3. DACTIP Needs Assessment Presentation

Maddie Duda gave a presentation on the needs assessment findings from people experiencing homelessness. California was the first state to recognize the human right to water. However, water resources still have not been made accessible in an equitable way especially for marginalized communities. The needs assessment was led by Downtown Streets Team and Voices. Surveys were conducted in Napa, Marin, San Jose, San Francisco, Hayward, and Oakland surveys. Survey questions focused on access to water and sanitation services and how those services could be improved. The surveys targeted both youth and adults.

Defining homelessness varies depending on who you ask. Lack of access to services is correlated with racial inequity. The living situations of people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity varied and included a formal shelter, couch surfing, encampment, vehicle/boat, and living with family. Most survey participants were living in a formal shelter. It was clear that many gaps in services are being filled by friends, family, and service providers.

Most survey participants had access to water through a shelter, work, or service program. Other ways to access water included through businesses such as stores and restaurants. 1 out of 5 respondents were concerned about the safety of the water.

Most survey participants have some access to a restroom where they live. Many have access through public restrooms. Most respondents reported they have access to showers for bathing, but only 1-2 times per week. Those that don't have access were living in encampments. Most survey respondents had access to clothes washing through laundromats, but found the services expensive.

There have been changes since the Covid pandemic with both positive and negative impacts. One of the positive impacts was improved availability of bottled water given through service programs and temporary housing. Others reported having less access to water and sanitation due to reduced business hours and closed restrooms in stores and public facilities.

The recommendations for improving access included: making public showers available in parks, more public restrooms that are cleaned by the folks using them, laundry coins donated and mobile laundry vans to help with transport, and lights inside and outside of porta potties. Additionally, municipalities must formally recognize water as a human right and invest in providing safe and accessible water, sanitation, and hygiene.

Lisa Bankosh commented that Valley Water is setting up a contract that would shift away from spending money on abatement of homeless encampments, and towards funding services for people experiencing homelessness.

LaDonna Williams commented that air and water at gas stations is free now. People experiencing homelessness have used sprinkler systems for bathing, but were impacted by the drought when municipalities cut back on irrigation. She also noted examples of harassment by security guards that don't treat people experiencing homelessness with dignity.

Multiple Coordinating Committee members encouraged Ms. Duda to take this presentation on the road and talk to the municipalities.

Michelle Novotny asked how water agencies would pay for un-billed water that's provided for free via drink taps.

Terrie Green commented that in Marin County, there's a difference in homeless encampments in terms of race. She asked for more information on organizations that are doing a good job and examples to emulate.

It was noted that Blue Cross of California donated money to be able to compensate survey participants for their time. Also, the data collected from the needs assessment will be made available to academic institutions and public agencies.

4. Equity in IRWM

Ms. Novotny stated this is a follow up to a discussion the group started at the last Coordinating Committee meeting. Regarding the Coordinating Committee's efforts to improve equity, the group finalized a racial equity policy in August 2020, but never sent out the final document. The final version of the racial equity policy was included in today's meeting packet. She commented it's a good time to think about how the group wants to continue to implement the policy.

Regarding the state's efforts to improve equity, Ms. Novotny reached out to Carmel Brown with DWR. DWR sent a document summarizing their efforts, which was circulated to the Coordinating Committee before this meeting. Ms. Novotny asked the group if there's a desire to have further conversation with DWR. It was discussed the group needed more time to review the document.

Action Items:

- Ms. Nokhoudian will update the agenda for the next Coordinating Committee meeting to include a discussion of additional efforts the Coordinating Committee could do to advance equity and any feedback on the state's actions.

5. Status of Prop 1 IRWM DACTIP

Mr. Muller reported that the grant administration is up to date. There's approximately \$1.6 million left to expend. Mr. Muller is in the process of extending the grant to December 2022. The Regional Needs Assessment Report is nearly finalized. It's out for final approval from the outreach partners. Regarding project development, Josh Bradt reported that most outreach partners have projects ideas and they are working with SFEP and each other to explore. Efforts will be ramping up over the next 2 months to develop project proposals. Ryan Hirano continues to send out grant funding updates to the outreach partners.

Ms. Green asked about the future of IRWM and continuation of this work. It was mentioned that the Roundtable of Regions has been discussing switching to regional climate collaboratives.

Alex Tavizon provided a Tribal programmatic update. The tap water quality testing is moving along with the Tribal organizations. They have tested over 50 sites in the Bay Area. Discussions are occurring with Napa RCD and Suscol Intertribal Council regarding a potential project on Suscol Intertribal Council's property to improve access to Tribal land for ceremonial purposes. San Mateo RCD and Association of Ramaytush Ohlone have also been meeting to discuss a project.

6. Status of Prop 1 Implementation Funding

Leslie Perry reported that 2 invoices were submitted for a total of \$1 million. The bulk of this money was local match for Project 6 River Oaks Stormwater Capture. SFEP will review the submitted materials this week.

Brian Mendenhall stated DWR's final Prop 1 Round 2 Proposal Solicitation Package was released. It includes 2 application dates: August 19, 2022 and February 1, 2023. The group needs to select a date to submit the region's application. By consensus, the group decided to move forward with the February 1, 2023 date.

There was also a brief discussion of a lead agency for the grant application. ABAG can serve in this role, but the Coordinating Committee needs to decide. Additional discussion is needed regarding funding develop the Round 2 grant package.

10-12 volunteers will be needed for the Project Screening Committee (PSC) to review and score the applications.

The status of the 4-party funds was mentioned. SFEP and Marin Water had been collaborating to transfer the remaining roughly \$40,000 to SFEP for funding stipends for community and Tribal representatives to participate in the Coordinating Committee and sub-committees. The lawyers brought up un-resolvable issues, which may make the transfer of funds not possible.

Action Items:

- Volunteers interested in participating on the PSC should reach out to Brian Mendenhall or Devon Becker.
- Ms. Nokhodian will update the agenda for the next Coordinating Committee meeting to include a discussion of the potential Round 2 applicant, funding to develop grant package, and PSC volunteers.

7. Announcements

The US EPA released a grant called the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund, which made \$29 million available. There's funding set aside specifically for Disadvantaged Communities.