

Tulare Kern Funding Area
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP)
Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

March 28, 2019, 9am-12 noon
Tulare County Conference Room, 2800 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

Project Advisory Committee Members

- Mike Camarena, Kaweah IRWM
- Dave Hoffman, Tule IWM
- Ralph Gutierrez, Tule IRWM
- Soua Lee, UKIRWMA IRWM
- Frank Ohnesorgen, Poso IRWM
- Arjun Bharadwaj, Poso IWM
- Christine Gutierrez, Poso IWM
- Bobby Kamansky, Southern Sierra IRWM
- Julie Allen, Southern Sierra IRWM
- Richard Warne, Westside San Joaquin IRWM

IRWM Region Contacts (not already listed as a PAC Member)

- Andrew Garcia, Westside San Joaquin IRWM (via telephone)
- Jeff Eklund, Kern IRWM

Project Team

- Denise England, Tulare County
- Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard
- Malka Kopell, facilitator, Consensus and Collaboration Program, CSUS
- Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises
- Ilse Lopez-Narvaez, Self-Help Enterprises

For others in attendance, see Appendix A.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & AGENDA REVIEW

Malka Kopell, Collaboration and Consensus Program, Sacramento State, introduced herself and reviewed the agenda. Ms. Kopell is the neutral facilitator provided by a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members and members of the public introduced themselves and quorum was established. One PAC member participated via telephone. Two new disadvantaged community (DAC) PAC members were introduced, including PAC member Richard Warne, who was present, and alternate Alfonso Manrique, who was not present. For the full list of participants, refer to Appendix A.

Ms. Kopell asked for public comments. There were none.

2. REVIEW OF MEETING SUMMARY FROM JANUARY 17TH PAC MEETING

Ms. Kopell asked for comments regarding the summary of the January 17, 2019, PAC meeting. No comments were made.

***PAC Action:** Recommendation to accept the January 17, 2019, PAC meeting summary.*

Ms. Kopell asked for public comments regarding the recommendation; no public comments were made.

All PAC members were in favor.

3. REVIEW APPLICATION COST REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR ROUND ONE PROPOSALS

Representatives from each IRWM requesting application cost reimbursement presented their proposals. Christine Gutierrez, Poso Creek IRWM, presented the following two proposals.

- Lost Hills Utility Well No. 3
 - Project cost of \$15,000. Details about the project can be found [here](#).
 - A participant asked whether a test well had yet been completed. Ms. Gutierrez said that two monitoring wells have been completed.
- Richgrove Water Well and Storage Tank
 - Project cost of \$15,000. Details can be found [here](#).
 - A participant asked whether the project had been funded through the State. Ms. Gutierrez said that the district had financial issues it was not able to resolve, and therefore the State funding was rescinded.

Jeff Eklund, Kern IRWM, presented the following two proposals.

- Athal Waterline Replacement and Meter Project
 - Project cost of \$20,000. Details can be found [here](#).
 - A participant asked whether there were any problems with the water source. Mr. Eklund said that there are no water quality issues at this time.
- Weldon Regional Water Project – Land Acquisition
 - Project cost of \$20,000. Details can be found [here](#).
 - A participant asked whether the project had been funded. Mr. Eklund said that the State had committed to funding the project, but that a significant amount of time would pass before funding was received.
 - A participant asked what the project's total application cost was. Mr. Eklund said that this was still to be determined, and that in refining that information an effort would be made to lower the application cost.

***PAC Action:** Recommendation to approve application cost reimbursement funding for all four projects presented.*

Ms. Kopell asked for public comments regarding the recommendation; no public comments were made.

All PAC members were in favor.

Committee members asked whether application cost reimbursement proposals could be submitted at the next PAC meeting. DWR is holding a pre-application workshop on April 24, 2019, for DAC and non-DAC Round One implementation grants. The workshop is a chance to preview applications, and applicants will have 12 weeks to submit their applications following the workshop.

Denise England, Water Resources Director for Tulare County, circulated a diagram clarifying the two sources of money that are relevant to the current discussion. The first source is \$2 million allocated to the Tulare-Kern Funding Area for DAC IRWM Involvement, Project Development activities. This funding can be used to reimburse project application costs for Round One projects approved by the relevant IRWM groups. It can also be used to support project development for projects that will apply for future implementation funding. The funding has been awarded to Tulare County, which has guidelines in place as to how the funding will be distributed.

The second funding source is implementation funding, including \$11.5 million for general Round One implementation projects and \$1.2 million for DAC Round One implementation projects. Previews of all Round One implementation projects, including DAC and non-DAC, must be presented to DWR during the pre-application workshop on April 24, 2019 [note: date has since been postponed].

PAC members discussed holding an additional meeting in early August 2019 in order to allow regions more time to prepare their Project Development applications. A participant noted that DWR plans to consider Round Two funding in 2020, so projects that are started later will have less time for project development.

A participant asked how soon consultants can begin working on a project after funding is approved. Ms. England said that it depends on the funding level. For projects with a Professional Services Agreement, under \$100,000, it is a short process, but if Board agreement is needed it takes longer.

Per the PAC action noted above, the PAC will continue to consider application cost proposals during the next PAC meeting.

Ms. Kopell opened the floor for public comment; none was made.

4. DISCUSS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR JUNE 13TH MEETING RE: RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNTY FOR ROUND TWO PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

PAC members discussed the decision-making process that will be used for applications for Project Development activities, presented at the next PAC meeting on June 13, 2019. Each IRWM will present projects that it considers first-tier, adding up to no more than \$250,000 for each region. Anyone can propose additional second-tier or regional projects.

A PAC member asked whether this funding can be dedicated toward construction of projects. This is allowed, but it is best used for project development. This is because the total funding is limited to \$250,000 per region, plus DWR IRWM Implementation funding will not fund project development costs. A participant noted that it would be helpful to know whether DWR has a hard cut-off for funding to support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) processes.

PAC members then discussed scoring criteria. It was noted that the criteria can be viewed as guidelines, as projects are not actually assigned scores. PAC members suggested adding the following criteria:

- Project completed by deadline

- Regional benefits
- Human right to water
- Is the proposal part of another project?
- Is the DAC project in an incorporated or unincorporated area?

Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard, will update the scoring criteria and project guidelines per PAC feedback and distribute both for comment ahead of the June 13, 2019, PAC meeting.

An update on the DAC assessment will also be provided during the June PAC meeting.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve the following decision-making process for Project Development applications:

- Allow IRWMs to determine the projects funded through their \$250,000 allocation; PAC to ratify the decisions made by the IRWMs.
 - The primary goal for this funding is project development, but it can be used for construction as well.
- Any funding left from each IRWM's \$250,000 allocation will be added to the regional funds, which has also been allocated \$250,000.
- Allocation of the regional funds will be determined by the PAC based on the criteria guidelines, which will be finalized during the June PAC meeting.
- Project Development applications will be considered during the June PAC meeting, including application cost proposals.
 - Proposals should be sent to Ms. England and Ms. Madec by June 1, 2019.
- Final applications for the \$250,000 allocation of each IRWM will be considered during the August 15, 2019, PAC meeting.
 - Regional funds will also be allocated during the August 15, 2019, PAC meeting.
- Construction proposals are contingent on approval from DWR and the County.

Ms. Kopell asked for public comments regarding the recommendation; no public comments were made.

All PAC members were in favor.

PAC members then chose to review three additional application cost reimbursement proposals that were submitted by the Southern Sierra region at the last minute. Kenneth McDarment, delegated by PAC member Bobby Kamansky, presented the three proposals:

- Painted Rock Dam Rehabilitation; project cost \$20,000
- Emergency Raw Water Storage Tank and Associated Raw Water Piping; project cost \$20,000
- Meadow Restoration; project cost \$15,000

A participant asked whether measures would be taken to prevent build-up of sedimentation on the rehabilitation line, such as a screen. Mr. McDarment said that the new system will include better engineering to prevent clumps as well as additional clean-out stations. Screen options will also be considered.

A participant asked whether overgrazing will be prevented in the restored meadow areas. Mr. McDarment said that a very aggressive range management program will be put in place to prevent overgrazing.

A participant asked what the source was for the figures for median household income. Mr. McDarment said that some of the figures were based on Census estimates and others were based on actual household incomes.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve application cost reimbursement funding for the three additional projects presented.

Ms. Kopell asked for public comments regarding the recommendation; no public comments were made.

All PAC members were in favor.

The project applications and accompanying GI Consultants study will be circulated electronically, and can be found [here](#).

5. REVIEW INITIAL PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COST REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR ROUND TWO PROPOSED PROJECTS

Previews were given of two projects which will be reviewed for project development funding at the next PAC meeting.

Ralph Gutierrez and Dave Hoffman, Tule IRWM, presented a new distribution system and leak detection project for Allensworth. A central challenge for Allensworth is portability. The project was approved by the Tule IRWM Committee.

Richard Warne, Westside San Joaquin IRWM, presented a hydrogeological investigation in the City of Huron. The investigation includes two parts: drilling a test well, which will be incorporated into the municipal water system, and conducting a groundwater recharge study through monitoring of the new well. Additional details about the project will be presented at the next PAC meeting.

6. ADDITIONAL UPDATES FROM PAC MEMBERS

The PAC has been working to engage Tribal groups. A letter was sent to Tule River Tribal Council, who will begin participating. Two Tule River Tribal representatives were present at the current meeting, Kenneth McDarment and Neil Peyron.

Tribal representatives will be proposed as new PAC members during the next PAC meeting. Per the PAC charter, the names of the proposed new PAC members will be circulated one month in advance of the meeting in which the additions will be voted on.

A participant asked whether all of the projects presented during the current meeting will be brought to the DWR pre-application workshop; they will.

7. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

The meeting was adjourned.

The next PAC meeting will be held:

June 13, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Provost & Pritchard
130 N Garden Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Appendix A: Additional Attendees

- Kenneth McDarment, Tule River Tribe
- Neil Peyron, Tule River Tribe