

Tulare Kern Funding Area
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACP)
Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
June 13, 2019, 9am-12 noon
Provost & Pritchard, 130 N. Garden Street, Visalia, CA

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

Project Advisory Committee Members

- Mike Camarena, Kaweah IRWM
- Dave Hoffman, Tule IRWM
- Deanna Jackson, Tule IRWM
- Ralph Gutierrez, Tule IRWM
- Soua Lee, Kings Basin IRWM
- Jim Maciel, Kings Basin IRWM
- Stephanie Hearn, Poso IRWM
- Christine Gutierrez, Poso IRWM
- Regina Houchin, Kern IRWM
- Bobby Kamansky, Southern Sierra IRWM
- Julie Allen, Southern Sierra IRWM
- Andrew Garcia, Westside San Joaquin IRWM
- Richard Warne, Westside San Joaquin IRWM
- Alfonso Manrique, Westside San Joaquin IRWM
- Kenneth McDarment, Tule River Tribe

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

- Jeff Eklund, Kern IRWM

Project Team

- Denise England, Tulare County
- Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard
- Mike Brosseau, Provost & Pritchard
- Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises
- Ilse Lopez-Narvaez, Self-Help Enterprises

For others in attendance, see Appendix A.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & AGENDA REVIEW

Denise England, Water Resources Director for Tulare County, introduced herself and reviewed the agenda.

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members and members of the public introduced themselves and quorum was established.

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

2. REVIEW OF MEETING SUMMARY FROM MARCH 28TH PAC MEETING

Ms. England asked for comments regarding the summary of the March 28, 2019, PAC meeting. Ralph Gutierrez wanted to confirm that the Ms. Gutierrez in the meeting summary was not referring to him. Since the meeting, it was confirmed that it was in reference to Ms. Christine Gutierrez. No other comments were made.

3. NOMINATION OF NEW PAC TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES

Two members from the Tule River Tribe, Kenneth McDarment and Charles Lwenya, were nominated to be new PAC tribal representatives. Kenneth McDarment, who was present, was nominated as the main tribal representative, while Charles Lwenya, who was not present, was nominated as the alternate.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve nominations for both Kenneth McDarment and Charles Lwenya.

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

Motion made by Richard Warne, second by Regina Houchin.

All PAC members were in favor.

4. REVIEW REVISED PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES AND SCORING GUIDELINES

Maija Madec presented the updated scoring criteria for projects requesting funding from the competitive regional funding pot. She reminded the attendees that the scoring criteria was only for the competitive regional funding pot and not the individual IRWM project funding. After reviewing the questions on the scoring guidelines, Mr. Camarena stated he thought that there should be a question about project sustainability.

A participant discussed whether the projects would have guidelines or a numerical score. From previous meetings, they had the impression that projects would not be assigned a numerical score. They expressed concern about the scoring system and its effect on potential projects. After more discussion, it was agreed that a scoring system would be necessary to rank projects competing for the regional funding pot. The score would help to identify projects that “rise to the top” but would not be a final determination. The Kings Basin IRWM representatives were asked about their scoring procedure within their IRWM for potential modification to the Tulare-Kern scoring guidelines.

Next, there was a discussion about how many points should be assigned to each question that was part of the scoring guidelines that Ms. Madec presented. Questions that could be answered with a “Yes” or “No” were given a value of 1 possible point, while other questions were given a range out of 3 possible points. After more discussion, the attendees decided to use a modified version of the Kings Basin IRWM scoring guidelines. The scoring values and description indicating how to score will be used. Also, “other considerations” will be added to the scoring criteria. The questions from the Tulare-Kern scoring guidelines would include a few noted modifications. A change was made to question 2 to include “representing a DAC” as an option for the application. A change was also made to question 10 to say “at least one” contaminant.

PAC Action: Recommendation to use a modified version of the Kings Basin IRWM project scoring criteria.

- Remove Question 13 from the Kings Basin IRWM guidelines as it is region-specific and not applicable.
- Modify Question 14 to include other considerations to make the question more flexible.

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

Motion made by Andrew Garcia, second by Jim Maciel.

All PAC members were in favor.

5. REVIEW APPLICATION COST REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR ROUND ONE PROPOSED PROJECTS

The Westside San Joaquin IRWM was the sole region requesting application cost reimbursement at this meeting. The other projects on the Project Application Tracking List were approved at the previous PAC meeting in March 28th, 2019.

Alfonso Manrique, Westside San Joaquin IRWM, presented the following proposal.

- City of Huron Groundwater Supply Well
 - Project cost of \$20,000. Details about the project can be found
https://tularelakebasin.com/index.cfm/_api/render/file/?fileID=D7634DBC-5056-A936-A9BF0A103570332B.
 - Alfonso stated the groundwater in Huron wasn't of the best quality and the project would involve drilling a test well to verify its quality. The groundwater would be blended with surface water to achieve an optimal quality.
 - A participant asked about the contaminants of concern, and Alfonso responded that the groundwater has high TDS.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve application cost reimbursement funding for the project presented.

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

Motion made by Mike Camarena, second by Richard Warne.

All PAC members were in favor.

6. REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Representatives from each IRWM group requesting project development funding presented their proposals.

Westside San Joaquin IRWM group

Alfonso Manrique, Westside San Joaquin IRWM, presented the following proposal.

- City of Huron Hydrogeological Investigation
 - Project cost of \$230,000. Details about the project can be found
<https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D6AD9A16-5056-A936-A90E229D49E5D64C>.

- Alfonso stated the project would improve the region's self-reliability and reduce the need for imported water. The project would also provide groundwater recharge. During wet years, the project would help to recharge the groundwater, and during dry years groundwater would be blended with surface water.
- There were no participant comments about the project.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve project development funding for the Westside San Joaquin IRWM project presented.

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

Motion made by Jim Maciel, second by Regina Houchin.

All PAC members were in favor.

Southern Sierra IRWM group

Bobby Kamansky, Southern Sierra IRWM, presented the following proposal.

- Water Supply Vulnerability in the Southern Sierra Communities
 - Project cost of \$40,000. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D7014B7D-5056-A936-A921C500B0EA6C34>.
 - The project would look at well data from various communities within the Southern Sierra IRWM.
 - Denise England asked if there were specific communities that were targeted for the project. Bobby Kamansky responded that the actual communities were to be determined but stated that they had a community outreach program ready. Ms. England also stated the project's schedule went outside the Tulare-Kern DAC Program's schedule and asked if it could be condensed. Bobby said the schedule would be trimmed down for the scaled down scope for this program. Next, she asked about the number of wells that would be looked at. Bobby responded that there would probably be 3 communities targeted in the project. Bobby agreed to provide an updated project application with the condensed schedule.

Kenneth McDarment, Tule River Indian Tribe (within Southern Sierra IRWM), presented the following 3 proposals.

- Meadow Restoration Project
 - Project cost of \$15,000 for CEQA/NEPA preparation. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D7066F73-5056-A936-A94D8CD749845157>.
- Painted Dam Rock Dam Rehabilitation
 - Project cost of \$15,000 for CEQA/NEPA preparation. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D744081F-5056-A936-A9D462FC6EC226FB>.
- Emergency Raw Water Storage Tank and Associated Raw Water Piping
 - Project cost of \$15,000 for CEQA/NEPA preparation. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D7249246-5056>.

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- **For all three projects:** Denise England asked if all of the funding requested was for CEQA and NEPA work. Mr. Kamansky responded that it was. He also asked if the Tule River Tribe time could be included in the scope. Ms. England asked Mr. Kamansky for the name of the Tule River Tribe consultant working on the project and wanted to verify with DWR. She will need a budget breakdown from Mr. Kamansky including the CEQA/NEPA consultant and Tribal counsel fees, so she can present to DWR. Mr. Kamansky will provide this information.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve project development funding for the Southern Sierra IRWM projects presented.

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

Motion made by Richard Warne, second by Ralph Gutierrez.

All PAC members were in favor.

Poso Creek IRWM group

Stephanie Hearn, Poso IRWM, presented the following proposal.

- City of Delano Sphere of Influence Water Consolidation Study
 - Project cost of \$100,000. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D6DD6064-5056-A936-A93614FF994F076A>.
 - The project would look to consolidate all of the water systems within the City of Delano sphere of influence to create 1 single water system.
 - Denise England asked if City of Delano was an active participant, and Ms. Hearn responded that they were, but that the project was still at a conceptual level.
 - Maria Herrera, of Self-Help Enterprises, asked if the individual communities were on-board with their systems being consolidated. Ms. Hearn responded that some have not been notified yet, but that outreach to the communities affected by the consolidation process is ongoing. Ms. Herrera emphasized that ongoing outreach would be very important as the project progresses.

Christine Gutierrez, Poso IRWM, presented the following 2 proposals.

- Pond School Water Treatment Plant Service
 - Project cost of \$20,000. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D6E28246-5056-A936-A94B69E0B22086BA>.
 - The existing arsenic treatment plant at the school is aging and needs to be upgraded.
 - Denise England stated that she would need to verify with DWR that this project would within the Program's scope, since it could be considered more of a maintenance activity versus project development.
- Richgrove CSD Water Well and Storage Tank Project
 - Project cost of \$97,100. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=C3BDF28E-5056-A936-A901F2A476F4599B>.

- The funding for this project would go towards updating construction plans for a replacement water well, pipeline, and a new water storage tank. The system would also be consolidated with Rodriguez Labor Camp.
- There were no participant comments about the project.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve project development funding for the Poso Creek IRWM projects presented.

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

Motion made by Ralph Gutierrez, second by Andrew Garcia.

All PAC members were in favor.

Tule River Basin IRWM group

Seamus Guerin, representing Tule IRWM, presented the following 2 proposals.

- Allensworth CSD Meter and Solar Planning Project
 - Project cost of \$230,000. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D72D295D-5056-A936-A934F5D06913D513>.
 - Allensworth CSD has been having problems with their existing manual-read meters which are not providing accurate results. A solar planning project is also being included within the project.
 - A participant asked if the CSD was sure the meters were the problem and not leaky piping. Mr. Guerin responded that a leak detection survey had already been done and the pipes were found to be in good shape.
 - A participant asked about the purpose solar component to the project. Seamus stated the purpose of the solar project of project was to reduce the cost of water service to the CSD, as energy costs currently make up a quarter of their total costs. The participant asked what the solar power would be used for, and Mr. Guerin responded that it would be used to power the wells, booster pumps, or District office facilities.
 - Another participant asked why they needed planning funding to replace the existing faulty meters and not just replace them outright. Mr. Guerin stated that they need funding to complete environmental documents and other planning documents required for the project. The District does not have sufficient funding to replace the meters on its own.
- Ducor CSD North Tank Replacement
 - Project cost of \$20,000. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D747F682-5056-A936-A9FF48EF52281C69>.
 - Following an inspection of Ducor CSD's water storage tank, it was revealed that the tank needed to be replaced due to corrosion and other factors.
 - There were no participant comments on the project.

PAC Action: Recommendation to approve project development funding for the Tule River Basin IRWM projects presented.

Ms. England asked for public comments regarding the recommendation; no public comments

were made.

Motion made by Regina Houchin, second by Stephanie Hearn.

All PAC members were in favor.

Kaweah IRWM group

Bill Pensar, representing Lemon Cove, presented the following proposal.

- Lemon Cove Test Wells Pump Test
 - Project cost of \$105,500. Details about the project can be found <https://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm?LinkServID=D6D80820-5056-A936-A9D579AF443C7E43>.
 - Lemon Cove would like to perform pump tests on two hard rock wells. They have had problems with wells being constructed and not performing well. In addition, they have had a long history of nitrate problems in existing wells.
 - A participant asked what the funding would be used for in the project. Mr. Pensar responded that the funding would be used for 15 day pump testing, hydrogeological review, sizing of well pumps, and engineering and design of the wells.
 - A participant asked if the wells were test wells or complete wells. Mr. Pensar stated that they were test wells that were approved to become complete wells. He stated that they haven't been pumped continuously yet. Maija Madec added that the hard rock wells needed to be pumped continuously to verify the quality of the water stays consistent.

PAC Action: *Recommendation to approve project development funding for the Kaweah IRWM project presented.*

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

Motion made by Richard Warne, second by Bobby Kamansky.

All PAC members were in favor.

At the end of the project development activities discussion, PAC members expressed concern at the oversight needed for the project consultants. Maria Herrera stated that consultants should be required to submit their invoices. Ms. England acknowledged the need and said the County would handle it on a case by case basis, depending on the project. It was agreed that requiring the DAC to sign/acknowledge invoices submitted by the consultant would be appropriate. Also, reporting/status updates will be helpful at PAC meetings. Ms. Herrera mentioned that SHE can help with DAC engagement, as needed.

7. DISCUSS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Maija Madec and Maria Herrera presented the needs assessment survey document to the PAC. They stated the goals of the survey were to keep it simple and to get data that is not publicly available.

A participant asked why water quality information was not on the survey. Ms. England stated the reason was because water quality information is already available to the public. A participant suggested that it may be useful to add the quantity of water that was metered to the survey to get an understanding of how

much water may be unaccounted for.

8. DISCUSS PLANS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

The location for upcoming meetings was discussed. The Tule River Tribe offered to use their conference room for future meetings. However, the group agreed to keep August 15th meeting in the Provost and Pritchard Visalia office. The September meeting was pushed back until October 17th to allow for additional time for PAC members to try the web tool and identify any potential issues. It was decided that the October 17th meeting would also be held in the Provost and Pritchard Visalia office.

Plans for scoring projects applying for the competitive regional funds pot were discussed. It was decided that these projects competing for the regional funds pot and remaining individual IRWM projects should be submitted by July 31st, 2019. These projects will be reviewed for approval at the August 15th PAC meeting. Ms. England asked IRWM groups if they were planning on submitting projects for the competitive regional funding pot. The Southern Sierra, Kings Basin, Tule River, Westside San Joaquin, and Poso Creek IRWMs stated they plan on submitting additional projects.

The scoring process for projects at the August 15th meeting was discussed. Conflicts of interest regarding scoring projects were looked at to decide who should be allowed to score projects. It was discussed that the DAC representative of each individual IRWM and the Tribal Representative would vote on each project that was applying for the competitive regional funding pot. The DAC representative from the presenting IRWM would not be allowed to score their own project. It was decided that an in-person meeting was not necessary for the scoring process, and that Ms. England would contact the eight (8) scoring representatives to score the submitted projects prior to the August 15th meeting. Presentation of projects discussion, final ranking and project approval will occur at the August 15th meeting.

9. ADDITIONAL UPDATES FROM PAC MEMBERS

There were no additional updates from PAC members.

10. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

The meeting was adjourned.

The next PAC meeting will be held:

August 15, 2019
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Provost & Pritchard
130 N Garden Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Appendix A: Additional Attendees

- Seamus Guerin, Self-Help Enterprises
- Armando Murrieta, Self-Help Enterprises
- Bill Pensar and Mrs. Pensar, Lemon Cove