

Tulare Kern Funding Area  
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)  
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP)  
Project Advisory Committee (PAC)  
August 15, 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
- Ralph Gutierrez, Tule IRWM
- Soua Lee, UKIRWMA
- Jim Maciel, UKIRWMA
- Stephanie Hearn, Poso IRWM
- Frank Ohnesorgen, Poso IRWM
- Christine Gutierrez, Poso IRWM
- Regina Houchin, Kern IRWM
- Bobby Kamansky, Southern Sierra IRWM

**IRWM Region Contacts (not already listed as a PAC member)**

- Jeff Eklund, Kern IRWM
- Shane Smith, Kaweah IRWM

**Project Team**

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

For others in attendance, see Appendix A.

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**1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & AGENDA REVIEW**

Denise England, Water Resources Director for Tulare County, reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. She introduced Malka Kopell, a neutral facilitator from the Consensus and Collaboration Program, California State University, Sacramento.

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members and members of the public introduced themselves and quorum was established. 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 JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> PAC MEETING

Ms. Kopell asked for comments regarding the summary of the June 13, 2019, PAC meeting. No comments were made.

***PAC Action:** Regina Houchin moved to approve the June 13, 2019, PAC meeting summary. Jim Maciel seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

## 3. REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Representatives from each IRWM region requesting project development funding presented their proposals. A question and answer period followed each presentation.

Mike Camarena, Kaweah IRWM, presented the following two proposals.

- City of Lindsay – Disinfection Byproduct Mitigation Project
  - Project cost of \$70,500. Details about the project can be found [here](#).
  - No comments or questions were made.
- City of Lindsay – Selection of Future Water Treatment Site
  - Project cost of \$158,000 (\$74,000 requested from Kaweah IRWM allocation; the remainder is requested through the regional pot of funding). Details can be found [here](#).
  - Has a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis been conducted for the project?
    - An analysis has been done, but not a full CEQA analysis.
  - Is the project is scalable? What will the proposers do with the project if regional funding is not received?
    - The project is scalable, but it is not yet known to what extent.
  - Will Tonyville will be included in the project if it receives funding?
    - Tonyville will be included, but the project is a study only.

***PAC Action:** Ralph Gutierrez moved to approve the two Kaweah IRWM proposals. Frank Ohnesorgen seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

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

- Buttonwillow County Water District – Well No. 5 Equipping and Pipeline
  - Project cost of \$60,400. Details can be found [here](#).
  - What percentage of the water from Well No. 5 will serve the park?
    - About 40% will go to the park.

- Will a large portion be for irrigation?
  - A large portion will be used for irrigation, but untreated water would be used for irrigation at the park. Treatment (disinfection) occurs at the tank site.
- Is there another water source?
  - Yes there is.
- Will there be any test wells?
  - There will be a 720 foot test well.
- Will Well No. 5 be an additional well or replace an existing well?
  - It will replace an existing well that has high salinity.
- Frazier Park Public Utility District – Emergency Replacement Well and Water Supply Project
  - Project cost of \$46,400. Details can be found [here](#).
- Lake of the Woods Mutual Water Company – Water Supply, Loss, Use, and Rate Study
  - Project cost of \$41,200. Details can be found [here](#).
  - Ms. England noted that this project needs concurrence from the California Department of Water Resources because it includes purchase and installation of a meter reading system.
  - No questions or comments were made.
- Weldon Regional Water Project – Land Acquisition
  - Project cost of \$50,000. Details can be found [here](#).
  - Has a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) application been completed?
    - The presenter was not able to confirm whether or not a LAFCo application had yet been completed for the project.
  - Will the new district be a purchasing entity?
    - The presenter was not able to confirm who the purchasing entity would be.
  - What is the basis for the \$50,000 project cost?
    - It is based upon the parcel that was identified. There is a deadline of June 2020 to acquire the parcel.
  - Ms. England noted that there was a need to clarify with the California Department of Water Resources whether the project can receive funding due to its being a land acquisition.

**PAC Action:** *Ralph Gutierrez moved to approve the two Kern IRWM proposals. Mike Camarena seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

Soua Lee, Kings Basin IRWM, presented the following two proposals.

- East Orosi Community Services District – Well and Pipeline Design and Environmental Documents Project

- Project cost of \$159,144. Details about the project can be found [here](#).
- Is the proposed project the same as or different than the other project that currently has a planning grant?
  - It is the same project, but the planning grant the project received is no longer active because of a recommendation made in the planning report that the project proceed with the consolidation alternative. The grant proposal currently under consideration is for technical work, assuming that the consolidation does occur.
- Would the East Orosi board be consolidated?
  - This is a political question and so cannot be answered at this time. If it were consolidated, the East Orosi board would still exist to provide sewer services.
- Is the California State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Drinking Water (DDW) aware of the project? It may be able to receive funding through the DDW.
  - DDW does know about the project, but the fastest way to move the project forward would be by receiving funding through the PAC.
- Is the project dependent upon the consolidation occurring?
  - It is not necessarily dependent on this. The parcel in question is neither within East Orosi District nor Orosi District, but the pipeline needs to go through East Orosi District in order to reach Orosi District. The current contractor is the County.
- How long has the other grant funding received by the project been idle?
  - The project started in 2012.
- Malaga County Water District – Replace Well 3
  - Project cost of \$90,856. Details about the project can be found [here](#).
  - Has a test well been built?
    - There is a test well.

**PAC Action:** *Stephanie Hearn moved to approve the two Kern IRWM proposals. Regina Houchin seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

Christine Gutierrez, Poso Creek IRWM, presented the following proposal.

- City of Delano – Spreading Facility
  - Project cost of \$17,800. Details about the project can be found [here](#).
  - No questions or comments were made.

**PAC Action:** *Regina Houchin moved to approve the two Kern IRWM proposals. Jim Maciel seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

Bobby Kamansky, Southern Sierra IRWM, and Christine Gutierrez, Poso Creek IRWM, presented the following proposal. The Tule River Tribe Emergency Raw Water Storage Tank project, approved by the PAC on March 28, 2019, subsequently received a federal grant. Southern Sierra IRWM would like to reallocate the \$20,000 originally allocated for that project’s application cost to project development.

- Sierra Resource Conservation District – Water Supply Vulnerability in Southern Sierra Communities
  - Project cost of \$172,000. Details about the project can be found [here](#).
  - How will the tool be made available to the public?
    - The project will work with communities to make the tool publicly available. Where the tool will be housed has not yet been determined; a partner entity that has jurisdiction will need to house the tool.
  - The project could support work on replacement wells.

**PAC Action:** *Stephanie Hearn moved to approve the two Kern IRWM proposals. Ralph Gutierrez seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

#### **4. REVIEW REVISED SCORING GUIDELINES AND SELECTION PROCESS (FOR THE REGIONAL POT OF FUNDING)**

Ms. Kopell reviewed the scoring guidelines and selection process for the regional pot of funding, which were agreed upon at the last PAC meeting. A Scoring Committee, made up of Disadvantaged Community and Tribal representatives, was responsible for doing an initial round of scoring of the proposals. The Scoring Committee members present would first deliberate amongst themselves to make an initial recommendation. The PAC would then carry out their deliberations and made their recommendations regarding funding.

The regional pot had \$250,000 of available funding. The PAC may later make changes to the funding process to allocate money from the IRWM-specific pots to the regional funding pot.

#### **5. PRESENT APPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL POT OF FUNDING**

The Scoring Committee’s preliminary scores for the five regional funding applications were presented. The scores presented were an average of the preliminary scores given by each member of the Scoring Committee; the highest possible score was 20.

Representatives for each of the proposals then presented the proposals, with a discussion period following each presentation.

<b>Project Proposed</b>	<b>Avg. Score</b>	<b>Proposal Cost</b>
City of Lindsay – Selection of Future Water	16.0	\$84,000

Treatment Plant Site		
County of Kern Public Works Department – Caliente Creek Flood Mitigation CEQA	6.3	\$250,000
Lebec County Water District – Phillips Pressure Zone Expansion	14.0	\$32,000
Pixley Public Utility District – Water Main Extension	14.7	\$129,100
Sultana Community Services District – Sultana and Monson Storm Water Project	14.7	\$72,600 - \$250,000

Mike Camarena presented the City of Lindsay Selection of Future Water Treatment Plant Site proposal. He noted that partial funding for the project has already been approved by the PAC. No questions or comments were made about the proposal.

Jeff Eklund presented the County of Kern Public Works Department Caliente Creek Flood Mitigation CEQA proposal. Two participants expressed their support for the project. Another participant said that the amount of funding requested seems high for a CEQA study and also that there may be other sources of funding that could support the project, including SGMA-related funds as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency flood funding. A participant asked whether the funding would include development of specific site designs, in addition to the environmental analysis. Another participant responded that the project includes components both for capture of flood water and for filtration of sediment through native vegetation.

Jeff Eklund presented the Lebec County Water District Phillips Pressure Zone Expansion project. A participant asked whether there were bacterial contamination issues; there have not been reports of bacterial contamination but the water system is chlorinated. A participant said that they were unable to locate the improvements on the map provided with the project application; the improvements are located in the middle of Lebec. A participant noted that the proposal includes fire service and asked whether this is feasible; the fire service is connected to increased pressure and will work.

Michael Taylor presented the Pixley Public Utility District Water Main Extension project. A participant asked whether the Tule IRWM Board had met to put forward the project proposal; the Board has not yet met to put forward the proposal, so it will be retroactive if approved by the PAC. Participants discussed whether the PAC has the ability to approve funding for a project that has not been approved by the relevant IRWM Board, and PAC members decided that proposals must have IRWM approval before being funded.

Soua Lee, Michael Prado (Sultana Community Services District), and Seamus Guerin (Self-Help Enterprises) presented the Sultana Community Services District Sultana and Monson Storm Water Project. A participant asked how often there is flooding; flooding occurs every time it rains. A participant asked whether nitrates will present any problems for the project; this is a possibility that the project's engineers need to keep in mind. A participant asked which Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is the project's representative; the representative is Kings River East GSA. A participant expressed support for the project because it would benefit DAC communities and the proposers have remained engaged despite having been denied funding in the past. A participant asked whether the project could move forward if it received less than the full \$250,000 requested; the project is scalable and could move

forward with partial funding. A participant asked whether there are any other funding sources that could support the project; partial funding through the PAC would allow the project to begin to move forward, and there is not currently funding available for DAC technical assistance through Proposition 1.

**6. REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – REGIONAL POT**

Scoring Committee members discussed voting options for their recommendations about the applications for the regional pot of funding. The Scoring Committee decided to use consensus to develop their recommendations, and if consensus could not be reached recommendations would be based on a simple majority vote.

Scoring Committee members discussed the five proposals. The group discussed concerns about the fact that the Pixley project had not yet been approved by an IRWM and the possibility of recommending that the project be set aside pending IRWM approval. Scoring Committee members discussed approving some projects for partial funding and discussed the scalability of those projects. The group also discussed requesting additional information about some of the projects, and tabling decisions about those projects until the October 2019 PAC meeting, pending receipt of the additional information.

The Scoring Committee developed the following recommendation to the PAC.

<b>Project Proposed</b>	<b>Recommended Approved Funding (Tier 1)</b>	<b>Projects to Consider (Tier 2)*</b>
City of Lindsay – Selection of Future Water Treatment Plant Site	\$84,000	\$0
County of Kern Public Works Department – Caliente Creek Flood Mitigation CEQA	\$0	\$0
Lebec County Water District – Phillips Pressure Zone Expansion	\$0	\$32,000
Pixley Public Utility District – Water Main Extension**	\$0	\$129,100
Sultana Community Services District – Sultana and Monson Storm Water Project	\$72,600	Up to \$177,400 (for a total of \$250,000)
<i>Total Funding Recommended</i>	<i>\$156,600</i>	<i>\$338,500</i>

\* Tier two projects were identified as important projects to consider at the October 2019 PAC meeting, but require supporting documentation for each project affirming that it had been approved by the IRWM group.

\*\* It was recommended that Pixley PUD provide a minimum funding request amount.

*Scoring Committee Action: Regina Houchin moved to make the above outlined recommendation to the PAC. Bobby Kamansky seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**7. VOTE ON REGIONAL POT OF FUNDING**

The full PAC discussed the Scoring Committee’s recommendation regarding funding for the five

proposals.

***PAC Action:** Stephanie Hearn moved to approve the Scoring Committee's recommendation regarding funding for the five regional funding proposals. Bobby Kamansky seconded the motion.*

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

*All PAC members were in favor.*

## **8. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING**

It was agreed that the appropriate follow-up would be carried out ahead of the next PAC meeting regarding project-specific questions that arose during the meeting. It was agreed that the Scoring Committee would re-score the projects up for reconsideration based upon any update information ahead of the next PAC meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

The next PAC meeting will be held:

October 17, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Provost & Pritchard  
130 N Garden Street  
Visalia, CA 93291



**Appendix A: Additional Attendees**

- Michael Prado, Sultana CSD
- Seamus Guerin, Self-Help Enterprises
- Michael Prado, Jr., Sultana CSD
- Debra Dunn, KRCD
- Michael Taylor, Provost & Pritchard