

Tulare Kern Funding Area
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP)
Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
October 17, 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
- Soua Lee, UKIRWMA
- Jim Maciel, UKIRWMA
- Arjun Bharadwaj, Poso IRWM
- Christine Gutierrez, Poso IRWM
- Bobby Kamansky, Southern Sierra IRWM
- Andrew Garcia, Westside San Joaquin IRWM

Project Team

- Denise England, Tulare County
- Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard
- Malka Kopell, facilitator, Consensus and Collaboration Program, CSUS
- Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises
- Seamus Guerin, Self-Help Enterprises
- Angela Islas, Self-Help Enterprises

For others in attendance, see Appendix A.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & AGENDA REVIEW

Malka Kopell, facilitator from the Consensus and Collaboration Program, California State University, Sacramento, reviewed the meeting agenda and objectives. Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members and members of the public introduced themselves. An initial quorum was not established, so agenda items requiring quorum were postponed until additional PAC members arrived.

Project Advisory Committee members and Project Team members in attendance are listed above. For a list of additional attendees, refer to Appendix A.

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

2. REVIEW OF WEB APPLICATION

Gavin O’Leary, Provost & Pritchard, presented a review of a web-based application which includes information about communities and their water related needs. The application was developed with feedback, including from individuals who attend PAC meetings. Anyone who would like a link to the web application was invited to ask Provost & Pritchard staff for it. Currently, the target audience for the application are individuals with knowledge about IRWM-related issues, but the target audience could eventually be widened to include a more general public.

Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment data is updated monthly in the application. The newest feature of the application is a community needs ranking. A participant said that it would be helpful to have additional information about how the community needs ranking is scored. Another participant asked whether additional information beyond needs, for example existing project information, could be added. Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard, said that there had been discussion about adding case studies.

3. UPDATE ON WORKING GROUP FOR COMMUNITIES NOT COVERED BY IRWM REGIONS

Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises, presented an update on establishment of a working group to address communities not covered by the existing boundaries of the IRWM regions. Some PAC members have expressed interest in serving on the working group. Although the boundaries of some IRWM regions have changed, there are still some communities that are not covered. Ms. Herrera noted that she has a map showing the areas covered and not covered. Most of the communities not covered by the IRWM regions are located in Kings and Fresno counties.

Ms. Herrera said that additional members are needed for the workgroup. Workgroup participation includes a commitment to three meetings. Soua Lee, Jim Maciel, and Rebecca Berg (Civic Spark) expressed interest in participating in the working group. Andrew Garcia noted that some communities in Westside are now included in the Westside San Joaquin region.

A participant said that the PAC should suggest options to DWR for how these areas should be addressed in future IRWM guidelines.

4. UPDATE ON SEPTIC SYSTEM SURVEY PLAN AND PROPOSED LOCATIONS

Ms. Herrera presented an update on the plan for conducting the septic system survey and proposed locations. Self-Help Enterprises identified communities that may need to participate. The State Water Resources Control Board has funding available for nonprofits to support individual households in correcting septic systems.

Ms. Herrera asked for feedback about other communities to consider including. A participant suggested including Monson; Ms. Herrera noted that it had been included in a previous survey about five years ago. Another participant asked to provide feedback after the meeting; Ms. Herrera said that participants could provide feedback within a couple of weeks following the meeting.

5. QUICK REVIEW OF SCORING GUIDELINES AND SELECTION PROCESS (FOR THE REGIONAL POT OF FUNDING)

A quick review was given of the scoring guidelines and selection process for the regional pot of funding, which were reviewed in more depth during the August 2019 PAC meeting. The Scoring Committee scored each of the applications ahead of the PAC meeting. Based in part on these scores, as well as revised scores developed after the applications were presented in the meeting and further discussion, the Scoring Committee would make a recommendation to the PAC regarding which projects to fund and at what level. The PAC would then make the final funding decisions, including deciding whether or not to follow the recommendation provided by the Scoring Committee. The regional pot had \$93,400 of available funding.

6. PRESENT THREE APPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL POT OF FUNDING

Representatives from each IRWM region requesting funding from the regional pot presented their proposals. Participants were given an option to ask question following each presentation.

Ms. Lee, along with Michael Prado, Sr., and Michael Prado, Jr., presented the following proposal.

- Sultana Community Services District (CSD) – Sultana and Monson Storm Water Project
 - Project cost of \$250,000 (project is scalable; minimum request \$72,600).

Ms. Madec presented the following proposal.

- Pixley Public Utility District – Water Main Extension
 - Project cost of \$129,100. The proposal was previously considered but listed only the total project amount and had not listed a minimum request amount; the updated proposal included a minimum request of \$73,000.

Ms. Madec presented the following proposal.

- Lebec County Water District – Phillips Pressure Zone Expansion
 - Project cost of \$32,000.

A participant asked how the minimum requests were determined. The minimums were taken from each proposal, which split out the tasks and present minimum request amounts if applicable.

7. REVIEW AND DECIDE ON APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES – REGIONAL POT

The Scoring Committee and then the full PAC discussed the three applications. They discussed whether there was additional money available in the IRWM-specific pots that could be moved into the regional (competitive) pot. The remaining funding included \$100 in Poso IRWM, \$12,000 in Kern IRWM, and \$85,000 in Southern Sierra. Adding these amounts to the existing regional pot funding would bring it to a total of \$190,500. However, there is a possibility that the money might be used within the individual IRWM's and therefore not be moved to the regional pot.

Two outstanding questions remained following the discussion. One is whether Caltrans approval for the Pixley project may be an issue. The other is whether Southern Sierra and Kern will have additional projects by January 2020.

The Scoring Committee recommended funding allocation Option 2, allocating the \$93,400 currently in the regional pot to the Pixley and Sultana projects, with \$24,000 to Pixley and the remaining funding to Sultana. The Scoring Committee also recommended that if additional funding becomes available in January from the IRWM-specific pots, the PAC should consider allocating it to the Sultana project.

After further discussion, the PAC made the following funding decision.

***PAC Action:** Andrew Garcia moved to approve the Option 2 funding allocation, as well as to set a deadline for IRWM regions to propose projects for their region-specific funding ahead of the January PAC meeting, and for the PAC to consider allocation of any funding remaining in regional pots during its January meeting. Christine Gutierrez seconded the motion.*

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

Motion passed with all PAC members in favor.

8. REVIEW ANY REMAINING APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FROM INDIVIDUAL IRWM FUNDING POTS

Updates were presented about applications for the individual IRWM funding pots. No new projects were

presented.

Denise England presented an update on three projects from the Tule River Tribe, in the Southern Sierra region. The Tribe originally submitted three separate projects, all of which were funded, with \$30,000 for meadow restoration, \$35,000 for rehabilitation of Painted Rock Dam, and \$35,000 for an emergency raw water storage tank and associated raw water piping. The Tribe subsequently received federal funding to move forward on construction for these projects. Therefore, they have updated their request to consolidate the funding from those three projects into a single \$100,000 project to carry out a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

***PAC Action:** Bobby Kamansky moved to approve the change. Jim Maciel seconded the motion.*

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

Motion passed with all PAC members in favor.

Mr. Kamansky presented an update on the Sierra Resource Conservation District project for the Southern Sierra region. The application update reallocates \$65,000 to support a well study. This change did not require PAC action.

Ms. Lee presented an update on the East Oroshi CSD project for the Kings Basin region. The application update reallocates part of the budget to acquire a test well site, as well as some project administration to support this acquisition. This change did not require PAC action.

9. REVIEW OF MEETING SUMMARY FROM AUGUST 15TH PAC MEETING

Ms. Kopell asked for comments regarding the summary of the August 15, 2019, PAC meeting. No comments were made.

***PAC Action:** Mr. Maciel moved to approve the August 15, 2019, PAC meeting summary. Mr. Kamansky seconded the motion.*

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

All PAC members were in favor.

10. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING

The next PAC meeting was scheduled for January 16, 2020. A deadline was set for any remaining IRWM-specific project applications to be sent to the project team by 5:00 p.m. on December 13, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next PAC meeting will be held:

January 16, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Provost & Pritchard
130 N Garden Street
Visalia, CA 93291

Appendix A: Additional Attendees

- Michael Prado, Sr., Sultana CSD
- Michael Prado, Jr., Sultana CSD