

**ACTION MINUTES  
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AREA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Date and Location:** February 1, 2018 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.  
Laguna Niguel Council Chambers  
30111 Crown Valley Parkway  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

**\*\*Audio recording for the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is available [here](#). Recording times noted in the minutes correspond to that item on the recording. \*\***

**ITEM # 1      Roll Call/Self-Introductions (Recording: 00:01:25)**

Debbie Neev, Vice Chair, Laguna Beach County Water District  
Brian Goodell for Trish Kelly, City of Mission Viejo  
Carol Moore, City of Laguna Woods  
Paul Wyatt, City of Dana Point  
Rob Zur Schmiede, City of Laguna Beach  
Brad McGirr, City of Rancho Santa Margarita  
Ed Mandich, Trabuco Canyon Water District  
Elaine Gennawey, City of Laguna Niguel  
Jack Hunt, City of San Juan Capistrano  
Mark Tettermer for Mary Aileen Matheis, Irvine Ranch Water District  
Matt Collings for Brian Probosky, Moulton Niguel Water District  
Megan Yoo Schneider, Municipal Water District of OC  
Saundra F. Jacobs, Santa Margarita Water District  
William Phillips, City of Aliso Viejo

**ITEM # 2      Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items) (Recording: 00:04:13)**

Ms. Hoiyin Ip representing the Sierra Club requested support for a Waste Reduction Campaign to encourage local restaurants to stop using single-use items.

Mike Beanan representing the Laguna Bluebelt Coalitional shared concern regarding the US Army Corps of Engineers Aliso Creek Mainstem Ecosystem Restoration Project. Mr. Beanan recommended that efforts to reduce the urban runoff to the coast are kept in mind.

Bill Lane representing Dana Point as a member of the Ocean Water Quality Committee requested support from the Committee for waste reduction outreach efforts and stressed the importance of raising awareness of and public education on trash reduction. Mr. Lane requested that the topic of waste reduction be added to a future agenda for discussion.

Jeff Meberg representing Pacific Marine Mammal Center (PMMC) introduced the non-profit organization that rescues, rehabilitates and release of marine mammals. PMMC is seeking support and funding for an onsite recycled water and treatment facility, which would significantly reduce potable water demand for

the facility. The project has been approved by the City of Laguna Beach. Hard copies of the presentation and Mr. Meberg's contact information were available at the meeting.

Acting Chair Neev acknowledged the public comments and asked staff to consider revisiting the waste reduction and Pacific Marine Mammal project topics at future meetings.

**ITEM # 3 Approval of Minutes (Recording: 00:17:10)**

The minutes of the November 2, 2017 meeting were presented to the Executive Committee.

**Recommended Action:** Approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting

*Motion: Approve minutes*  
*First/Second: Sandra Jacobs/Carol Moore*  
*Abstained: Melody Carruth, Paul Wyatt, Rob Zur Schmiede, and William Phillips*  
*Outcome: Approved unanimously*

**ITEM # 4 Election of Chair (Recording: 00:18:18)**

Debbie Neev, Acting Chair, notified the Committee that as of January 2, 2018 the Executive Committee Chair position was vacated. In accordance with the terms of the Executive Committee Handbook and Cooperative Agreement, a new Chair should be elected by the Committee to serve for the remainder of the 2017-2019 term ending June 2019. It was recommended that the Executive Committee select a nominating committee to bring back nomination(s) for consideration at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The volunteers from the previous nominating committee were not all present to confirm participation; therefore, the following members volunteered to serve as the nominating committee: Sandra Jacobs, Rick Erkeneff, Carol Moore, Ed Mandich, and Wayne Rayfield. Staff will coordinate a conference call for the Nominating Committee to develop a recommended slate to be presented at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Recommended Action:** Form a nominating committee to return with a slate for Chair to continue the current term ending June 2019.

*Motion: Reconvene the 2017 nominating committee*  
*First/Second: Approved by member consensus*  
*Abstained: None*  
*Outcome: Approved unanimously*

**ITEM # 5 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Outreach in the San Diego Funding Area (Recording 00:20:38) Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard and Curran**

Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard and Curran presented information on the San Diego Funding Area Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Needs Assessment being conducted to determine best methods for addressing the water needs of underrepresented communities. Ms. Prickett provided a primer on the importance of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), which represents an innovative way to increase reliable water supplies, improve water quality, and protect natural resources through cooperation among public agencies and non-profit public interest organizations. The DAC Needs Assessment is being coordinated for the San Diego Funding Area, representing South Orange County, Upper Santa Margarita, and San Diego IRWM Regions. The Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (FACC) is a collaborative of the three Regions and has committed to coordinate funding opportunities and explore joint project solutions for common water issues. Ms. Prickett provided the following background information on the DAC Needs Assessment:

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- DAC Involvement Grant – The San Diego funding area was awarded \$5.5 million in grant funding for DAC involvement, which includes conducting a DAC Needs Assessment.
- DAC Needs Assessment – The primary objectives for the DAC needs assessment are as follows:
  - Identify DAC water management needs across the San Diego Funding Area – this will consider underrepresented communities (URCs), economically distressed areas (EDAs) and Native American Tribal needs;
  - Clarify key priorities that are necessary to address deficiencies in DAC water, wastewater, stormwater, and flood control systems; and
  - Engage and involve DACs, URCs, EDAs and other stakeholders in defining their water needs and determine how to ensure involvement of these groups in IRWM Programs over the long term.

The anticipated schedule for the DAC Needs Assessment is as follows:

- Definitions and Mapping: November 2017 – March 2018
- DAC Outreach and Presentations: March – September 2018
- Draft DAC Needs Assessment: December 2018
- Proposition 1 Grant Opportunity – Prop 1 Round 1: Late 2018, Prop 1 Round 2: Late 2020, \$43 million remaining funds available to San Diego Funding Area, \$6 million (13%) remaining for South Orange IRWM Region.

[Rural Communities Assistance Corporation](#) (RCAC) and [Climate Science Alliance South Coast](#), two non-profit partners will provide support the DAC needs assessment. Ms. Prickett also requested leads and contacts for outreach efforts. Public commenters suggested that communities that provide recreational opportunities for DAC/EDA and URCs be considered as part of the process to identify priorities for water resources (e.g. beach cities). Additionally, commenters suggested reaching out to communities on the Ortega Highway/Riverside County line and through [Mission Hospital](#). Megan Yoo Schneider suggested Ms. Prickett contact the [South County Family Resource Center](#).

For additional questions or suggestions for outreach, please contact [Jenna Voss](#) to coordinate with Rosalyn Prickett.

**Recommended Action:** Receive and file.

**ITEM # 6 Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWM Plan) Update (Recording: 00:43:30) Jenna Voss, County of Orange**

Jenna Voss, County of Orange provided an overview on the IRWM Plan Update. The overview included the topics as follows:

- Edits to the plan based upon prior Committee action and to comply with State Department of Water Resource (DWR) Plan Standards;
- Technical updates made by the Management Committee based upon local planning initiatives;
- Project list development and project prioritization for inclusion in the IRWM plan; and
- Data Management System (DMS) and associated website resources for the South Orange County Watershed Management Area.

Ms. Voss also announced the two opportunities for stakeholders to participate in the IRWM Plan update process; a Technical Assistance Workshop on February 5<sup>th</sup> and a Plan Review Workshop on March 14<sup>th</sup> [changed to March 21<sup>st</sup>]. The workshops were intended to provide technical assistance on using the new [website/DMS](#) and entering projects for inclusion on the IRWM Project List, and for asking questions about changes made to the IRWM Plan, respectively. As a reminder, the current 2013 IRWM Plan can be found

at the OC Watersheds website: [SOC WMA IRWMP](#). The final draft IRWM Plan will be presented at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting for Executive Committee approval.

**Recommended Action:** Receive and file.

**ITEM #7 Department of Water Resources (DWR) financial Assistance Branch: State Vision for IRWM (Recording: 01:13:52) Carmel Brown, DWR**

Carmel Brown, Chief of the DWR Financial Assistance Branch presented information on the State's vision for the future of IRWM. Ms. Brown acknowledged staff and the new [website/Data Management System](#). She suggested that a project factsheet be included on the website for each completed project to better tell a story for South Orange County. She spoke about the value in collaboration, managing all aspects of water resources, crossing jurisdictional and political boundaries and the involvement of multiple agencies, stakeholders, and groups. Ms. Brown stated that each region will identify different needs and the importance of integrated projects to address those needs. She also shared DWR's [Strategic Business Plan](#) and the [California Water plan](#), which is currently being updated and will be finalized by the end of 2018.

Mr. Brown's presentation included information on the remaining grant funding for South Orange County and the schedule for developing the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for disbursement of IRWM Implementation Grant funding through Proposition 1. DWR will produce and supply to the Roundtable of Regions a preliminary draft PSP in early Spring 2018; a draft solicitation package will be available for public comment in late Spring, including workshops. It is anticipated that the final proposed solicitation package will be completed by the end of June. Unlike previous IRWM Grant program application processes, DWR will consult with each IRWM Funding Area (SOCWMA is in the San Diego Funding Area) to assist with the application process and provide feedback on the selected projects for funding. Anticipated changes will include a streamlined application process, new evaluation criteria, and greater expectation for projects (e.g. project readiness).

Ms. Brown acknowledged the Executive Members and the completed projects she visited in South Orange County.

**Recommended Action:** Receive and file.

**ITEM # 8 Executive Officer's Report (Recording: 01:45:25)**

Grant Sharp, County of Orange, acknowledged committee members, Vice Chair Neev, and Marilyn Thoms. He also acknowledged Carmel Brown and Tanya Meeth for attending the meeting.

Mr. Sharp provided the following updates:

- A total of six IRWM Grant programs were administered and/or obtained through the State IRWM Grant Program from 2006 to present. Of the \$35 million dollars received for projects selected by the South Orange County WMA, representing more than \$200 million dollars in total local investment in water resource projects within the last ten years.
- The [website/Data Management system](#) is a form of communicating important project information to stakeholders and other agencies in Orange County.
- Aliso Creek Mainstem Ecosystem Restoration project update – The comment period on the draft EIR closed in November 2017. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is developing a response to comments. The County of Orange is communicating with local stakeholders and other agencies to identify next steps in the best interest of the creek and stakeholders.
- Doheny Desalination received a grant award of \$10 million.

- Proposed water conservation rulemaking to prohibit certain wasteful use practices (SWRCB) – The State Water Board is accepting written comments on the proposed regulation, the deadline to submit comments is February 14, 2018. To access click [here](#).

**ITEM # 9 Executive Committee Member Comments (Recording: 01:53:15)**

The Executive Committee members acknowledged Marilyn Thoms and presented her with a letter acknowledging all of her efforts and completed projects during her time with the County of Orange and as the Executive Officer of the South Orange County Watershed Management Area Executive Committee.

Ms. Thoms acknowledged the committee and all of their efforts in completing improvement projects and collaborating with multiple agencies, stakeholders and the community.

**ITEM # 10 Adjournments (Recording: 01:58:55)**

Non-Committee Attendees:

Betty Burnett	South Orange County Wastewater Authority
Brian Goodell	City of Mission Viejo
Devin Slaven	City of Lake Forest
Carmel Brown	CA Department of Water Resources
E. (Max) Maximous	City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Hal Ghafari	City of Laguna Niguel
Hasan Nouri	Fluvial Tech Inc.
Hazel McIntosh	City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Joey Soto	Soto Resources
Ken Rosenfield	City of Laguna Hills
Lisa Zawaski	City of Dana Point
Mark Tetterer	Irvine Ranch Water District
Matt Collings	Moulton Niguel Water District
Michael Beanan	South Laguna Civic Association
Marsha Westropp	Orange County Water District
Renaë Hinchey	Laguna Beach County Water District
Richard Gardner	Capo Beach Resident
Roger Butow	Clean Water Now
Rosalyn Prickett	Woodard & Curran
Shaun Pelletier	City of Aliso Viejo
Tanya Meeth	CA Department of Water Resources
Ziad Mazboudi	City of Laguna Niguel

**County Staff:** Amanda Carr, Grant Sharp, Marilyn Thoms, Jenna Voss, and Amanda Aprahamian