

AGENDA
NEWPORT BAY WATERSHED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 16, 2012
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

*Foothill Ranch Library
Community Room
27002 Cabriole Way
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610

John M. W. Moorlach, Chair
County of Orange

Peer Swan, Vice Chair
Irvine Ranch Water District

Jeff Lalloway
City of Irvine

Claudia Alvarez
City of Santa Ana

Kathryn McCullough
City of Lake Forest

Fred Ameri
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control
Board

Al Murray
City of Tustin

Nancy Gardner
City of Newport Beach

Ed Pert
California Department of Fish and Game

Wendy Leece
City of Costa Mesa

Sat Tamaribuchi
The Irvine Company

Meeting information available at
www.ocwatersheds.com/NewportBay_ExecComm.aspx

The Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee welcomes you to this meeting and encourages your participation. This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action shall be taken on any items not appearing in the following agenda. However, items may be taken up in a different sequence. Any member of the public may ask the Executive Committee to be heard on the following items, as those items are called. Those persons addressing the Executive Committee are requested to give their names for the record.

Discussion Calendar

ITEM # 1. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2012 MEETING

Recommended Action: Approve the minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting.

ITEM # 2. TMDL PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff will provide a brief update on the status of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) programs.

Recommended Action: Receive and file

ITEM # 3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

ITEM # 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEM # 5. SERRANO CREEK TOUR

Tom Wheeler, Lake Forest Public Works Director, will provide an overview of Serrano Creek and lead a tour of Reach 2.

ITEM # 6. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting date: July 18, 2012

NEWPORT BAY WATERSHED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Draft Meeting Minutes

Date and Location: March 21, 2012, 1:34 p.m. – 3:05 p.m.
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine CA 92618

Participants: John M. W. Moorlach, Board of Supervisors and Committee Chair
Peer Swan, Irvine Ranch Water District and Vice Chair
Nancy Gardner, City of Newport Beach
Kathryn McCullough, City of Lake Forest
Al Murray, City of Tustin
Sat Tamaribuchi, Irvine Company
Wendy Leece, City of Costa Mesa

Agenda Item 1 – Minutes of the October 19, 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting were presented to the Executive Committee.

Motion: Approve minutes for October 19, 2011
First/Second: Ms. Leece/Mr. Murray
Outcome: Approved

Agenda Item 2 – Sediment TMDL Annual Results and Long Term Evaluation Findings

Ms. Habben presented a summary of the 2010-11 Newport Bay Watershed Sediment Annual Report submitted to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board in accordance with requirements of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment.

Mr. Moorlach inquired whether there were any estimates for rainfall data for this year. Ms. Skorpanich answered that the rainfall is approximately half of the annual average.

The major results from the report are summarized below:

- The ten-year running average for this station is 51,056 tons, which is well under the TMDL target of 62,500 tons per year). The target of reducing the ten-year average by 50 percent continues to be met. The suspended sediment discharge for the San Diego Creek at Campus Drive monitoring station was approximately 139,000 tons. Sediment loading at the Campus Drive station is significant because it is used for determining compliance with the sediment reduction target and is the last sediment monitoring station before San Diego Creek enters Newport Bay.
- The watershed experienced considerably above-average rainfall for the reporting period with a total of 23.42 inches recorded at the Tustin-Irvine Ranch station. A significant storm system in December 2010 produced 10.73 inches of rain over 8 days (December 16-23, 2010).

- Annual suspended sediment discharges were computed for the first time for the Agua Chinon Wash and Marshburn Channel stations due to an increased sampling effort by the County.

Ms. Leece asked what accounts for the sediment reduction in the creek. Ms. Habben mentioned that the variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented throughout the watershed, such as the sediment basins and channel stabilization, has contributed to the reduction in sediment.

Mr. Hank Fehlman summarized the multi-year evaluation of compliance with the sediment TMDL. The study reviews and summarizes the eleven years of collected monitoring data throughout the TMDL period to assess compliance with TMDL targets. Below are the main findings of the study:

- Sediment loads to the Newport Bay and sediment accumulation in the lower San Diego Creek over the 2000-2010 period have both have averaged less than 62,500 tons per year, which is the 10-year running average target established in the sediment TMDL.
- Measured sediment concentrations have been progressively lower since the sediment TMDL was established at several of the monitoring locations in the watershed.
- Hydrologically, the recent period has been more representative of the long term rainfall trend than the pre-TMDL period of the 1990s, which had more severe storms and higher peak flow rates.
- Channel erosion has notably decreased in recent years.
- Highest sediment concentrations have been recorded at the Agua Chinon gage, which monitors contributions from a predominantly open space land use in the eastern foothills.
- Some monitoring locations show consistently very low loading, namely Bonita Canyon, Sand Canyon, and Santa Ana Delhi stations.

The study also reviewed the monitoring stations within the monitoring program and made recommendations to remove several stations due to their insignificance of the subwatersheds to the sedimentation situation in Newport Bay, and/or changing nature that hindered their ability to adequately measure loads from the original land use type designated. For example, the Bonita Canyon Creek station was originally intended to measure the loads from a construction land use type. However, the station is no longer representative of this land use type since the majority of development within this sub-watershed was completed by 2005.

Motion: Receive and file.
First/Second: Mr. Swan/Ms. Leece
Outcome: Approved

Agenda Item 3 – OCTA Water Quality Grant

Ms. Skorpanich presented information about the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) Environmental Cleanup Program which provides for the allocation of two percent of annual gross Measure M2 (M2) revenues to improve overall water quality in Orange County from transportation-related pollution. The Tier 1 Grant Program is designed to mitigate the more visible forms of pollutants, such as litter and debris that collects on the roadways and in the storm drains prior to being deposited in waterways and the ocean. It consists of funding for equipment purchases and upgrades to existing catch basins and related best management practices such as screens, filters, and catch basin inserts. A total of up to \$19.5 million is available for the Tier 1 program from Fiscal Year 2011-12 through Fiscal Year 2017-18. The first round of grant applications was funded at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011-12. Eligible agencies for this funding are the Cities and County of Orange; it is a small pool of eligible applicants.

OCTA is in the process of initiating Tier 2, a second competitive grant program that will target regional, capital-intensive water quality improvement projects with a nexus to the transportation system. There is a 50 percent matching requirements but there are measures within the program that can reduce the matching requirement to 25 percent if the agency qualifies. Projects would include but are not limited to: constructed wetlands, bioswales, infiltration basins, and other state-of-the-art treatment systems. To prepare for the grant program, a planning study has been conducted that utilizes a geographical information system model to identify water quality priority areas. The first call for projects is expected in summer 2012 shortly thereafter.

Ms. Gardner asked if the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan had projects that will apply for funding. Ms. Skorpanich responded that there are some projects exploring this funding option but may not be ready for this round of grants.

Motion: Receive and file
First/Second: Mr. Murray/Ms. McCullough
Outcome: Approved

Consent Calendar

Agenda Item 4 – California Impaired Waters Update

A written staff report was provided for this item.

Agenda Item 5 - Executive Committee Member Comments

Ms. McCullough asked for clarification about the timeline for the upcoming M2 grants. Ms. Skorpanich replied that the Tier 1 grant is due in April and that Tier 2 grant will be available in June with applicants being given 90 days to complete the application.

Ms. Leece questioned whether cost savings will be realized on the sediment TMDL since the goals for compliance have been attained. Ms. Skorpanich responded that a letter has been prepared to request reductions in requirements from the Monitoring and Reporting requirements. Meetings are being held with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to discuss the changes, which will be reported back to the Committee.

Ms. Skorpanich noted that the Upper Newport Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project received three awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The first was a project award from ASCE-Orange County, second was a Sustainability Project Award from the Los Angeles section and the third was from the statewide society for Outstanding Environmental Project of the year.

Agenda Item 6 - - Public Comments

Mr. Anthony Taylor is a partner at the law firm that serves as General Counsel for the Autumnwood HOA. He spoke about Serrano Creek and ten homes at risk if significant erosion cut further into the bank.

Mr. Moorlach suggested the next meeting be held at Lake Forest City Hall, and then take a walking tour of Serrano Creek.

Ms. McCullough confirmed that the next meeting can be held at the City of Lake Forest.

Mr. Phil Jones Flood Control Design Manager from OC Public Works replied to a question posed by Mr. Swan related to the flood capacity of the creek.

Agenda Item 7 - Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.

Attendees:

- Alex Waite, City of Tustin
- Amanda Carr, City of Irvine
- Dave Webb, City of Newport Beach
- Devin Slaven, City of Lake Forest
- Doug Shibberu, Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Kurt Berchtold, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Mark Tettermer, Irvine Ranch Water District
- Patrick Bauer, City of Costa Mesa
- Phil Jones, County of Orange
- Robert Woodings, Citizen
- Wanda Cross, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Committee Staff, County of Orange:

- Mary Anne Skorpanich
- Chris Crompton
- Beatrice Musacchia
- Jamie Habben