



SGVCOG Joint Water Policy Committee/TAC Approved Minutes

Date: December 20, 2017
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
602 E. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM.
2. Roll Call

Water Policy Committee Members Present

S. Pedroza, Claremont
N. Lyons, Diamond Bar
G. Crudgington, Monrovia
J. Capoccia, Sierra Madre
D. Mahmud, South Pasadena
M. Spence, West Covina

Water Policy Committee Members Absent

Glendora
Rosemead

Water TAC Members Present

D. Dolphin, Alhambra
V. Hevener, Arcadia
K. Kearney, Bradbury
A. Tachiki, Monrovia
G. Osmena, LACDPW
F. Delach, P. Cortez USGVMWD

Water TAC Members Absent

Covina
Sierra Madre
South Pasadena
SGVMWD

Ex Officio Members Present

Ex Officio Members Absent

Guests

J. Carver, Pomona
R. Bryden, LACDPW

B. Jensen, SGVEP
B. Faustinos, Nature for All/Our Water LA

SGVCOG Staff

E. Wolf

3. Public Comment. Belinda Faustinos, Nature for All/Our Water LA, introduced herself and stated that she represents environmental interests and wants to work with all stakeholders to build consensus on the Safe, Clean Water program elements. She provided a handout that gave information on her organization.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Water Committee/TAC Meeting Minutes – 11/15/2017
**There was a motion to approve the minutes. (M/S: J. Capoccia/G. Crudgington).
[MOTION PASSED]**

AYES:	Claremont, Diamond Bar, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, West Covina, Alhambra, Arcadia, Bradbury, LACDPW, USGVMWD
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	Glendora, Rosemead, Covina, SGVMWD

PRESENTATION

ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. SGVCOG position statement on Safe, Clean Water Program Elements

E. Wolf recounted the discussion at the Dec 10th Stakeholders Advisory Committee meeting, where members discussed Project Types, Threshold Criteria, and Project Lists. The water committee then opened discussion as to what the SGVCOG’s position on Safe, Clean Water program elements ought to be. Members brought forward the following thoughts:

- Local agencies ought to have maximum flexibility and independence in spending the 40% local return money. They already have rules in place to ensure an open and deliberative process that includes input from the community. Moreover, AB 1180 and the BOS motion give sufficient direction on how local return can be spent.
- It was noted that the 40% local return formula does not take into consideration an agencies current liability as measured by the cost of their approved E/WMP.
- A suggestion was made that the SGVCOG advocate for projects that capture the most amount of stormwater at the lowest cost per acre foot.
- In order to get support from residents, the Safe, Clean Water program must “sell” water capture and drought response, i.e. increasing water supply.
- In order to “sell” projects, they should include elements such as recreational opportunities and greening.
- A caution that projects that create habitat bring about additional responsibility for protecting and maintaining that habitat.
- Since permittees (cities, county) are the ones responsible for compliance with water quality regulations, they should hold a supermajority on any governance committee.
- Members discussed the role that E/WMPs should have in selecting projects.

Ultimately, the Water Committee adopted a recommended SGVCOG overarching position on Regional Funding and Local Return.

Regional Funding: Due to the already high cost of stormwater requirements, the vast majority of the money should go to design, construction, and ongoing operations and maintenance of projects that capture the most amount of water at the lowest cost per acre foot. There must be a strong governance component with responsibility for selecting projects according to specific criteria and overseeing how taxpayer money is spent.

Local Return: Local agencies ought to have maximum flexibility and independence in spending the 40% local return money in a manner consistent with AB 1180.

INFORMATION ITEMS

6. Legislative Updates:
 - SB 633. Sen Portantino plans to introduce the elements of SB 633 as part of the 2018 budget.
 - SB 589. Sen Hernandez has agreed to allow the SGVCOG to move the legislation to another author. E. Wolf is working on strategy with the Chief Consultant to the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, where we expect this bill to go if brought to the Assembly.
 - Municipal Ombudsman/Regional Board makeup. E. Wolf discussed various options with the State Appointments office and found that none of our ideas—municipal ombudsman, changing the make-up of the board—are feasible. However, the appointments office has wide latitude to consider and recommend candidates for appointment and invited the SGVCOG to bring forward a candidate.
 - H.R. 465/235. There was no update on this item.
7. Regulatory Updates: WOTUS. There was no update on this item.
8. Water Boards Update
 - State Board. D. Mahmud discussed the City of South Pasadena’s challenges with the State Water Board’s recent 123TCP regulation.
 - Regional Board. Nothing more was discussed.
9. LA County Water Update. This item was covered under Item #5.
10. Water Supply Update. F. Delach stated that due to the determination that quagga mussels are not a threat to our basin, MWD will resume deliveries of SWP water on Dec 28th. Also, the Main San Gabriel Basin has been approved to once again receive water releases from Morris Dam. Since acquisition of such water was unanticipated at the time that USGVMWD prepared its current budget, D. Mahmud asked USGVMWD to consider waiving its surcharge (based on Watermaster’s additional Resource Development Assessment). Such a surcharge would represent a revenue windfall to the USGVMWD.
11. Litigation Update. D. Mahmud reported that at the November hearing, the judge heard arguments from the cities but then continued the hearing of the State and Regional Board arguments until February 2018. Mahmud believes that this could be detrimental to cities as the judge by then may have forgotten some of the arguments put forward by the cities in November due to their technical nature.
12. Stormwater Outreach Updates
 - Sen Harris’ staff. E. Wolf reported on the meeting with Sen Harris’ staff and the fact that they were receptive to our arguments regarding WOTUS, asking numerous follow up questions.
 - Washington, D.C. Trip: March 2018. E. Wolf announced the SGVCOG/ACE annual lobbying trip.
13. E/WMP Updates
 - RH/SGR. G. Crudgington discussed the timeline for the E/WMP’s proposed amendment. She asked the SGVCOG to support the revision.
 - East SGV. There was no update.
 - ULAR. There was no update.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

CHAIR'S REPORT

D. Mahmud stated the committee's intention to send a thank you letter to Regional Water Board Chair, Irma Munoz, for her effort to listen to the concerns of local agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Regional Water Board Meeting (Revised): Dec 21, 2017
- Safe, Clean Water SAC: Jan 10, 2017
- LA Water Board meeting: Jan 18, 2018 (Retreat)

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.