

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Stanislaus Multi-Agency Regional Storm Water Resource Plan

Subject: Stakeholder Outreach Meeting 3

Prepared By: Jennifer Kidson / Woodard & Curran

Date/Time: April 23, 2019, 10:00am–11:30am

Location: Ceres Community Center
2701 4th Street
Ceres, CA 65307

Attendees: Hawkeye Sheene, Brian Van Lienden, Jennifer Kidson (W&C); Walt Ward, Dhyan Gilton, Frederic Clark, Mike Brinton (Stanislaus County); Maria Encinas (City of Patterson); Kathleen Cleek, Peter Lolouis (Riverbank); Rafael Rodriquez (Empire Community); Miguel Donsoso (Community); John Mauterer (Modesto Irrigation District); Kevin Kauffman (Eastside Water District); Spencer Joplin, phone (SWRCB)

Project Number: 0635001.01

1. Meeting Objectives

- Familiarize stakeholders with the Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) purpose and process
- Review SWRP work to date
- Review SWRP Public Draft contents
- Provide instructions for comment on public draft
- Answer stakeholder questions

2. Presentation Summary

- The Stanislaus Multi-Agency Regional Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) was developed with Proposition (Prop) 1 grant funding from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Stanislaus County led the effort to develop the SWRP.
- A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) also contributed to development of the SWRP. Organizations represented on the TAC are: Stanislaus County; City of Modesto; City of Waterford; City of Patterson; City of Turlock; Eastside Water District; Tuolumne River Trust; River Partners; State Water Resources Control Board.
- A SWRP is an integrated plan focusing on regional watershed-based stormwater priorities and developing multiple benefit projects for upcoming funding opportunities.
- A SWRP is required to receive grant funding for any stormwater or dry-weather runoff project from *any* state grant program, not just through the Storm Water Grant Program specifically.
- The major SWRP requirements are listed below. Each SWRP section corresponds to one of these required elements. The SWRP contents will be discussed in more detail, section-by-section.
 - Watershed/Planning Area Identification
 - Water Quality Compliance
 - Organization, Coordination, Collaboration
 - Quantitative Methods
 - Identification and Prioritization of Projects
 - Implementation Strategy and Schedule

- Education, Outreach, Public Participation
- The SWRP Guidelines encourage multiple benefit projects. The Guidelines focus on five benefit categories: water supply, water quality, flood management, community, and environmental benefits. Projects in the SWRP should provide multiple benefits in order to align with the priorities laid out in the Guidelines. The focus on multiple benefits helps to broaden the idea of what a project can be and what it can offer the community.
- Because the SWRP was funded under a grant, there are specific tasks included in the grant agreement that are being completed in association with this work.
 - Project management
 - Monitoring
 - Technical Advisory Committee
 - Data Collection and Watershed Identification
 - Storm Water Resource Plan Development
 - Technical Studies to Support Development of the SWRO
 - Stakeholder Outreach
- SWRP development was initiated in August 2017. The TAC was convened and projects were solicited for inclusion in the SWRP in late 2017. During 2018 the draft SWRP sections were developed. The Public Draft was released on April 17, 2019. Comments on the Public Draft will be solicited through May 16, 2019. Comments received will be submitted to the SWRCB and incorporated into the SWRP. The final SWRP will be released in July or August. This timing will coincide with the beginning of the grant solicitation period for the SWRCB Storm Water Grant Program Round 2 Implementation Grants (expected in July) to achieve eligibility for projects.
- Section 1: Introduction
 - This section provides context for the SWRP and includes the SWRP purpose. The two purposes of the SWRP are to:
 - Provide regional watershed-based planning to address challenges and opportunities for managing stormwater and dry weather runoff
 - Identify and prioritize stormwater and dry weather runoff projects that provide multiple benefits to help achieve watershed and regional planning goals
- Section 2: Planning Area
 - Planning Area was characterized in terms of watersheds, jurisdictional boundaries, surface water, groundwater, water supplies, wastewater, stormwater monitoring, water quality, land use, and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Regions. For this chapter, many existing planning documents were integrated with a stormwater focus.
 - Six watersheds exist within the County. The two major ones are Middle-San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus and Panoche-San Luis Reservoir. Four other watersheds are not discussed in detail in the SWRP because they only overlap small portions of the edges of the County.
 - This section also identifies watershed priorities. The priorities were identified with input from Stanislaus County. They are:
 - Implement water quality improvements to support Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals

- Reduce pollutant load discharges into 303(d)-listed impaired water bodies
- Augment water supply by capturing stormwater or dry weather runoff for recharge into a groundwater basin (where feasible)
- Provide SWRP benefits to disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas
- Specific water quality priorities were also identified. The constituents identified were: Total Suspended Solids (TSS), mercury/methylmercury, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, diuron, and total nitrogen.
- Section 3: Water Quality Compliance
 - This section identifies pollutant sources and applicable permits. Major pollutant sources in the County are agricultural and urban runoff.
 - The section also discusses the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits that apply to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) within the County.
 - The section identifies TMDLs that are supported by the SWRP. These are: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Mercury TMDL, Lower San Joaquin River Salt and Boron, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Diazinon and Chlorpyrifos TMDL, and the Central Valley Pesticide TMDL
- Section 4: Organization, Coordination, and Collaboration
 - During development of the SWRP, coordination and collaboration between agencies occurred through:
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed between the County and other agencies. The MOU covered preparation of the SWRP, as well as financial support for the SWRP through contribution of local matching costs under the grant.
 - TAC meetings
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Communication with IRWM Regions and overlapping projects to help streamline the transfer of IRWM project information to the SWRP
- Section 5: Quantitative Methods
 - This section discusses the methods used to quantify benefits that would be achieved through implementing the projects included in the SWRP. For example, a project could provide benefits in a general category, such as water quality. The specific water quality benefits could be improvements such as increased filtration and/or treatment of runoff. Specific benefits could then be quantified using metrics such as volume of water treated, volume of runoff infiltrated, or average annual pollutant load reduction.
 - Project proponents were able to provide information about a range of applicable benefits and specific metrics. Quantified project benefit information was aggregated across the County to come up with an overall understanding of what benefits would be achieved through the implementation of the projects in the SWRP. Many of the specific benefits in the online project database (Opti) come from the SWRCB Guidelines that the SWRP must meet.
 - Quantified benefits also provide a way to measure the performance of projects after they are implemented.

- The SWRP aggregates each type of benefit across the entire planning area. It also provides details of the quantitative extent of the benefits across the planning area. Benefits are summarized based on project type; conceptual projects were separated from projects that were non-conceptual (referred to in the SWRP as ready-to-proceed). Any project that has progressed beyond a conceptual level (e.g., has some level of design completed or has been more fully developed in other ways) was considered ready-to-proceed, even if it was not fully shovel-ready.
- The SWRP also includes maps of project benefits which show where benefits of each type would occur. The water quality example shown is included in the SWRP, as are the other types of tables and maps as shown
- The Quantitative Methods section also describes:
 - Existing technical studies
 - Tools for quantitative assessment of benefits
 - Data collection (conducted by project proponents in accordance with grant agreements, if applicable; Opti can also be used for data distribution)
- Section 6: Identification and Prioritization of Projects
 - At the end of 2017, projects were solicited using Opti. Opti was adapted from the existing East Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Opti database. This allowed project proponents to easily submit their project to the SWRP without needing to re-do so that IRWMP project proponents could easily add their projects to the SWRP without re-entering a significant amount of information. Information requested via Opti included location, cost, schedule, benefits, and quantitative benefits.
 - Projects were prioritized based on:
 - Providing SWRP Main Benefits and Additional Benefits (as defined in the SWRP Guidelines).
 - Addressing regional watershed priorities identified in SWRP
 - Progress towards project implementation
 - Other considerations such as project site ownership (with publicly-owned land and existing easements receiving higher scores) and commitment of local funds (to ensure that the project can be maintained after construction)
 - Projects were then prioritized based on the points awarded to each project.
 - This prioritization process was required by the SWRCB Guidelines. The prioritization process is intended to be a tool that helps project proponents better understand how their project aligns with SWRCB priorities. Project proponents can also use the scoring to help them determine whether they might want to add project elements to improve chances of obtaining grant funding. The prioritization does not impact how the state views an individual project or scores a grant application. If a project receives a low score in the SWRP prioritization, the project proponent may want to revisit the project and evaluate how to increase the score; however, the ultimate goal is that those changes will make the project more competitive during a grant application process.
 - The prioritization does not take into account the magnitude of the benefit achieved since the SWRP Guidelines are primarily focused on achieving multiple benefits.
 - The result of the prioritization process is a list of prioritized. Summaries of the projects and scoring information are included in the SWRP.

- Section 7: Implementation Strategy and Schedule
 - Implementing the SWRP consists of three main elements:
 - Completing the design, permitting and implementation of projects included in the SWRP
 - Monitoring the benefits produced by the projects included in the SWRP to ensure that project goals are being met and that SWRP objectives are being advanced
 - Evaluating the SWRP at regular intervals to assess cumulative progress toward meeting the SWRP objectives and adapting the plan as necessary to ensure that objectives continue to be met
 - The SWRP is intended to be a living document. Project information may be viewed and updated any time via Opti. Periodically (as determined by the County), Opti can be used to develop updated project lists to append to SWRP for future funding opportunities.
 - The SWRP will be adopted by participating agencies in order to demonstrate support for implementation of SWRP projects (although this is not strictly required by the SWRP Guidelines). The IRWMPs will incorporate SWRP by reference and by including the Executive Summary in an appendix.
 - Adaptive management will be used to improve the SWRP over time. As the SWRP is implemented and more data becomes available, regional priorities and strategies may be revised. The County and partners will be responsible for updates every 5 years or as needed.
- Section 8: Education, Outreach, and Public Participation
 - Community participation has occurred throughout SWRP development through outreach meetings
 - Public engagement has also occurred via stakeholder/outreach meetings, email outreach, Opti, the SWRP website, public comment
 - Outreach will also occur as part of individual project implementation under CEQA/NEPA
- Technical Studies
 - Two technical studies were prepared to support the SWRP: a stormwater monitoring study and a stormwater capture/groundwater recharge site assessment.
 - Stormwater monitoring
 - To date, stormwater monitoring in the County has focused on Modesto or dry weather flows. Seven priority locations were identified for monitoring and monitoring during two storms in the winter of 2018/2019. This data will serve as a baseline for future work and may inform projects.
 - Key monitoring results included:
 - Total nitrogen (as N) concentrations were below MCL of 10 mg/L.
 - Bacteria counts elevated at all sites
 - Diazinon and chlorpyrifos (pesticides) below detection limits
 - More storm events and locations should be monitored to establish area trends

- The stormwater monitoring results are just the beginning of stormwater outfall monitoring in the County. This study alone is not expected to fully characterize the planning area.
- Stormwater capture/Groundwater recharge site assessment
 - Spatial data was used to evaluate potential groundwater recharge sites in the County. At the two highest priority project locations (as determined via data analysis and based on potential future projects) field testing for percolation studies was conducted.
 - Silty sands were found at both locations, and both sites show potential for recharge projects. However, percolation rates have been shown to be extremely site-specific, so further testing would be needed to properly site and size projects within these parcels.
- How to participate:
 - Comment on Public Draft SWRP
 - Comments due by May 16, 2019
 - Submit comments to Dhyana Gilton at Stanislaus County at (209) 525-7538 or giltond@stancounty.com.
 - Public Draft SWRP available at <http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/swrp/>
 - Submit a project for future updates via the Opti site
 - Sign up to receive SWRP announcements via email (see bottom of web page)
- Next steps:
 - Receive public comments – through Thursday, May 16, 2019
 - Incorporate public comments – May and June, 2019
 - Final Draft SWRP – June 2019
 - Final SWRP – August 2019
 - Storm Water Grant Program, Round 2 implementation grants – anticipated July 2019 opening
- Storm Water Grant Program solicitation
 - In Round 1, all funded projects were large, and only one project was funded in the Central Valley. County staff suggest keeping an open mind about interagency collaboration in order to strengthen a potential application by combining related projects. The County plans to reach out to potential participants directly. A structure for interagency coordination may need to be determined relatively soon in order to prepare for the grant application. GSAs are a potential collaborator.

3. Questions and Comments

This section summarizes questions and comments from meeting attendees that occurred throughout the meeting.

- Q: How are future projects (that may not have been identified yet) added to the SWRP? A: Projects can be added or updated any time using Opti. Whenever the County deems appropriate (e.g., before future funding rounds), Future Call for Projects will occur annually or before future funding rounds and the projects could be reprioritized. That new project list can then be appended to the existing SWRP without requiring updates to the SWRP text

itself, which streamlines the process. Formal updates to the SWRP are expected every 5 years or as needed.

- Q: Is there a cutoff for entering projects prior to the next grant solicitation? A: Yes, projects that are included in the SWRP to date are currently eligible for funding. However, it's up to the County to determine when the project list should be updated.
- Q: Does State give any guidance on how often to update the SWRP? A: No, but the SWRP currently states that updates will occur every five years or as needed. For example, if there are significant changes to the area, or many projects are implemented, updates may be needed.
- Comment: It would be nice if there was synchronicity between the funding solicitations for stormwater and for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Response: Yes, collaboration between those efforts would be helpful. The funding timelines are determined by SWRCB and DWR. So far during SWRP development there have been efforts to integrate the IRWM efforts with the SWRP (such as through the use of Opti). As Groundwater Sustainability efforts further develop, it is anticipated that they would align with the SWRP and projects. It's also possible that collaboration between groundwater and stormwater efforts would be rewarded by the state in terms of funding awards.
- Q: How is Opti paid for? A: Currently, via the SWRP grant. The Opti site piggybacks on the East Stanislaus IRWMP Opti site, which was developed using funds from that effort.
- Q: Is adoption required? A: No, there's no explicit requirement to adopt the SWRP. However, in order to demonstrate support for the Plan and projects, adoption by the County and partners is anticipated.
- Q: Is adoption required in order to apply for funding? A: No, the SWRCB grant manager confirmed that there's no requirement to adopt.
- Comment from community member: Materials should be made available in Spanish and translation services should be provided. There is a high proportion of Latino residents in the County, and bilingual outreach should be conducted so that the community can participate, including in-person participation. The commenter intends to complain to the Board of Supervisors and the County staff about this issue and whether it may violate any policies.
- Q: Has any coordination occurred with the Eastern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition? A: Not so far, but they can be added to the stakeholder contact list. Monitoring locations were identified based on County priorities and known impairments.
- A petition to add storm drains in the community of Empire with photos was submitted by Empire community member Rafael Rodriguez (see attached).

4. Next Scheduled Meeting

This is the final scheduled stakeholder meeting for the SWRP.