Unlocking the Door to Collaborative Success

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Integrated Regional Water Management 2.0:
The Next Generation
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Agenda

- San Diego County Water Authority
- San Diego IRWM region
- Successful inter-regional partnership
- Productive collaboration within region
- Roadblocks in path to collaboration
  - Particular challenges for disadvantaged communities
  - Removing the roadblocks
San Diego County Water Authority

- Wholesale water agency created by State Legislature in 1944
  - 24 member agencies
  - 36-member board of directors
  - Serves 3.1 million people and region’s $206 billion economy

- Service area
  - 950,000 acres
  - 97% of county’s population
San Diego County Water Authority

- Imports ~ 80% of water used in San Diego County
- Builds, owns, operates and maintains regional water infrastructure
- Largest MWD member agency

San Vicente Tunnel & Pipeline System, an essential link in Emergency Storage Project
Increasing San Diego County's Water Supply Reliability through Supply Diversification

1991
- Metropolitan Water District: 552 TAF (95%)
- Imperial Irrigation District Transfer: 100 TAF (15%)
Total = 578 TAF

2014
- Metropolitan Water District: 326 TAF (49%)
- Imperial Irrigation District Transfer: 80 TAF (12%)
- All American & Coachella Canal Lining: 29 TAF (4%)
- Conservation: 73 TAF (11%)
- Groundwater: 19 TAF (3%)
Total = 667 TAF

2020
- Metropolitan Water District: 231 TAF (30%)
- Imperial Irrigation District Transfer: 103 TAF (13%)
- Seawater Desalination: 44 TAF (6%)
- Recycled Water: 48 TAF (6%)
- Groundwater: 56 TAF (7%)
- Local Surface Water: 27 TAF (4%)
Total = 779 TAF
San Diego IRWM Region:
The Coastal Watersheds

All or part of the 11 hydrologic units within San Diego County that discharge to coastal waters
Accomplishments

- 2007: First San Diego IRWM Plan completed
- 2013: Comprehensive Plan update completed
- 4 implementation grants worth $58.3 million
  - Funds support 44 water management projects throughout Region
  - Projects sponsored by public agencies & non-profits
  - Projects help to achieve regional goals for conservation, recycled water, desalination, local surface water and groundwater
San Diego Region also received $1 million planning grant from Prop 84 fund to support 2013 Plan Update.
Origins of Tri-County Agreement

- Tri-County agreement born of necessity
- Prop 84 divided state into IRWM funding areas
- San Diego Funding Area includes 3 planning regions
  - DWR: combine into 1 region
  - Regions preferred to maintain autonomy
A Framework for Regional Cooperation

- San Diego, Upper Santa Margarita & South Orange County RWMGs approved MOU in 2009 that:
  - Divides grant funding available to funding area based on Prop 84 formula – land mass & population
  - Encourages planning across regional boundaries
- Each region retains autonomy to plan & pursue additional funding opportunities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Planning Region</th>
<th>$25M on Land</th>
<th>$66M on Population</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Riverside Upper Santa Margarita</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Orange County</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego County</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
<td>78.4%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A Productive Inter-regional Partnership

- 3 RWMGs have honored agreement in every Prop 84 grant program
  - Unique in state in that regard
- One joint project to date: nutrient management in Santa Margarita River Watershed
  - Project managed by San Diego County
  - Agencies from both regions participate on project team
  - Funded in rounds 1 & 2
Future of inter-regional collaboration

- Tri-County agreement has eliminated inter-regional conflict in grant programs
- It is a model for other funding areas
  - Many inquiries from other RWMGs about how it works
  - Not easily replicated in some parts of state
- Next step: extend to cover Prop 1 funding
- Need to develop more regional projects
  - Time is factor - who will manage such efforts?
Elements of Productive Cooperation Within San Diego Region

- Regional Advisory Committee
- Broad involvement beyond traditional “water people”
- Very inclusive process:
  - Input, policy decisions, grant applications
IRWM governance

Regional Water Management Group
- San Diego County Water Authority representing 24 member agencies
- City of San Diego
- County of San Diego representing 21 Cooperatives

Regional Advisory Committee
34 agencies and organizations, some with statutory authority over water management

Workgroups
Focused on specific water resources topics

Interested Parties and Members of the Public

Tri-County FACC
- San Diego
- Upper Santa Margarita
- South Orange County
Regional Advisory Committee

- Organized in 2006 to support development of San Diego IRWM Plan
  - RWMG sought input from wide variety of public & private stakeholders, including:
    - Water supply, water quality, stormwater, wastewater, watersheds, natural resources, disadvantaged communities, flood managers, agriculture, tribes, recreation
  - 9 years & 56 meetings later, RAC plays essential role in IRWM Program
2013 San Diego Plan Update

- Good example of inclusivity
- 21 public meetings held to explain process and gather input
  - Six meetings: targeted at disadvantaged communities and tribes
  - Eight meetings: held in watersheds to get feedback
- Six workgroups supported plan development
  - Membership open to RAC members and general public
  - Work products incorporated into plan
Challenges to meaningful collaboration

- Lengthy process before initial grant agreement is signed - projects on hold until contract is in place
- Delays in reimbursement of grant invoices
- Delays in processing of contract amendments
- These problems impact DACs, tribes, other NGOs, smaller public agencies
  - Some choose to not participate in IRWM
  - Some participate, then drop out because of difficulties
Particular challenges for DACs

- Rural & urban DACs specific target for DWR
  - $1 billion of Prop 84 funds must go to DAC projects
- The high cost of IRWM (in time, money and resources)
  - DACs often lack capacity to develop projects
  - Applications costly & time-consuming
  - Delays in reimbursement of grant invoices
Particular challenges for tribes

- San Diego County home to 18 federally recognized tribes and reservations
- IRWM process includes barriers that obstruct tribal participation
  - As sovereign nations, tribes reluctant to sign contracts with state or local agencies
  - DWR requires CEQA to participate in IRWM; tribes do NEPA
  - Delays in reimbursement of grant invoices

A stream flows through the Campo Reservation in San Diego County.
Eliminating the roadblocks

San Diego IRWM Program places particular emphasis on ensuring NGO participation:

- 15 of 28 RAC voting positions filled by NGO representatives
- Specific RAC positions reserved for DACs and tribes

11 NGO projects funded as part of grant awards:

- 7 NGO projects aimed at disadvantaged communities
- Partnership with Rural Communities Assistance Corporation to support rural DACs: $2.4 million to date
A Legislative Fix for IRWM

- SB 208: advance grant funding for DAC & NGO projects under $1 million
- Sponsored by Water Authority; authored by Sen. Lara; in Senate Appropriations Suspense File
- Addresses problem of delayed invoice payments, which discourage participation by groups that most need IRWM support
- This legislation needs your support!
Actions DWR can take to improve its IRWM processes

- Defer to local project selection preferences when awarding grant funds (per Public Resource Code)
- Simplify application process and make it less costly
  - DWR has moved in this direction in last 2 grant programs
- Set standard for approval time of project invoices & amendments
- Standardize review process for invoices & quarterly reports
- Eliminate inconsistencies in how grant applications are scored
Conclusions

- IRWM has improved regional planning in many areas of California
- It has brought together stakeholders with disparate interests
- It suffers from growing pains
- In true IRWM spirit, we can work together to overcome those growing pains