



## **MEETING SUMMARY** review draft

**North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan  
Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee Meeting  
June 25, 2009, 10:00-3:00  
Humboldt County Office of Education, Sequoia Meeting Room A  
901 Myrtle Avenue, Eureka, CA**

### **Attendees**

#### Policy Review Panel Members

Supervisor Jimmy Smith, Humboldt County (PRP Chairman)  
Councilmember Jake Mackenzie, City of Rohnert Park/Sonoma County (PRP Vice-Chairman)  
Supervisor Marcia Armstrong, Siskiyou County  
Ric Costales, Siskiyou County (by proxy to Supervisor Armstrong)  
Supervisor Wendy Reiss, Trinity County  
Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County  
Randy Poole for Supervisor Paul Kelley, Sonoma County

#### Technical Peer Review Committee Members

Kirk Girard, Humboldt County  
Marilyn Seward, City of Etna/Siskiyou County  
Roland Sanford, Mendocino County  
Wayne Haydon, Sonoma County  
Zack Larson, Del Norte County  
Jim Barnts, Del Norte County  
Sandra Perez, Trinity County  
Mark Lancaster, Trinity County

#### Staff

Lisa Renton, Sonoma County Water Agency  
Jennifer Jenkins, Humboldt County  
Devin Theobald, Humboldt County  
Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed

#### Other Attendees

Seth Zuckerman, Mattole Restoration Council  
David Simpson, ACCW  
Andrea Souther, NRCS

### **Convocation/Introductions/Approval of agenda**

Chairman Smith convened the meeting at 10:00 am and introductions were made. The PRP reviewed and approved the agenda.

### **Regional Administrator Update**

Jennifer Jenkins, County of Humboldt, provided an update on the NCIRWMP implementation grants, including Prop 50 Round 1 Implementation, Prop 50 Round 1 Planning, and Prop 50 Round 2 Contracting. Supervisor Smith and Jennifer Jenkins gave a detailed description of the

continuous tracking necessary on behalf of North Coast projects. The delayed payments were a great concern – Supervisor Smith and Jennifer Jenkins were diligent in communicating the North Coast's concerns to the agencies and in monitoring payment status on behalf of the NCIRWMP project proponents.

The PRP directed staff to develop a press release when the outstanding invoices are paid which describes the impacts that the bond freeze has had on North Coast disadvantaged communities and acknowledges the support received from North Coast legislators and state agency staff.

### **Regional Acceptance Process Update and Next Steps**

Vice Chair Jake Mackenzie, Lisa Renton, Sonoma County Water Agency, and staff provided an update on the Regional Acceptance Process, the development of the application and the interview process. Vice Chair Mackenzie, Lisa Renton, Katherine Gledhill, Jennifer Jenkins and Kirk Girard participated in the interview. The North Coast was first in the interview process of 46 entities, and should receive notification of our status in the fall.

Kirk Girard, County of Humboldt, provided a suggestion that the North Coast consider submitting a proposal to DWR for a demonstration project for small water/wastewater capacity building for DACs.

**Motion: Mackenzie; Brown, second:** direct staff to develop a draft proposal approach for technical assistance and capacity building to economically disadvantaged communities for small water/wastewater projects in the North Coast for review by PRP and potential submittal to DWR for Prop 84 regional funding. **Unanimous.**

### **North Coast IRWMP & Energy Independence Updates and Roundtable Discussion**

Karen Gaffney provided an update on outreach efforts to gather input about the integration of energy independence initiatives into the NCIRWMP, including stakeholder meetings throughout the region, development of an NCIRWMP energy independence webpage, and development of a draft white paper.

Randy Poole and Lisa Renton of the Sonoma County Water Agency, provided an overview of the California Energy Commission (CEC) and Department of Energy funding opportunities,. The CEC funding program has not yet been finalized, and there are opportunities to provide input.

There was discussion among the PRP members regarding various legislation moving forward, including bills by Waxman and Herger, and their potential impacts on North Coast counties. Randy has been meeting in DC with congressional leaders and meeting with small communities across the country. He noted that there is a growing emphasis on working collaboratively with local governments across the country to push for legislation and funding for local communities, who will be held responsible for on-the-ground implementation of energy independence and emission reduction activities. There is an interest in determining how to centralize/coordinate small energy production – this is relevant to the North Coast since most production is small scale.

Vice Chair Mackenzie provided an update on how climate and energy need to be integrated into the NCIRWMP – both from a Prop 84 perspective and from the perspective of funding opportunities that are relevant to the North Coast.

Supervisor Armstrong, County of Siskiyou, noted that the North Coast is typified by a small population and large land mass. In Siskiyou County, 63% is federal lands and an energy element will need to recognize emissions from catastrophic wildfires and the management of timber in the North Coast.

There was discussion that replacement power needs to be generated locally and the money needs to stay local.

Kirk Girard provided an update on new legislation that requires an energy element to be incorporated into general plans. He noted that communities must now quantify how much carbon is going to be offset during the life of the general plan and the specific amounts. There is a need to inventory the emissions in the jurisdiction, determine the carbon offsets, and then develop EIR that takes this into account. CA's Attorney General is suing counties that do not adequately address these new elements within their general plans.

**Motion: Mackenzie, second Armstrong:** PRP authorize staff to pursue state and federal energy independence funding opportunities using our NCIRWMP process. **Unanimous.**

**Motion: Mackenzie; second Reiss:** PRP authorized to submit comment letter subject to PRP e-mail review and approval. **Unanimous.**

**Motion: Mackenzie; second Armstrong:** PRP authorizes staff to send out white paper for PRP review and finalize for adoption via e-mail. **Unanimous.** Note: PRP agrees that the letter and white paper approval includes the setting up of meetings with funding agencies.

**Motion: Mackenzie; Armstrong, second:** authorize staff to develop a process to scope out projects in alignment with our energy independence white paper and work with the Sonoma County Water Agency to conduct project assessments, analysis, and evaluate overall costs/benefits to determine the viability of a potential funding proposal for the North Coast Region. **Unanimous.**

#### **Proposition 84 Update**

Lisa Renton provided an update on Prop 84, including expected release of guidelines and new requirements expected to be included in the guidelines

#### **PRP Decision-Making Approach**

Lisa Renton provided an overview of the proposed guiding principles for decisions that require a rapid turnaround. This information was requested by the PRP at the last meeting in Redding. The guiding principles are as follows:

**Timing:** Legislative, funding or other decisions that need to be made within 48 hours may be made by Jimmy, Jake and/or staff - otherwise staff will send an e-mail outlining the issue for entire PRP to consider.

**Content:** The content of the decision must be neutral/non-controversial and not conflict with any previous PRP decisions, direction, policies, goals and objectives

**Reporting:** All decisions made by Jimmy, Jake and staff on behalf of the PRP will be reported to the PRP within 24 hours.

**Motion: Reiss; second, Brown:** approve decision-making principles outlined by staff. **Unanimous.**

#### **Updates on Regional Master Sediment Plan Letter and Outcome of the Low-Threat Discharge Basin Plan Amendment Letter**

Karen Gaffney provided an update on the outcome of the NCIRWMP letter of intent for the Regional Master Sediment Plan – California Geologic Survey and the Corps selected Humboldt Bay as their study area.

Lisa Renton provided an update on the Low-Threat Discharge Basin Plan Amendment support letter requested by the City of Santa Rosa. Because there was not unanimous PRP support for sending the support letter, no letter was sent on behalf of the NCIRWMP.

#### **Update on Status of Ongoing Project Identification Template and Timeline for Roll-Out**

Lisa Renton provided an update on the project identification template – the template was developed and reviewed by TPRC. Template was placed on hold and not deployed on NCIRWMP website due to onset of ARRA funding and the potential for confusion on the part of our project proponents. Template can be deployed in the future when appropriate.

#### **Public Comment**

David Simpson provided an update on *Association of Conservation Contractors and Workers*, created out of funding freeze. Mr. Simpson noted that the group is interested in a more reliable funding base – “beyond bonds”, sharing information and working together to gain political leverage. More information can be found at: [accw.california@gmail.com](mailto:accw.california@gmail.com)

Sandra Perez, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, provided an update on a project they are applying for to implement projects in support of NOAA trust resources. The Five Counties program is interested to know whether there are North Coast projects that could be incorporated into the program and whether the NCIRWMP may be interested in signing a letter of support in the future. Chair Smith asked staff to add this item for PRP discussion and consideration on their next agenda.

#### **Next Steps/Future Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held in the fall at a location to be determined. In the interim, an energy independence planning workshop will be held with staff, members of the TPRC, and other technical contributors.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30.