



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2011

TO: Natural Resources and Culture Committee – Agenda of August 3, 2011

FROM: Roger Bailey, Director of Public Utilities

SUBJECT: Update on Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning is a program concept for developing holistic approaches to assuring long-term water supply reliability in California. The IRWM Program was identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in its 2005 Water Plan as a major initiative promoting water supply reliability. Since that time, IRWM Programs have been established throughout the State. San Diego's IRWM Program has been very successful in terms of grant funding levels and survey results.

Each IRWM Program statewide is formulated according to what works best at the local level. In the San Diego region, it made sense for the region's three largest agencies to formulate a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and finance the initial effort. On June 13, 2005, City Council approved the original MOU between the City of San Diego (City), the County of San Diego (County) and the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) (RR-300517) with an initial funding level of \$100,000 from the City and an additional \$100,000 each from the County and Water Authority. The funding level was increased by \$200,000 in 2007 (R-2007-1225), bringing total City investments in the IRWM Program to date to \$300,000.

In order to be eligible for IRWM grant funds from Propositions 50 and 84, the RWMG needed to produce an IRWM Plan. Since the nature of IRWM Planning involves the collaboration of multiple agencies and perspectives, the RWMG thought it helpful to establish a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). Twenty-six members of the regional community were asked to attend an initial six meetings to guide the RWMG through the development of the IRWM Plan. Five years and 32 meetings later, the RAC is still going strong and has grown to include 32 members from a broad spectrum of interests in San Diego County (see attachment for list of current RAC Members).

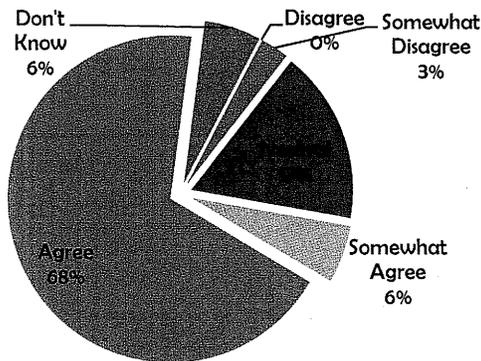
In 2007, the Region's first-ever IRWM Plan was finalized and adopted by the governing bodies of the three RWMG partners, including the City (R-2008-369). The Plan establishes the region's goals and objectives for water management programs and can be found at www.sdirwmp.org. Following the adoption of the Plan, the region has successfully secured a total of \$97 million of IRWM grant funds benefitting integrated regional water supply projects, \$63 million of which will not be released by the State until after 2011. The funding includes:

- **2008:** \$25 million to implement 19 high-priority projects. This was the highest possible grant amount and regions competed against one another for these Proposition 50 funds.

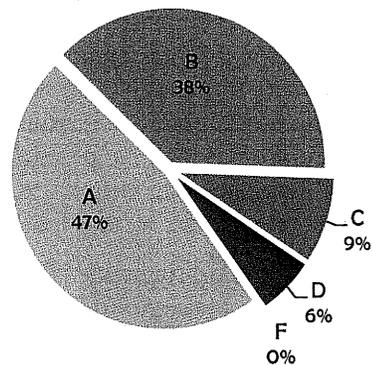
- **2010:** \$1 million grant award for planning activities associated with preparing an IRWM Plan Update (scheduled for 2012-2013).
- **2011:** \$8 million from Round 1 to implement 11 high-priority projects. Proposition 84 establishes \$71 million for the San Diego planning region. While the region does not need to compete against other regions for these funds, it must meet rigorous analysis requirements established by DWR. Rounds 2 and 3 will award the balance of \$63 million in subsequent years as DWR releases the funds.

In 2011, the RWMG distributed a survey to its diverse stakeholder group. The feedback was favorable, with strong agreement that the current governance structure is working (RWMG leadership with RAC guidance). The charts below summarize the overall support of the Program's efforts to date.

Do You Feel the Existing Governance Structure Has Been Successful?



What Overall Letter Grade Would You Give the San Diego IRWM Program?



The Public Utilities Department is pleased with the performance of this new IRWM Program and plans to return at a later date to recommend continued participation.

Roger S. Bailey
Director of Public Utilities

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Attachments: 2011 RAC members
Proposition 50 Implementation Grant Overview
Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Grant Overview

cc: Marsi A. Steirer, Deputy Director