

# Ventura River Watershed Council

## Meeting Summary Tuesday October 25, 2011

### Part 1

#### Watershed Coordinator Business

##### 2. Watershed Coordinator short-term work plan

The next few months will focus on building a public “face” (logo, website, mission statement), reaching out to a wider range of stakeholders, and working on the Prop.84 Planning Grant and algae TMDL. After getting the final V1 Watershed Protection Plan Report in January we will launch into watershed plan development.

##### 3. Change “Watershed Council” to “Watershed Alliance”?

Ventura River Watershed Council will remain the name of the group.

##### 4. Mission statement

An interim mission statement was approved for use if needed for grant applications; a subcommittee will meet to further refine the mission statement language.

##### 5. Watershed Council evening meetings

Starting in January, the Council will hold quarterly evening meetings, starting at 6:00 pm, to provide a more convenient forum for some of our stakeholders. The Oak View Community Center will be explored as a possible mid-watershed venue.

#### Project Updates

##### 6. Matilija Dam Design Oversight Group

Norma Camacho, Watershed Protection District Director, reported that the Fine Sediments Study Group report found that two additional studies are needed: one to develop a restoration plan for the area upstream of the dam that could naturally stabilize fine sediments, and another to investigate whether notching the dam down to the existing sediment level - so no additional sediments accumulate – is a viable option. A Technical Advisory Committee will be convened, starting in December, as the next step. The Coastal Conservancy has directed \$680,000 towards this effort. The District is also continuing the upstream treatment of Arundo. The [matilijadam.org](http://matilijadam.org) website has more info.

##### 7. Friends of the Ventura River Parkway Project

Paul Jenkin, of Friends of Ventura River, gave an overview of the vision for a Ventura River Parkway, which would extend from the Matilija Dam down to the ocean, and explained how the Friends group is trying to advance that vision, including seeking permission from the Watershed Protection District for public access to the levee that runs along the lower river. The *Vision Plan for the Ventura River Parkway* - a large, beautiful document, full of maps and information about the watershed’s hydrology, ecosystems and culture – is available on the Friends’ website at [www.friendsofventurariver.org](http://www.friendsofventurariver.org). (A large file!) The plan was

prepared by 606 Studio landscape architecture students at CalPoly Pomona, with funding from the California Coastal Conservancy.

Rob Orth, of Project Understanding, gave a brief presentation on work that his organization is doing on the issue of the homeless living in the river. He is looking into modeling a program called “Clean Creeks, Healthy Communities: Cleaning up Coyote Creek” in San Jose. Coyote Creek also has a trash problem, and one of their solutions is to recruit the homeless from the creek to do creek cleanup in exchange for incentives, such as food or housing vouchers. The Council will schedule time for Rob to come back for a more detailed discussion on this issue.

### **8. Watershed water conservation proposal**

Bert Rapp, Ventura River County Water District General Manager, reported on an effort to develop a Prop 84 Implementation Grant project that would offer rebates to homeowners and businesses to retrofit landscapes and indoor equipment for water conservation and stormwater infiltration. The plan is to go after \$1-2 million. The second meeting to discuss this project will be held October 27. The difficulty of getting sponsor match for a project with multiple objectives was noted, and participation by the Watershed Protection District was urged.

### **9. Other updates**

Various upcoming meetings were announced, which are included in the list below.

- The Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group monitoring has found no exceedances in the Ventura River watershed of the conditional waiver benchmarks.
- The Ojai Green Coalition’s Watershed Council is working with the City of Ojai to restore the riparian corridor that runs through Libbey Park.
- The State Water Resources Control Board is taking input, until Nov. 10, on the scope and content of the environmental information that should be considered in a proposed statewide policy for nutrient control (algae TMDL) in fresh waters in California.
- Disappointment was expressed in the Watershed Protection District’s meeting on Stormwater Permit LID Alternative Compliance (offsite mitigation) because it misses opportunities for meaningful regional stormwater planning. A robust analysis in our watershed plan of regional opportunities for smart stormwater management (such as farmland detention) was requested.

## **Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, IRWMP**

### **10. IRWMP Annual Report**

The IRWMP Annual Report provides an update on the WCVC IRWM Program accomplishments and expenditures during FY 2010-11, a summary of funding and major accomplishments in recent years, an overview on funds raised by WCVC for planning and implementation projects to date, and the work plan, budget and schedule for the next two years (2011-13) which is the term of the Proposition 84 Planning Grant.

### **11. IRWMP Plan Update**

As part of the IRWMP plan update, a series of workshops will be held on some of the key issue areas that need addressing in the plan. The first workshop, to be held in late January, will be on climate change, and will feature various experts on the topic. Then the local watersheds will need to come up with strategies to address the issue, and these then get integrated into the regional plan.

Norma Camacho reported that the Watershed Protection District received funding from FEMA to perform an Arkstorm (as in Noah's Ark!) Scenario simulation. This is a type of modeling that combines prehistoric geological flood history with modern flood mapping and climate-change projections to produce a scenario of a potential massive storm analogous to those that devastated California in 1861-62. These super storms are projected to become more frequent with climate change. The goal of the simulation is to identify areas of vulnerability and help with preparedness planning. The scenario should be completed in the fall of 2012.

## **12. Prop 84 Implementation Grant**

Lynn Rodriguez, Project Manager of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, reported that in round two of the Implementation Grant there will be much less money available statewide, so the process will be more competitive, and there are more regions in the state now competing for the funds. We'll also be right in the middle of updating our regional plan, and if we apply we'll have to interrupt the update to write a n amendment to our old plan that addresses proposed projects. There is a cost to this that should be weighed. One option that may be worth considering is sitting out round two, and waiting for round three. If we do chose to apply, there would likely be a need for additional staff to handle all the work.

## **13. Santa Clara River and Calleguas Creek Watershed Committees**

Lynn Rodriguez reported that the Santa Clara Watershed is holding a "State of the Watershed" event in May of 2012 to update the public and others about the various watershed efforts. The Coastal Conservancy hosted a workshop recently which included a report on a fascinating historical ecology study of the watershed.

## **Part 2**

### **Prop 84 Planning Grant Round 2 (Focused Studies)**

#### **1. WVC process and schedule**

Lynn Rodriguez explained that the funding in round two of the Planning Grant is exceptionally competitive at the state level.

#### **2. Watershed Council project ranking process**

A ranking process was not pursued at this meeting.

#### **3. Proposed projects**

Six proposed projects were presented.

#### **4. Discussion**

Time allowed for only minor discussion of proposed projects. The idea of working with the other watersheds in the county to submit an application that addressed one topic of concern to all watersheds, such as groundwater modeling or climate change, was suggested.

#### **5. Next steps**

Project proponents will work on fleshing out their proposals and completing the "Proposition 84 Planning Grant Focused Study – Project Identification Form" required by the WVC Steering Committee. **Completed forms should be submitted to Lorraine Walter, Watershed Coordinator, by November 8.** Lorraine will forward these forms to the Watershed Council for their consideration prior to the next meeting (Nov. 22). At the November meeting the Watershed Council must prioritize the final list of projects. The prioritized list then gets submitted to the WVC Steering Committee for their countywide prioritization process.

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

- Oct. 27** **State Water Resources Control Board CEQA Scoping Meeting on the Statewide Policy for Nutrient Control** . This hearing will address the statewide framework, rather than the local numeric limit, for the algae TMDL. 9 a.m. Info: [www.swrcb.ca.gov/plans\\_policies/docs/nutrients/pubnot111011.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/plans_policies/docs/nutrients/pubnot111011.pdf)
- Oct. 27.** **Holistic Water Conservation Grant Planning.** 9-10:00 a.m. Ventura River County Water District, 409 Old Baldwin Rd. Info: Bert Rapp – [bert@vrcwd.com](mailto:bert@vrcwd.com)
- Oct. 27** **Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency Meeting and Groundwater Model Presentation.** Gregory Schnaar of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, Inc. and Jordan Kear of Kear Groundwater will present the findings of a recently-developed, state-of-the art, numerical groundwater model of the Ojai Basin. 7 p.m. Ojai City Hall Chambers, 401 S. Ventura St. Info: (805) 640-1207
- Nov. 2** **Managing Nitrogen in Row Crops Workshop.** Intended for all row crop growers. Speakers: Edgar Terry, president, Terry Farms; Tim Hartz, vegetable crop specialist for UC Cooperative Extension-Davis; and Michael Cahn, UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor, Monterey County. Info: [dale@farmbureauvc.com](mailto:dale@farmbureauvc.com)
- Nov. 3** **Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, Regional Water Use Efficiency Group.** Landscape water use efficiency will be a key focus of this meeting. 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. Oxnard's Regional Recycling and Transfer Station, 111 Del Norte Blvd. Info: [Dakota.Corey@ci.oxnard.ca.us](mailto:Dakota.Corey@ci.oxnard.ca.us)
- Nov. 3** **Association of Water Agencies 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Water Bus Tour.** Stops: Lake Bard, Freeman Diversion, Oxnard GREAT Project, Lake Casitas Dam. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Info: [awa@awavc.org](mailto:awa@awavc.org)
- Nov. 8** **Proposition 84 Planning Grant Focused Study – Project Identification Forms Due to Lorraine.** Info: [lorraine@ovlc.org](mailto:lorraine@ovlc.org)
- Nov. 10** **Wetlands Task Force, Ventura County.** Focus will be on the Ventura River. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Multipurpose Room on the third floor of the Administration Building at the Ventura County Government Center in Ventura. Info: Bob Thiel - [bthiel@scc.ca.gov](mailto:bthiel@scc.ca.gov)
- Nov. 15** **Irrigation and Nutrient Management Workshop.** Suitable for all growers of commodities. Speakers: Ben Faber, farm advisor for UC Cooperative Extension-Ventura, and Dawn Afman, district conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Somis. Details: Session is being hosted and co-sponsored by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District. The presentations will be followed by a complimentary lunch and a vendor fair, showcasing the latest in hardware and software tools for management of water and nutrients. Info: [dale@farmbureauvc.com](mailto:dale@farmbureauvc.com)
- Nov. 16** **Understanding the Conditional Waiver Workshop (in Spanish).** Workshop will provide a general overview of the Conditional Waiver regulatory program and best-management practices to address local water-quality problems. It is suitable for all commodities and is intended for

crew foremen and other farm employees.

Speakers: Maria de la Fuente, UC Cooperative Extension county director, Monterey and San Benito counties, and farm and master gardener advisor for San Benito and Santa Clara counties; and Jose De Soto, director of the Hansen Agricultural Center in Santa Paula.

Info: [dale@farmbureauvc.com](mailto:dale@farmbureauvc.com)

**Nov. 17 Friends of the Ventura River.** Patrick Johnston, NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Will talk about the river parkway project. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Patagonia Firehouse Bldg., 63. Info: Diane Underhill – [-dunderhill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:-dunderhill@sbcglobal.net)

**Nov. 22 Ventura River Watershed Council.** 9-11:00 a.m. Santa Cruz Room, Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street. Info: Lorraine Walter – [lorraine@ovlc.org](mailto:lorraine@ovlc.org)

**Dec. 14 Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County Steering Committee and General Membership Meeting.** Time and location pending. The Steering Committee will select (from among all the projects from the county's three watersheds) the projects that Ventura County will apply for in round two of Planning Grant funding (for focused studies). The General Membership will then vote to approve this selection. Info: Lynn Rodriguez – [lynn.rodriguez@ventura.org](mailto:lynn.rodriguez@ventura.org)



### Acronyms

WCVC..... Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County

IRWMP ... Integrated Regional Watershed Management Program

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### Contact

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