

SUBJECT: Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study- Annual Meeting Update

Meeting	Meeting Date	Agenda Category	Agenda Item #
Regional Council	Sept. 28, 2017	Consent Information	4h

REQUESTED ACTION/SUGGESTED MOTION

This is an information item.

ASSOCIATED OWP WORK ELEMENT/GOAL

Work Element 1711, Regional Integrated Watershed Planning.

SUMMARY

In the past year, PAG has hosted two major meetings supporting the Lower Santa Cruz River Basin Study. PAG’s role in the MOU for the study is stakeholder engagement and in this role PAG has recruited participants from its committees to the study subteams and promoted public events. The study objectives are to identify where physical water resources are needed to mitigate supply-demand imbalances and to develop adaptation measures to improve water reliability for municipal, industrial, agricultural and environmental sectors in the Lower Santa Cruz River Basin.

PAG hosted the first public meeting of the study in November 2016 attracting over 70 participants and the first Stakeholder Advisors on April 24, 2017, consisting of 11 voluntary participants representing state and local governmental agencies, consulting groups and community interests, committed to participation through the duration of the study. During the first year of the three-year study, stakeholders provided input on the selection of modeling methods and the driving forces that affect water demand. Results from the public and stakeholder meeting are available on the study [website](#).

In addition, PAG invited the study co-chairs to present at the PAG/UA Transportation Seminar Series in March 2017 to invite stakeholders to participate in the study and to provide information about why the Study results may be important to their work in the future. For example, water issues have transportation infrastructure impacts such as through subsidence and flood flow, and water and transportation planning have population growth relationships.

The next annual Public Meeting for the study will be held this winter (precise date TBD) and we will welcome Regional Council to invite interested participants. The purpose of the second annual public meeting is to provide updates on the study progress, including demand scenarios, results of the supply/demand assessment model (CAP:SAM), climate projections and scope for the riparian assessment.

As part of Stakeholder engagement, PAG staff leads the study's Environmental Sub-team. The Environmental Sub-team features representation from a wide array of groups, and is specifically focused on developing the scope of work for the analysis of riparian areas.

Cost-share partners include the Bureau of Reclamation, PAG, Southern Arizona Water Users Association, Cortaro-Marana Irrigation District, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and the University of Arizona.

PRIOR BOARD AND/OR COMMITTEE ACTION

April 8, 2015, Regional Council Meeting, Director's Letter of Support to apply for study.

May 26, 2016, Regional Council Memo – Discussion Information, Announcement of the Bureau of Reclamation's selection of Tucson Region for the study

November 30, 2016, Watershed Planning Subcommittee - hosted Public Meeting, Invited Environmental Planning Subcommittee, Management and Regional Council.

January 11, 2017, Management Committee Memo – Informational Update for Consent, Recruiting additional Stakeholder Advisors, Results of Public Meeting

April 24, 2017, Watershed Planning Subcommittee hosted Stakeholder Advisors Mtg

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

TECHNICAL, POLICY, LEGAL OR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None.

ATTACHED ADDITIONAL BACKUP INFORMATION

None.

Staff Contact/Phone	Farhad Moghimi, 792-1093, ext. 4420 Dave Adler, 792-1093, ext. 4443 Mead Mier, 792-1093 ext. 4464
--------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------