

6166/6194 Ramona MWD SAFER & Septic2Sewer Project Meeting Minutes April 2025

Meeting Information

Meeting Microsoft Teams/Teleconference

Location: +1 916-857-8724,,479024032#

Phone Conference ID: 479 024 032#

Time: April 1st, 2025 – 9:00 am to 10:00 am PST

Attendees:

- Toby Roy, RCAC Supporting TAP
- Victor Coronado, RCAC Lead TAP
- Jaime Styer, RCAC Supporting TAP
- Alexx Pryjma, RCAC Assistant Field Manager
- Jasmine Diaz, RCAC Assistant Field Manager
- Emma Blankenship, State Water Board DFA
- Omid Rabbani, State Water Board DDW
- Joe Lomeli, Ramona MWD
- Erica Wolski, Ramona MWD
- Ricardo Soto, Ramona MWD
- Aaron Schneider, NV5/Engineering
- Julian Palacios, NV5/Engineering
- Michael Bailey, Ramona Community Leader

Discussion Items

1. RCAC Updates
 - a. Victor Coronado (RCAC) will be taking over the role of lead TAP on this project for Toby (RCAC). He will now be the lead facilitator on these project meetings.
 - b. Victor sent the Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities document in the group chat. This document was originally sent out in the kickoff call when this project first started. Victor wanted to remind everyone of these ground rules and if there are any questions, please reach out to him.
2. Combined Outreach for Septic2Sewer and SAFER
 - a. RCAC conducted outreach in the Ramona community on 3/19, 3/20, and 3/27/25. During outreach, RCAC went door-to-door and asked residents to complete a water and sewer interest survey. Most community members knew of the project and of RCAC, but for those who didn't Erica (Ramona) and Toby made a fact sheet.

- b. Toby is compiling all the different data sets by uploading responses to the google forms and cleaning up the database.
 - i. Responses are still coming in.
 - ii. There is a high response rate on interest to sewer.
 - iii. For the water line connections, RCAC focused on areas close to existing water lines.
 - 1. Toby explained that the IRWM funding has broadened to include water service to anyone who is next to a water line. Erica can further explain these funding changes.
 - iv. RCAC will provide a file with a list of the responses and provide a map of the responses.
 - 1. Mike (community leader) asked if there was one master-list and said he would prefer this. He is also concerned about community members who responded to the original survey 3 years ago not being included.
 - c. Mike asked if we could provide the “no” responses with a previously made cost analysis comparing the cost of connecting to the city water vs keeping their wells.
 - i. Victor explained that most of the “no” responses were due to people not wanting to work with Ramona MWD.
 - d. Mike asked if we got the 30 needed responses.
 - i. Toby said we have the number of people required under the IRWM funding, but that number includes anyone that wants water, not just the folks in the acre's neighborhood getting the pipeline.
 - e. Victor says our next goal is to have a community meeting/ town hall to explain the project goals and break down the costs. Before which we will market the meeting by posting signs and sending flyers.
 - i. Mike says Ramona MWD has a bad reputation in the community and nobody knows who RCAC is in the community, so we need to increase community engagement and trust to ensure people will be more comfortable with this process.
3. 6166 SAFER
- a. Toby said RCAC updated the workplan with the scope and budget from NV5. This amendment is reallocating funds that weren't spent during the design phase.
 - i. Julian (NV5) adds that the district has a construction manager for the project, and he assumes they (NV5) will be coordinating directly with the construction manager in the future.
 - ii. The project deadlines will also be extended to the end of the year so RCAC can support the construction phase.
 - b. Ramona MWD will provide an update on construction.
4. 6914 Septic to Sewer
- a. Toby said we have received the finalized engineering report and preliminary environmental memo and are now working on a workplan amendment with NV5's scope.

- b. Toby said RCAC is also completing an outreach report for the state so they can update the workplan to go to the clean water SRF application and go to the design phase.
 - i. Toby said we need the outreach report to map what houses are already next to sewer lines.
- c. Victor is working on an invoicing guide which will outline the additional scope of work for NV5.
 - i. Victor promised to send the invoicing guide to Julian/NV5 by the end of the week.
 - ii. Julian asked if we are shooting for the recommended first phase that we had in the feasibility study.
 - 1. Toby explains we need the outreach report to support the recommended phase.
 - 2. Toby also points out some potential challenges moving forward, including navigating the costs of onsite improvements and the complications of connecting to sewer as opposed to water lines.
 - 3. Toby also points out the areas that have older homes, so they have older septic systems, are interested in sewer service because their septic systems are failing and newer homes are less interested.
 - iii. Julian said the next phase is scoping the design of the new sewer mains (feasibility study stage 1).
 - 1. Julian said they need to know which new sewer mains are needed. If it's an existing sewer main and we're adding a lateral, we won't need as much information, we can survey some of the houses, locate the septic tank, and figure out if they can connect by gravity or not.
 - 2. Emma (DFA) said under the TA agreement, we should only scope out to 30% design. Anything beyond that we could do another workplan or cover it under construction.
 - iv. Toby added the IRWM funding has two phases, the first phase ends at the end of this year and focuses more on picking up water connections, but the next phase, which goes to end of 2027, will include sewer connections.
 - 1. We need to have a conversation with Ramona about their plans for sewer connections and their scope.
- d. Mike asked if NV5 is going to get involved in the individual connections, for example, if the sewer is already in front of someone's house, then is that going to be handled through the district/ Ramona.
 - i. Julian said it'll be a case-by-case scenario (some will be simple connection, and some will require extra surveys).
 - ii. Aaron (NV5) clarified that this is already part of the recommended project.

- e. Mike asked what the timeline is because he wants to coordinate this work with his work of grading the roads.
 - i. Toby said Ramona will answer this question, but the goal is by the end of 2027.
- f. Victor asks Toby if we need the invoicing guide and a response from NV5 prior to submitting the workplan amendment to DFA?
 - i. Toby said yes, we will need a full scope of work from NV5 with their costs to amend the septic to sewer work plan.
- 5. IRWM Agreement Update (Ramona MWD)
 - a. No one from Ramona MWD was in attendance for updates.
 - b. Toby said we should continue to let folks know that we're looking for interest right now, especially for people near water and sewer lines.
- 6. DFA Updates
 - a. Victor asked Emma, regarding the DFA reprioritization, if the data from this outreach would help our cause to keep the Ramona projects moving forward.
 - i. Emma said she thinks it will be helpful to look at the outreach data and report to gauge the level of interest in the community on the drinking water side for the phase two project. Emma further explains that DFA is taking a closer look at projects that involve domestic well communities because the water board is currently prioritizing failing public water systems.
 - ii. Toby adds that mapping how many people want a water connection that are already located near a water line vs who needs a water line extension is another factor for determining funding.
 - iii. Mike clarifies that there is plenty of interest in the community, however, he believes the interaction and community outreach has been lacking, which is leading to hesitancy in the community. Mike adds that he is hoping this will change now that RCAC is getting more involved.
 - iv. Emma adds that we can try to prioritize funding certain areas in the community.
- 7. Next Steps
 - a. RCAC is going to focus on getting all the outreach data together and finishing the outreach report together, while getting the scope and writing the workplan amendment.
 - i. Victor will put together the invoicing guide and will send it to NV5 by EOW.
 - b. RCAC will be changing our next meeting to May 13th at 11 am
 - c. Mike wants a construction schedule.
 - d. Julian (NV5) will work on the 30% plans and specs scope for the sewer. He believes the scope will include a survey for the 30%, some mapping and preliminary alignments, but maybe not the Geotech.

Next Meeting: May 13th, 2025 – 11:00 am to 12:00 pm PST