

Overview: One key objective of the 2013 IRWM Plan Update is for more effective relationships between land use planners and water resource managers.

Ideally, land use planners and water managers coordinate early and often to make informed, collaborative, and integrated watershed management decisions. In practice, efforts to link water management and land use decisions remain a challenge. Multiple agencies have responsibility for land use and water management decisions, and despite numerous regulatory requirements for both fields, most existing regulations do not ensure coordination. The purpose of the Land Use and Water Management Study is to examine the manner in which integrated land use planning and water resources management occur in the IRWM study area and to identify ways to improve collaboration and coordination between water managers and land use planners in the San Diego Region. Working collaboratively, land use planners and water managers can better promote orderly growth and development, and economic and environmental well-being of communities, while ensuring water availability and protecting water resources for the future.

Study Process

1. Prepare a **Gap Analysis** to identify gaps between water resources management and land use planning.
2. **Surveys** were distributed to identify the extent of existing collaboration and coordination.
3. **Workshop #1** was held to obtain input from land use planners, water managers, and others.
4. Preliminary strengths, opportunities, and challenges were identified. This information provided the foundation for development of **a Key Issues Matrix**, which framed the study's outcomes.
5. A **draft Model Water Policy Guide** was prepared.
6. **Preliminary recommendations** were developed based on input received from surveys and Workshop #1.
7. **Workshop #2** was held to test, expand, and prioritize the preliminary recommendations.
8. The draft work products were finalized and the **final report** was prepared.

Key Issues: While some coordination currently occurs between water resources agencies and land use planners, participants identified a need for improved collaboration and communication between them and better alignment of all related plans and implementation programs within the Region. Input received at the IRWM update Land Use Planning Workshops and from survey results indicates the following:

- ◆ Silos need to be broken down between water and land use disciplines and agencies.
- ◆ Relationships need to be built or strengthened.
- ◆ The land use community needs to be better involved in water management in the region.
- ◆ Impediments to achieving ongoing, proactive relationships with each other's agencies include: different missions, different goals, different boundaries, and different planning horizons. These impediments need to be acknowledged and addressed when implementing the recommendations.
- ◆ Water resources and land use plans, policies, and implementing projects and programs must be better integrated.
- ◆ Decision-making by municipalities should consider potential impacts beyond their political boundaries.
- ◆ The IRWM Program should create incentives for cities to undertake and/or participate in cooperative projects that link land use and water management.

Model Water Resources General Plan Policy Guide

A Model Water Resources General Plan Policy Guide was prepared to serve as a guide to local jurisdictions as they update their general plans. The water policy guide offers a broad range of water resources policy topics for inclusion in the region’s general plans and promotes interagency cooperation. It was organized around the four IRWM goals; each goal was organized into policy topic areas, with example policies provided for each topic. The goals and policy topic areas are summarized below.

<p>1. Optimize Water Supply Reliability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply planning • Water-use efficiency • Groundwater supplies • Recycling and reuse of water supplies • Stormwater supplies 	<p>2. Protect and Enhance Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Management • Groundwater Quality
<p>3. Provide Stewardship of our Natural Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact Development • Natural Resource Protection and Watershed Management • Vegetation Protection and Management • Sustainable Site Preparation Practices 	<p>4. Coordinate and Integrate Water Resource Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated water resource management • Partnerships and coordination • Stakeholder and community involvement and education

Recommendations

An objective of the 2013 IRWM Program update is to develop and prioritize a list of recommendations that could be implemented through the IRWM Program to improve communication between water resources and land use planners and enhance collaboration and coordination regarding associated plans and implementation programs. Recommendations were developed and prioritized by those participating in the process. The recommendations were organized into two general categories: 1) collaborative work products and 2) opportunities for information sharing, regular communication, and meaningful collaboration. The top three recommendations from each category are provided below. (The entire list is in the Study.)

<p>Category 1: Collaborative Work Products</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute the model water resources policies developed through the IRWM Program update for municipalities to use when updating their existing general plans. 2. Prepare a model gray water ordinance. 3. Seek funding to provide a grant program that enables municipalities to fund updates to their general plans to incorporate the model water resource policies in 1. (above) or develop water resources element of their general plans. 	<p>Category 2: Opportunities for Information Sharing, Regular Communication, and Meaningful Collaboration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a GIS-based Resource Guide of the all the various agencies, organizations, and stakeholder groups responsible for and/or involved in water management and land use planning in the Region. 2. Work with SANDAG to include water resources in its smart growth planning. 3. Build relationships and share information through workshops, webinars, lunch sessions, forums, social media, etc.
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Remaining Question: *Who should take the lead to ensure the recommendations are implemented?*