

2019 San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

6 Governance and Stakeholder Involvement

This chapter addresses requirements set forth in the Governance and Stakeholder Involvement standards included in the 2016 IRWM Program Guidelines (DWR, 2016). The governance structure described in this chapter pertains to governance of the San Diego IRWM Program only.

6.1 Overview

As discussed in *Chapter 2, Vision and Objectives*, the IRWM Plan Vision emphasizes the need for a consensus-based approach to water resources management within the San Diego IRWM Region (Region), and the Mission emphasizes the need for a stakeholder-driven process to develop solutions to water-related conflicts that are economically and environmentally preferable. Maximizing stakeholder and community involvement is essential to the San Diego IRWM Program.

The long-term success of an integrated regional planning effort ultimately depends on the degree to which agencies and stakeholders can effectively work together to identify common objectives and develop and implement programs and strategies to achieve them. Establishing an inclusive process that incorporates stakeholder input has been and continues to be a critical component of the IRWM Program.

The Region's IRWM planning process has featured early involvement of water management organizations and affected stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, local jurisdictions, utilities, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, special interest groups, and the interested public. Involving representatives from disadvantaged communities (DACs), Economically Distress Areas, (EDAs), Underrepresented Communities (URCs), including Native American tribes, and Environmental Justice Communities (EJs) has been a priority. Stakeholder involvement in key program decisions will remain an ongoing priority in future IRWM planning stages.



Stakeholder involvement is a cornerstone of IRWM.
Photo credit: Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

This chapter discusses how the stakeholder involvement process was developed to ensure that an opportunity was given to all stakeholders to actively participate in the IRWM decision-making process on an ongoing basis. This chapter will also address how the IRWM governance structure and procedures were chosen to maximize

functionality, participation in IRWM Plan implementation, and IRWM Plan longevity.

Since its inception in 2005, the San Diego IRWM Program has evolved in the six distinct phases shown in Figure 6-1 and detailed in Table 6-1. *Section 6.4* has further information pertaining to outreach efforts as they relate to each of these six phases of the IRWM Program.

Figure 6-1: San Diego IRWM Program Timeline

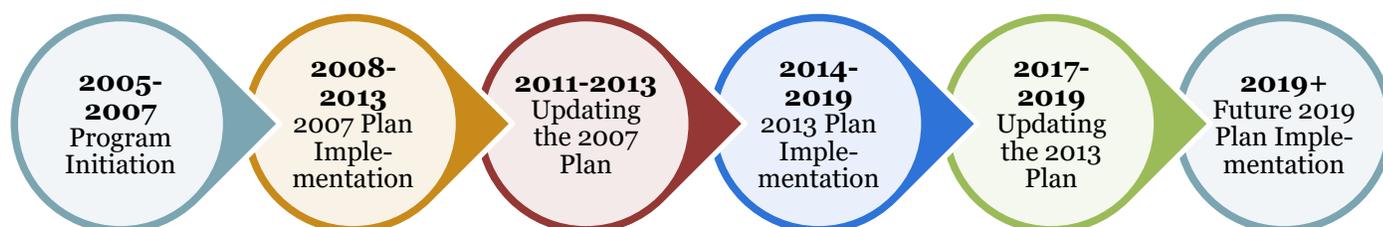


Table 6-1: Evolution of the San Diego IRWM Program

Program Phase	Description and Achievements
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) as the Program's governing body via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Prepared an unsuccessful Proposition 50-Round 1 implementation grant application Established the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as the Program's stakeholder advisory body Prepared and adopted the 2007 IRWM Plan Prepared a successful Proposition 50-Round 2 implementation grant application and was awarded \$25 million by the Department of Water Resources (DWR)
2007 IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established the Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (Tri-County FACC) for inter-regional coordination via MOU Maintained active RAC meetings on water management topics of interest to the regional stakeholders Facilitated Workgroups to address issues identified in IRWM Plan Held first San Diego IRWM Summit to solicit public input into and raise awareness of the 2013 IRWM Plan Prepared for and received approval in DWR's Region Acceptance Process Prepared a successful Proposition 84 planning grant application and was awarded \$1 million by DWR Facilitated public workshops and directed outreach to tribes and disadvantaged communities to solicit participation in grant opportunities Prepared successful Proposition 84-Round 1 and Round 2 implementation grant applications and was awarded \$18 million by DWR (\$8 and \$10 million, respectively)

Program Phase	Description and Achievements
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011 to 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared 4 stand-alone planning studies on key water management topics to support the 2013 IRWM Plan; development of each study included support from a Workgroup • Facilitated two Workgroups to define IRWM governance and planning priorities for the 2013 IRWM Plan • Facilitated joint public workshops/RAC meetings to receive input and direction on 2013 IRWM Plan chapters • Facilitated public workshops in the Region’s watersheds that emphasized integration in water management planning • Conducted directed outreach to tribes and disadvantaged communities to solicit participation in grant opportunities • Prepared the 2013 IRWM Plan for adoption in October 2013
2013 IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained regular active RAC meetings on water management topics of interest to the regional stakeholders • Continued periodic outreach to DACs and tribes, primarily coordinated with RAC members • Successfully secured over \$46 million in funding from Proposition 84-Round 3 and Round 4 Implementation grants, Proposition 1 Plan Update grant, and Proposition 1 DAC Involvement grant. • Held second San Diego IRWM Summit to solicit public input and identify priorities for the 2019 IRWM Plan • Completed or initiated 27 of the 40 Implementation Actions outlined in the 2013 IRWM Plan, with 5 partially completed through other efforts • Held Second IRWM Program Summit to celebrate the San Diego IRWM Program’s 10th anniversary • Completed or neared completion of 33 projects funded under the San Diego IRWM Program (at least 80% complete)
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017 to 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a Water Needs Assessment to more fully address the water-specific needs of DACs, EDAs, URCs, and EJ communities in the Region, to be incorporated into 2019 San Diego IRWM Plan Update – Phase 2. • Completed a Stormwater Capture and Use Feasibility Study to identify potential opportunities and challenges for stormwater capture and use and provide guidance to project sponsors for identifying additional stormwater capture and use potential of their sites • Updated the 2013 IRWM Plan to address Proposition 1 Guidelines and regulatory changes since adoption of the 2013 IRWM Plan • Adjusted IRWM Plan goals and objectives to reflect current regional priorities identified by stakeholders
Future IRWM Plan Implementation (2019+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will facilitate Workgroups as appropriate to address issues identified in 2013 IRWM Plan • Will maintain active RAC meetings on water management topics of interest to the regional stakeholders • Will continue to administer and support implementation of projects funded by IRWM grants • If funding is available, or a need is identified, will update the IRWM Plan in approximately 5 years, which will require corresponding outreach efforts

6.2 Stakeholder Identification and Involvement Approach

Stakeholder involvement is a vital part of the IRWM Program as a means to identify and address public interests and perceptions as well as stakeholder questions and issues. Stakeholder involvement ensures that the IRWM Plan and any proposed solutions are in keeping with public interests and provides for public ownership and support of those solutions. Stakeholder involvement is also an essential element in identifying and resolving potential water management conflicts within the Region. The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) – composed of the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and San Diego County Water Authority – examined the water management issues and opportunities in the Region’s watersheds to identify the stakeholders with a vested interest in local water resources who could assist in articulating regional needs during the planning phase, as well as carry out projects during implementation phases. The agencies and organizations involved in water management within the Region that have been identified and contacted to participate in the IRWM program are listed in Table 6-14 (located in the final pages of this chapter), along with each group’s level of actual IRWM participation. As the San Diego IRWM Program has grown and evolved, additional stakeholders have requested to participate by joining the IRWM Stakeholder email list, attending Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings, or submitting projects to the online project database.

During development of the 2007 IRWM Plan, stakeholder participation was initially coordinated through Project Clean Water. The RWMG effectively leveraged the sizeable Project Clean Water database to announce IRWM planning activities to members of the public and related organizations. The Project Clean Water website (www.projectcleanwater.org) also provided a forum for disseminating information on watershed and water quality topics, as well as providing a centralized point of access to water quality information and resources in the San Diego Region. The Project Clean Water website also houses the Stormwater Capture and Use Feasibility Study that is being completed concurrently with the 2019 IRWM Plan Update. While



Stakeholders provided input on watersheds for the 2013 IRWM Plan.

Photo credit: Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

initial coordination of stakeholder activities took place through the existing Project Clean Water forum, the RAC was formally established in December 2006, and has been the primary advisory body for the IRWM Program since that time (refer to *Section 6.3*). The RAC was the advisory body responsible for providing final input into and recommending adoption of the 2007 IRWM Plan, as well as both the 2013 IRWM Plan Update, and the 2019 San Diego IRWM Plan Update – Phase 1.

In 2008, a Program website was launched (www.sdirwmp.org) to host specific information pertaining to the San Diego IRWM Program and move away from relying on the Project Clean Water website and database. The San Diego IRWM website is regularly updated with RAC meeting materials, grant funding information, and the latest IRWM efforts. Since adoption of the 2007 IRWM Plan, the RWMG has also developed an email distribution list specifically for the IRWM Program (separate from Project Clean Water). The RWMG uses the stakeholder email list to communicate regularly with IRWM stakeholders and interested parties. At key decision points – such as project solicitation for

upcoming funding cycles or IRWM Plan updates – announcements are made to ensure that all interested parties are at the table. The IRWM stakeholder list has grown to over 500 contacts since adoption of the 2007 IRWM Plan. Other announcements and items of interest to IRWM stakeholders are also distributed to the email list, including water resource-related funding opportunities outside of the IRWM Program and water resource-related symposiums and forums. Stakeholders included on the IRWM stakeholder list are identified through the ongoing RAC meeting process, various outreach activities, or from referrals from other interested parties. Substantial outreach to new stakeholders, interested parties, and DACs has occurred since adoption of the 2007 IRWM Plan. Implementation of the *Public Outreach and Disadvantaged and Environmental Justice Community Involvement Plan* (2007, updated in 2012) enabled broad public support for the water management projects included in the Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Applications, and the ongoing IRWM Program activities.

Through the Water Needs Assessment being completed concurrently with the 2019 IRWM Plan Update, the San Diego IRWM region updated its list of DAC contacts. The RWMG partnered with two non-profit organizations, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and Climate Science Alliance (CSA), to review the DAC contacts on the stakeholder list, update it for current contact information, and identify missing organizations and individuals that might be interested in engaging with the IRWM Program. Potential new DAC contacts (including those for EDAs, URCs, and EJ communities) were sent an email to gauge their interest in learning more about the San Diego IRWM Program. Additional DAC contacts were added to the stakeholder list through their participation in RAC meetings, workshops, targeted outreach, and upon request.

6.2.1 Stakeholder Involvement Approach

The San Diego IRWM Program implements a collaborative stakeholder process that involves all interested parties and individuals. The public was, and continues to be, invited to participate in all stakeholder meetings for the IRWM Program. Public participation is welcomed at RAC and workgroup meetings and workshops. Stakeholder participation was also provided through public review and comment on draft versions of the 2013 and 2019 IRWM Plans and associated deliverables. Stakeholders were also invited to comment on individual sections or elements of the Plan (e.g., revisions to the scoring criteria) at joint RAC meeting and IRWM Plan Update Workshops. When comments are received at RAC meetings or other stakeholder workshops, the RWMG adapts the San Diego IRWM Program and its activities and documents as appropriate.

Meetings and news updates are announced through both the San Diego IRWM website and through the email distribution list. Presentations have been given to agencies, organizations, and community groups, and input received during presentations has been taken back to the RWMG and the RAC for consideration. In addition, directed outreach was completed for DACs and Tribes in the Region to increase involvement and participation from



Flyer from the Watershed Workshops

stakeholders that represent these groups. For a complete description of the stakeholder involvement program, including directed outreach to DACs and Tribes, please refer to *Section 6.4*. Additional outreach was conducted for the 2018 Water Needs Assessment targeting DACs, EDAs, and URCs that have traditionally not participated in IRWM, or had limited engagement with the Program.

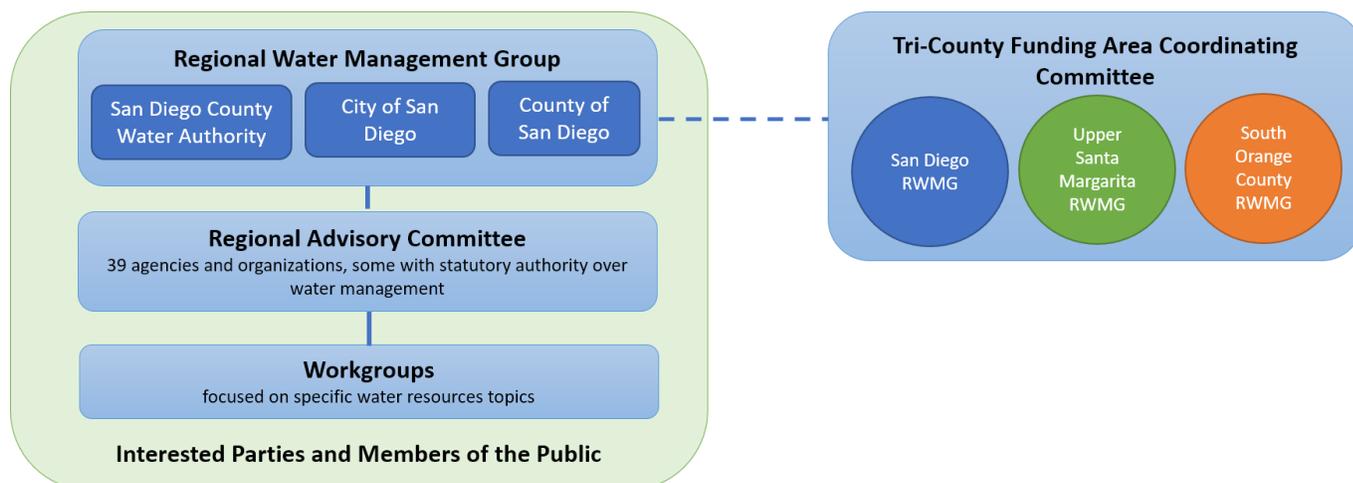
Watershed coordination groups, such as watershed councils, provide an efficient means by which a variety of stakeholders can coordinate their work on water management within a watershed. Watershed coordination groups can provide a manageable way for geographical coordination, such as in the identification of critical needs, objectives, and priorities, and the formulation of integrated projects and their coordinated implementation. The recognition of, linkage to, and promotion of watershed coordination groups will help to advance San Diego's IRWM planning process.

6.3 IRWM Governance Structure

The existing IRWM governance structure, which includes the RWMG as management committee and the RAC as stakeholder advisory committee, has continued since establishment in December 2006. The IRWM governance structure supports balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM Program and ensures diverse stakeholder interests associated with water management in the Region are understood and engaged. In 2007 and again in 2009, the RAC indicated support for the existing institutional structure. The RWMG agencies adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in September 2011 that committed funding support for program management and defined their roles and responsibilities. The MOU has since been amended twice to extend the program, and is currently being updated to include RWMG funding support through 2020. A copy of the current MOU is included as Appendix 6-A. The RWMG is responsible for implementing the IRWM Program, with input and guidance from the RAC. Through bi-monthly meetings, the RAC provides review and recommendations to the RWMG governing bodies on topics relevant to the IRWM Program. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend RAC meetings and workshops, submit public comments, and engage in one-on-one communication with RWMG and RAC members.

The San Diego IRWM organizational structure includes five major components – the three-party RWMG, the 39-member RAC, ad hoc Workgroups, the Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (Tri-County FACC), and interested parties and members of the public. All of these stakeholders are essential to the IRWM decision-making process. Information-sharing and decision-making processes in the Region usually funnel up from the Workgroups or Tri-County FACC (if assigned) to the RAC and then proceed to the RWMG governing bodies. Input from the public and interested parties is considered at each level of the process. Figure 6- below provides an overview of the San Diego IRWM governance structure. Please note that Figure 6- does not necessarily denote the direction of information and input, but rather demonstrates the IRWM governance structure associated with final decision-making. Given that the RWMG agencies have been and are currently financially responsible for the IRWM Program, they are also ultimately responsible for final decision-making.

Figure 6-2: San Diego IRWM Governance Structure



6.3.1 Regional Water Management Group

The combined jurisdiction of the three RWMG agencies encompasses the entire Region, and their combined responsibilities address all facets of water management. The water management responsibilities of the RWMG agencies are summarized in *Chapter 1, Introduction* (see Table 1-1).

The RWMG was formally established in June 2005 through development and adoption of an MOU (FYs 2005-2009), which has been amended as the Program has continued. The current MOU, signed in 2018, is currently being revised to remain in effect through 2020. The current MOU reinforces the RWMG structure set forth in the previous MOUs that identifies the three RWMG agencies as equal partners in management of the IRWM Program. The three agencies share equally in the costs to administer IRWM planning activities. The RWMG recognizes that cooperation and input from stakeholders throughout the Region is a necessary part of an effective IRWM Program. As such, the RWMG has assumed a leadership role in identifying stakeholders and soliciting stakeholder input for the IRWM Program through a variety of methods. The RWMG currently meets bi-weekly to research, review, discuss, and formulate ideas and concepts for the ongoing IRWM Program. The RWMG includes two primary levels of participation – those levels are described in detail below.

Policy Level: At the policy level, the RWMG consists of the following governing bodies:

- San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors
- City of San Diego Mayor and City Council
- County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

Through the actions taken by the respective Boards and the San Diego City Council and Mayor, the RWMG management committed to directing staff to actively seek public involvement and



The RWMG has invested substantial resources in ensuring a successful IRWM Program.

Photo credit: Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

stakeholder input; develop and submit Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and Proposition 1 grant applications to the appropriate State agencies; and write and adopt the 2007, 2013, and 2019 San Diego IRWM Plans. RWMG management is involved in key decisions both during and following RAC review and before presentation to the governing bodies for approval.

Staff Level: Staff from the RWMG agencies (including management-level staff), with assistance from consultants, is responsible for day-to-day activities associated with ongoing management of the IRWM Program. Based on the commitments jointly adopted in the MOU, RWMG staff has been responsible for the following activities:

- Developing and maintaining consultant contracts;
- Preparing and submitting Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and Proposition 1 grant applications, as well as the associated Region Acceptance Process application;
- Developing and updating project lists for the grant applications;
- Updating the 2007 and 2013 IRWM Plans in compliance with the *IRWM Grant Program Guidelines* and schedule established by DWR;
- Conducting stakeholder outreach and disseminating information to the public; and
- Supporting the RAC and Workgroups to develop and achieve consensus recommendations on draft documents.

Key decisions made by the RWMG are submitted to the RAC for consideration and input. Topics are generally researched by the RWMG and alternatives are presented for RAC recommendations.

The IRWM memorandum of understanding designates the Water Authority as the lead agency for purposes of applying for grants, signing grant agreements, representing the RWMG to funding agencies and administering all grant funding awarded to the Region. As the grant administrator, the Water Authority's responsibilities include contracting with DWR for grant funding, contracting with local project sponsors to distribute the funding, and managing invoicing and reporting to DWR. Water Authority staff work closely with the local project sponsors to ensure that they meet all grant requirements and complete their projects as planned. The Water Authority also works with other IRWM regions and various statewide workgroups to address common issues and needs, and to promote IRWM as a program and a concept.

6.3.2 Regional Advisory Committee

The RAC was originally formed in December 2006 to assist the RWMG with completion of the 2007 IRWM Plan and prioritization of projects both within the IRWM Plan and for future funding applications as they arose. The first RAC consisted of 28 voting members with expertise in water supply, wastewater, recycled water, stormwater and urban runoff, natural resources, and environmental stewardship. Further, there were four non-voting members who provided perspectives from the resource agencies and adjacent IRWM regions. Table 6-2 provides a listing of all organizations



RAC members attend bi-monthly meetings to provide input on IRWM planning topics.

Photo credit: Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran

that have been represented on the RAC, both in the past and currently.

During 2012, a Governance and Financing Workgroup was convened as part of the 2013 IRWM Plan development process to discuss future governance and financing structures for the IRWM Program. This workgroup met three times between January and June of 2012, and ultimately developed recommendations for the IRWM governance structure moving forward. Recommendations from this workgroup that pertain to financing are included in *Chapter 11, Implementation*. The IRWM Governance and Financing Workgroup re-validated the general program structure indicated in Figure 6-2. The workgroup also determined that the structure of the RAC was not formalized in any written format, and that a formal written charter for the RAC would be useful. To formalize the structure and responsibilities of the RAC, the workgroup drafted a RAC charter in 2012 to guide the RAC in its service as an advisory body to the RWMG on key issues related to IRWM planning and funding applications. The draft RAC charter was modified by the RAC and the RWMG, and the final version was approved by the RWMG and the RAC at a joint Public Workshop/RAC meeting on December 5, 2012. The RAC charter was amended in 2018 to include a Climate Change representative. At the same time, the RAC voted to tentatively approve the creation of a Tribal Caucus, which includes three Tribal chairs, an increase from the single Tribal representative in the 2012 charter.

The RAC charter formalizes the establishment of the RAC; sets forth the RAC member composition, duties, and responsibilities; and outlines the organization and operation of the group. The charter created six membership categories for voting members to maintain diverse representation from the functional areas (three RWMG members, five water supply entities, six water quality entities, five natural resources and watersheds organizations, three tribes, two DACs/environmental justice organizations, and seven “other” members). The RAC consists of 31 voting members and eight non-voting members, which include federal and state regional agencies along with neighboring IRWM regions.

Table 6-2: San Diego RAC Membership

RAC Member Category	Organizations in Past RACs	Organizations in Current RAC
Regional Water Management Group	County of San Diego	County of San Diego
	City of San Diego	City of San Diego
	San Diego County Water Authority	San Diego County Water Authority
Water Supply	Santa Fe Irrigation District	Santa Fe Irrigation District
	Sweetwater Authority	City of Oceanside
	Yuima Municipal Water District	Helix Water District
	City of Oceanside	Sweetwater Authority
	Helix Water District	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Water Quality	Olivenhain Municipal Water District	Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
	Padre Dam Municipal Water District	San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
	San Elijo Joint Powers Authority	City of Chula Vista
	City of Chula Vista	City of Oceanside
	Industrial Environment Association	City of Imperial Beach
	City of Encinitas	San Diego Coastkeeper
	Otay Water District / Metro Joint Powers Authority	San Diego County Office of Education
Natural Resources / Watersheds	San Diego Coastkeeper	-
	University of California Cooperative Extension	-
	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy	San Diego River Park Foundation
	The Nature Conservancy	Lakeside River Park Conservancy

RAC Member Category	Organizations in Past RACs	Organizations in Current RAC
	San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy	California Trout
	San Diego River Park Foundation	University of California, San Diego Clean Water Utility
	California Coastal Conservancy	Padre Dam Municipal Water District
	Mission Resource Conservation District	-
	Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation	-
	California Landscape Contractors Association	-
	UCSD Clean Water Utility	-
	Padre Dam Municipal Water District	-
Tribal	San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians-	San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	<i>Open (Tentative)</i>
	-	<i>Open (Tentative)</i>
DACs / Environmental Justice	Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek	Alter Terra
	Rural Community Assistance Corporation	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Other / At Large	San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians	Floodplain Management Association
	Planning & Engineering for Sustainability	Building Industry Association
	San Diego Coastkeeper	Escondido Creek Conservancy
		Farm Bureau of San Diego County
	Farm Bureau of San Diego County	San Diego Association of Governments
	San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce	San Diego Zoo Global
	San Diego Association of Governments	Climate Change - <i>Open</i>
	SDSU Department of Geography	-
	Floodplain Management Association	-
	SDSU Center for Regional Sustainability	-
Regulatory / Tri-County FACC (Non-Voting)	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board	San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
	County of Orange	County of Orange
	Rancho California Water District	Rancho California Water District
	USMC Camp Pendleton	USMC Camp Pendleton
	California Coastal Conservancy	California Coastal Conservancy
	-	U.S. Forest Service
	-	U.S. Indian Health Services

RAC members serve a four-year term, with half of the RAC seats opened up for enrollment every two years. Those who have already served on the RAC are not precluded from reapplying as the charter stipulates that there are no term limits. For more information, please see Appendix 6-B. The RAC strives for consensus (i.e., general agreement among all parties) to the maximum extent possible. If consensus is not achievable, the RAC votes on non-consensus issues by simple majority. For approving all financial matters (e.g., submission of projects for a grant application), a super majority (two-thirds vote) of the RAC is required.

To date, the RAC has played a critical role in the following IRWM Program decisions

- Recommending formal adoption of the 2007 IRWM Plan;
- Shaping and developing such key elements of the IRWM Plan as goals and objectives, long-term targets, and resource management strategies;

- Reviewing progress on 2007 IRWM Plan implementation and identifying strategic improvements for the 2013 IRWM Plan;
- Reviewing and recommending a proposed Region boundary for the Region Acceptance Process application;
- Developing and implementing a project prioritization process for the IRWM Plan (i.e., project ranking criteria) and secondary criteria for the Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and Proposition 1 applications;
- Recommending projects for IRWM funding;
- Refining and updating the framework for implementation of the 2013 IRWM Plan;
- Recommending formal adoption of the 2013 IRWM Plan;
- Identifying and directing the formation of Workgroups to facilitate progress toward short-term priorities in the IRWM Plan;
- Approving new RAC members in accordance with the RAC charter;
- Approving the submittal of application packages for Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and Proposition 1 grants;
- Accepting the San Diego County Region Stormwater Resource Plan into the 2013 IRWM Plan; and
- Informing updates for the 2019 IRWM Plan Update – Phase 1.

The RAC currently meets on a bi-monthly basis to provide guidance on upcoming IRWM planning and funding application activities. The RAC may be convened more frequently, as needed. In addition to providing IRWM Program updates, the RAC meetings are used as a forum for educating the group on issues that cut across various aspects of water management (“cross-threading”) to build a knowledge base for ongoing IRWM planning.



Breakout groups are used at RAC meetings to ensure that all stakeholders have a chance to weigh in.

Photo credit: Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran

6.3.3 Workgroups

Workgroups are formed to enable participants in the IRWM Program to work through particular topics and develop recommendations for the larger group. The RAC receives Workgroup recommendation(s) and subsequently makes its final recommendation(s) to the RWMG governing bodies. Workgroups members are nominated by the RAC but are not required to be RAC members; interested parties and members of the public are welcome as long as they have relevant experience and perspective to actively contribute to Workgroup decisions. Fourteen Workgroups, described in Table 6-3, have been formed to date to support the IRWM Program.

Table 6-3: Workgroups

Workgroup	Purpose/Objectives	Members	Results
Program Initiation (2005-2007)			
Proposition 50 Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion within the Region's 2008 Proposition 50 Implementation Grant Application	3 RWMG; 1 water supplier; 1 water quality; 2 natural resources; 2 at large = 9 total	Package of 20 water management projects totaling \$25 million in grant funding <i>(Note: Proposition 50 grant package was ultimately reduced to 19 projects by project proponents [one dropped] and DWR, in collaboration with the RWMG and RAC.)</i>
2007 IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)			
Watershed Planning and Outreach	Develop guidance for watershed groups on how to identify competitive multi-benefit projects for the IRWM grant cycle(s); Develop a strategy for outreach/coordination with watershed groups to encourage submittal of multi-benefit projects for the Proposition 84/1E funding cycles; Identify critical water supply and water quality needs for DACs within the Region's watersheds; and Develop a strategy for outreach/coordination with DACs to encourage submittal of multi-benefit projects for the Props 84/1E funding cycles that address critical needs	RAC member volunteers and representatives from each of Region's 11 watersheds	Developed outreach strategy targeting DACs presented at the February 2009 RAC meeting
Proposition 84-Round 1 Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion in the Region's 2011 Proposition 84-Round 1 Implementation Grant Application	3 RWMG; 1 water supplier; 1 water quality; 2 natural resources; 2 at large = 9 total	Package of 11 water management projects totaling \$7.9 million in grant funding
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)			
IRWM Governance and Financing	Examine expansion of funding sources for the San Diego IRWM Program; Develop RAC charter, including membership guidelines, definition of "consensus," and potential voting rules	12 RAC members and volunteers	Developed draft RAC Charter for consideration during multiple 2012 RAC meetings and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan
Priorities and Metrics	Refine IRWM Program vision, mission, goals, and objectives; Develop a recommended list of IRWM Plan metrics that describes the Region's targets; Address how the IRWM Program will obtain the data needed to measure progress toward implementation of the IRWM Plan; Develop recommendations for prioritization of program objectives, project-prioritization criteria, and funding application prioritization; and Develop a strategy that will provide planning opportunities for integration of projects prior to future "calls for projects" when funding opportunities arise	15 RAC members and volunteers	Developed revised draft Goals, Objectives, Targets and Metrics presented to RAC at October 2012 meeting and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan; Developed revised draft Project Evaluation Process presented to RAC at April 2013 meeting and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan

Workgroup	Purpose/Objectives	Members	Results
Regulatory	Identify issues affecting the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (San Diego Water Board) regulation and water resources management; Identify IRWM Program needs/activities and how those relate to San Diego Water Board needs/activities; and Identify and prioritize IRWM/San Diego Water Board collaborative opportunities	18 RAC members and volunteers; 2 San Diego Water Board staff members; 1 San Diego Water Board member	Developed Regulatory Workgroup Report presented to RAC at February 2013 meeting and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan
Land Use Planning	Define current relationships between land use and water managers in the San Diego Region; Identify issues and opportunities related to water resources and land management; and Identify methods to increase collaboration and coordination between land planners and water managers	All interested RAC members and stakeholders	Developed Land Use Planning Study presented to RAC at February 2013 meeting and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan
Integrated Flood Management	Develop inventory and assessment of the flood management programs; Develop guidance framework for regional collaborative planning of watershed and flood risk management; and Develop alternative integrated strategies appropriate for the Region	All interested RAC members and stakeholders	Developed Integrated Flood Management Planning Study presented to RAC at June 2013 meeting and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan
Climate Change	Summarize available information on climate change for the Region; Prioritize water-related vulnerabilities to climate change; Develop guidance strategies to mitigate/adapt given climate change impacts; and Clarify climate change in project evaluation/ prioritization process	All interested RAC members and stakeholders	Developed Climate Change Planning Study presented to RAC at February 2013 meeting and incorporated into 2013 IRWM Plan
Proposition 84-Round 2 Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion in the Region's 2012 Proposition 84-Round 2 Implementation Grant Application	3 RWMG; 1 water supplier; 1 water quality; 2 natural resources; 2 at large = 9 total	Package of 7 water management projects totaling \$10.3 million in grant funding
RAC Membership	Review RAC applications and make recommendations to RWMG	8 RAC members whose terms were not expiring	Recommendations for new RAC 2.0 members to serve 4-year terms
2013 IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)			
Proposition 84-Round 3 Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion in the Region's future Proposition 84-Round 3 Implementation Grant Application	3 RWMG; 1 water supplier; 1 water quality; 1 natural resources; 1 DAC/EJ; 1 at large = 8 total	Package of 7 water management projects totaling \$14.6 million in grant funding
Proposition 84-Round 4 Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion in the Region's future Proposition 84-Round 4 Implementation Grant Application	3 RWMG; 1 water supplier; 1 water quality; 1 natural resources; 1 DAC/EJ; 1 at large = 8 total	Package of 13 water management projects totaling \$30 million in grant funding
Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion in the Region's future Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant Application	3 RWMG; 3 DAC RAC members;	Package of 10 DAC water management projects totaling \$5.5 million in grant funding

Workgroup	Purpose/Objectives	Members	Results
RAC Membership	Review RAC applications and make recommendations to RWMG	8 RAC members whose terms were not expiring	Recommendations for new members to serve 4-year terms, starting in 2015 and 2017
Future Plan Implementation and IRWM Planning Efforts (2019+)			
Proposition 1 Project Selection	Develop a package of water management projects for inclusion in the Region's future Proposition 1 – Rounds 1 and 2 Implementation Grant Applications	TBD	TBD
Ad-Hoc to Address Various Issues Identified in 2019 IRWM Plan	As needed	TBD	TBD
DACI Workgroup	Address issues identified in the Water Needs Assessment, as needed	TBD	TBD

6.3.4 Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee

The San Diego Funding Area includes the San Diego, Upper Santa Margarita, and South Orange County IRWM Regions. To balance the necessary autonomy of each planning region to plan at the appropriate scale with the need to improve inter-regional cooperation and efficiency, the San Diego RWMG, Upper Santa Margarita RWMG, and South Orange County RWMG collaborate in an inter-regional body established via MOU and known as the Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (FACC). These three RWMGs include the following members:

- San Diego RWMG: City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and San Diego County Water Authority.
- Riverside County Upper Santa Margarita RWMG: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, County of Riverside, and Rancho California Water District.
- South Orange County RWMG: County of Orange, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

The MOU established an agreement on how to partition IRWM funding under Proposition 84 and Proposition 1 for the funding area and set forth a framework for ongoing collaboration between the three IRWM regions. The Tri-County FACC also ensures close coordination of the three planning regions to improve the quality and reliability of water throughout the span of all three IRWM Regions of the San Diego Funding Area.

The Tri-County FACC coordinates and works together with their advisory groups to address issues and conflicts across planning regions, identify common objectives and projects that address those needs, and provide general planning cooperation for shared watersheds. The Tri-County FACC meets on an as-needed basis. The Tri-County FACC is described in more detail in Chapter 3, *Region Description*.

6.4 Stakeholder Involvement Program

Building understanding and support for the IRWM Plan and grant application processes among key stakeholders as well as the general public is critical to the success of the IRWM Program. An active approach to implementing public involvement and information dissemination was developed to assist the RWMG in generating broad-based support for the effort. Methods utilized to improve general awareness of the IRWM Program and provide a means for all interested parties to participate in the planning process are described below. Table 6-4 illustrates whether each outreach method involves one-way vs. two-way communication that is internal or external to the IRWM Region. One-way communication is meant to inform and educate stakeholders and the general public, while two-way communication does that and provides mechanisms for stakeholders and the public to respond with comments, feedback, and ideas. Appendix 6-C provides a summary of the outreach efforts to date. Appendix 6-D contains the formal comment letters received on the Public Draft 2019 IRWM Plan. Comments on the Public Draft 2019 IRWM Plan were solicited through RAC meetings and public workshops, targeted watershed workshops, stakeholder email lists, and the IRWM Program website. Communication methods are described in more detail below.

Table 6-4: Outreach Method and Communication Objectives

Outreach Method	Communications		Scale of Focus	
	One-way	Two-way	Internal	External
Website		✓	✓	✓
Emails		✓	✓	
Newsletters	✓		✓	
Public Workshops		✓	✓	✓
Presentations		✓	✓	
Summits		✓	✓	
Partnerships		✓	✓	✓
RAC Meetings		✓	✓	✓

The 2013 IRWM Plan used a collaborative process to develop IRWM-specific planning studies and incorporate information from planning studies, workshops, and workgroups completed since the 2007 Plan. Stakeholder participation was encouraged through several mechanisms, including the 2012 IRWM Summit, RAC meetings and public workshops, and by reviewing draft materials. A similar approach was taken to prepare the 2019 IRWM Plan. The Program held a 2016 IRWM Summit, a multi-day RWMG retreat, and joint RAC and Public Workshop meetings to re-prioritize regional needs. Stakeholders were invited to provide input on key decisions at joint RAC meetings and Plan Workshops and were encouraged to provide comments on the draft Plan.

The San Diego IRWM Program is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of San Diego’s water supply, water quality, and natural resources, and to continuously working with the community to maintain and implement the IRWM Plan. All interested stakeholders have been and will continue to be invited to participate in the IRWM Plan effort. Stakeholders are essential for achieving a higher level of integration of watershed projects, through which the multiple benefits of water supply, water quality, and natural resources can be achieved concurrently.

Website: A website was established as a means of communication with stakeholders, interested parties, and the general public. The San Diego IRWM website (www.sdirwmp.org) provides detailed and up-to-date information on the IRWM Program, including: the adopted 2007 IRWM Plan, 2013 IRWM Plan, and 2019 IRWM Plan; the full list of submitted IRWM projects and projects selected for inclusion in the Proposition 50, Proposition 84-Round 1, Round 2, Round 3, and Round 4, and Proposition 1 DAC Involvement grant applications; other related planning efforts; information about the RWMG, RAC, and Tri-County FACC; RAC and Workgroup meeting agendas, summaries, and presentations; resources for climate change analysis; information about the State’s funding programs; RWMG contacts; and other helpful links. The website also provides a discussion forum for stakeholders to initiate discussions on regional planning topics. Table 6-5 summarizes the development of the San Diego IRWM website throughout the phases of the IRWM Program



Screenshot of the San Diego IRWM Website:
www.sdirwmp.org

To facilitate communication among planners and local project sponsors, the website hosts an online project database aimed at providing universal access to information about proposed San Diego IRWM projects. The project database allows project sponsors and other interested parties to log-in and add, revise, and submit project information, as well as view all other submitted projects. This tool, coupled with the Integration Workshops, is intended to connect stakeholders with one another to identify and enhance synergies among projects, hopefully leading to better integration and stronger partnerships. The online project database enhances efforts to inform the general public about “what is IRWM” through concrete project examples.

Table 6-5: Website

Website	
Phase	Features
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	IRWM Program utilized the existing Project Clean Water website to provide IRWM-related information to stakeholders
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	IRWM Program website launched; hosted project submittal database and allowed for meeting materials to be downloaded
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	Revamped website; upgraded project application database; added discussion forum
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	Added data management capabilities called WaterGIS; updated project database to incorporate Stormwater Resource Plan project list and prioritization.
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	Upgraded project application database to show funded projects
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	Update website to include Project Completion Reports, Program Completion Reports, and Annual Reports for funded projects

Stakeholder Email Updates and News Updates: The RWMG maintains an electronic distribution list of stakeholders and interested parties to provide IRWM Program updates, announcements, RAC meeting agendas and summaries, water-related workshops and seminars, and updates from DWR, as well as other grant and funding opportunities that may be of interest to stakeholders. As referenced in Table 6-6, the stakeholder distribution list will continue to be updated and maintained, and email updates will be sent out to provide funding updates, information about grant cycles, RAC updates, project updates, legislative updates, and project profiles.

Table 6-6: Stakeholder Email Updates and News Updates

Stakeholder Email Updates/News Updates	
Phase	Features
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	Electronic stakeholder distribution list developed; email updates sent to stakeholders
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	Stakeholder distribution list updated and maintained; email updates sent to stakeholders
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	Stakeholder distribution list updated and maintained; identified and utilized organizations that were willing to forward email updates to their stakeholder mailing list
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	Stakeholder distribution list updated and maintained; email updates sent consistently
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	Stakeholder distribution list updated and maintained; expanded the DAC stakeholder distribution list;
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	Stakeholder distribution list will continue to be updated and maintained; email updates will be sent consistently

Newsletters and Notices: Newsletters are developed and distributed to the stakeholder email list at significant milestones in the IRWM Planning process to ensure stakeholders are being engaged. The newsletters serve as a means of keeping the stakeholders updated on legislative issues, funding opportunities, status of the IRWM Plan, opportunities for involvement, and information about project submittals, a timeline, and RWMG agency contact information. Table 6-7 explains the use of newsletters and notices throughout the phases of the IRWM Program.

For the 2013 IRWM Plan, a newsletter was prepared and distributed to the stakeholder email list to coincide with the initiation of the public review of the Public Draft 2013 IRWM Plan. The newsletter provided background on the Plan Update and IRWM Program and encouraged public input. A similar process was followed for the 2019 IRWM Plan development.

An information flyer was integrated into the San Diego County Water Authority’s existing public outreach materials to provide general information about IRWM, raise the profile of the Program, and acknowledge the benefits of all the agencies cooperating as part of the Program. The flyer will be distributed during community events staffed by the Water Authority.

Table 6-7: Newsletters and Notices

Newsletters and Notices	
Phase	Features
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	Newsletters developed and distributed to coincide with initiation of public review of Draft IRWM Plan
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2011)	None
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	Newsletter prepared and distributed to coincide with initiation of public review of Draft 2013 IRWM Plan
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	An information flyer was added to the San Diego County Water Authority's public outreach material and distributed during community events
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	Newsletter prepared and distributed to coincide with initiation of public review of Draft 2019 IRWM Plan
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	Continued distribution of Newsletters or Notices to communicate IRWM activities.

Public Workshops: Public workshops have been held to ensure the involvement of a wide range of public agencies, organizations, and individuals in the IRWM Program. Workshops have also been held to meet the needs of specialized stakeholder groups, including DACs and tribal groups. The various workshops that have been held to support the IRWM Program are described in Table 6-8 and in greater detail below.

Public workshops are generally advertised through the website and the stakeholder email list. Workshops are held in varying locations, spread geographically throughout the Region to facilitate participation by different stakeholders. For workshops associated with planning topics, comments are accepted during each of the workshops and via online comment forms. Comments are reviewed and considered for inclusion within the IRWM Plan, for use in the planning process, or for IRWM Plan implementation. For workshops associated with a “Call for Projects” for the IRWM Plan and grant applications, agendas include the IRWM project evaluation process, the proposed approach to funding application prioritization, and the explanation of project submittal forms. Strategic Integration Workshops are also held to gather local project sponsors to discuss preliminary project concepts and encourage integration of concepts and development of partnerships for grant funding. In the past, these workshops have used a “speed networking” format to facilitate the development of relationships between project sponsors and prepare them for the “Call for Projects”. Future workshops may use a different format that best suits the needs of the Region and its stakeholders at the time of the solicitation.



Flyer from the Strategic Integration Workshop

Table 6-8: Public Workshops

Dates	Purpose/ Objectives	How Input Was Received
Program Initiation (2005-2007)		
August 2006	Three workshops held to inform and educate public about background of IRWM planning, and to receive public feedback regarding vision, goals, and objectives of 2007 IRWM Plan	Comments accepted during workshops and via an online comment form; each comment was reviewed and considered for inclusion within the IRWM Plan, for use in the planning process, or for IRWM Plan implementation
April, June, and August 2007	Three workshops held to facilitate a “Call for Projects” for the IRWM Plan and Proposition 50 Grant Application, and provide members of local water supply, wastewater, stormwater, environmental, and community organizations with information about the IRWM Plan prioritization process, the proposed approach to funding application prioritization, and explanation of the Project Application Review form	
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)		
June 2010	Two workshops held to facilitate a “Call for Projects” for the Proposition 84-Round 1 Implementation Grant Application	
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)		
August, October, and December 2012; February, April, and June 2013	Six joint Public Workshops/RAC meetings held to receive input and direction on 2013 IRWM Plan chapters	Comments accepted during workshops; each comment was reviewed and considered for inclusion within the IRWM Plan, for use in the planning process, or for IRWM Plan implementation
September 2012	Strategic Integration Workshop held to gather local project sponsors to discuss preliminary project concepts and encourage integration of concepts for Proposition 84-Round 2 funding	Stakeholders submitted project concepts describing preliminary project ideas, and project partners submitted partner forms that described potential services they could provide to support projects; the concept and partner forms were evaluated and discussed by stakeholders to determine potential integration and partnering opportunities
September 2012	Four Watershed Workshops held to solicit information about each watershed for 2013 IRWM Plan, including a characterization of water resources within each watershed, identification of key water management issues and needs, and brainstorming of project concepts to address key issues	Comments accepted during workshops and via feedback forms; each comment was reviewed and considered for inclusion within the IRWM Plan
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)		
April 2014	Strategic Integration Workshop held to discuss potential integration and coordination opportunities for future IRWM projects	Comments accepted during workshop; each comment was reviewed and considered for future project selection processes
May 2014	Two workshops held to facilitate a “Call for Projects” for the Proposition 84-Round 3 Implementation Grant Application	-
May 2014	Scoring Workshop held to present project scores and tiering, as well as to solicit input on RAC caucus priorities for the Proposition 84-Round 3 project selection process	Comments accepted during workshop; each comment was reviewed and considered for the Proposition 84-Round 3 project selection processes

Dates	Purpose/ Objectives	How Input Was Received
April 2015	Strategic Integration Workshop held to learn about potential projects and resources to facilitate the identification of integration opportunities, such as potential partnerships	Comments accepted during workshop; each comment was reviewed and considered for future project selection processes
April 2015	Proposition 84-Round 4 Technical Workshop to assist project sponsors with using the project database and submitting projects	-
May 2015	Three workshops held to facilitate a “Call for Projects” for the Proposition 84-Round 4 Implementation Grant Application	Comments accepted during workshop; each comment was reviewed and considered for future project selection processes
May 2015	Scoring Workshop held to present project scores and tiering, as well as to solicit input on RAC caucus priorities for the Proposition 84-Round 4 project selection process	Comments accepted during workshop; each comment was reviewed and considered for the Proposition 84-Round 4 project selection processes
April 2016	DAC Project Concept Workshop held to gather local project sponsors to discuss preliminary project concepts for the Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant Application	-
July 2016	Two workshops held to facilitate a “Call for Projects” for the Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant Application	Comments accepted during workshop; each comment was reviewed and considered for future project selection processes
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)		
October and December 2017; February, April, June, August, October, and December 2018; February and April 2019	10 joint Public Workshops/RAC meetings held to receive input and direction on 2019 IRWM Plan chapters and Water Needs Assessment (8 for Phase 1, and 2 anticipated for Phase 2)	Comments accepted during workshops; each comment was reviewed and considered for inclusion within the IRWM Plan, for use in the planning process, or for IRWM Plan implementation
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)		
2020+	Public workshops will be scheduled to maintain engagement in the ongoing IRWM Program	TBD

Speakers Bureau Presentations: The RWMG actively seeks opportunities to attend meetings hosted by local organizations to present information on the IRWM Program and current activities and to solicit input. The primary focus of the individual group presentations has been to provide attendees with background information about the IRWM planning process, the IRWM Program’s purpose, the IRWM Plan objectives, and the project solicitation process. Presentations typically last 15-45 minutes and generally include the use of PowerPoint presentations, maps, informational handouts, and forms for submitting comments and/or projects. Input received during presentations is taken back to the RWMG for consideration, and typically, the participants are added to the stakeholder email list. To continue to expand the Region’s understanding and support for the IRWM effort, the RWMG will deliver up to six presentations annually to groups in the Region, upon request. Table 6-9 describes the use of presentations throughout the phases of the IRWM Program.

Table 6-9: Speakers Bureau Presentations

Speakers Bureau Presentations	
Phase	Features
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	Frequent presentations to groups in the Region; provided an overview of the IRWM Plan
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	Increased number of presentations to tribal and DAC representatives
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	Continued presentations to groups in the Region
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	Delivered approximately 10 presentations about IRWM Program and current activities since the 2013 IRWM Plan
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	Deliver 25 presentations across the San Diego Funding Area to reach DACs not currently engaged in the IRWM Program, and assist with development of the Water Needs Assessment
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	Plan to deliver presentations upon request about IRWM Program and current activities

Summits: Summits provide an opportunity to raise awareness among the public and stakeholders about the IRWM Plan and allow for questions and public comment. A focal point of early stakeholder participation was the annual Clean Water Summit. The 2006 Clean Water Summit, held on June 30, 2006, was focused entirely around the San Diego IRWM planning effort. The keynote speaker, Jerry Johns of the State Department of Water Resources, presented the background on the IRWM planning process by providing an overview of the California Water Plan Update 2005. Mr. Johns explained how the 2005 Water Plan Update provided a fundamental change in the way we address water throughout the State, and set the stage for a transition in water resource management.



Opening Remarks at the 2012 Summit made by Jerry Sanders, then Mayor of San Diego.

Photo credit: Crystal Mohr, RMC Water and Environment

On February 29, 2012, the RWMG hosted the first San Diego IRWM Program Summit at the outset of the 2013 IRWM Plan to gain input from regional stakeholders on how to enhance water resources management in the San Diego IRWM Region. The Summit was a success, with over 80 diverse attendees, and notable speakers including Jerry Sanders, then Mayor of San Diego, and State Water Resources Control Board Member Fran Spivy-Weber. Key outcomes from the IRWM Summit included:

- Compiling an overview of various barriers and challenges to water resources management;
- Discussing possible solutions and strategies to overcoming those barriers and challenges; and
- Gathering input on regional planning priorities for San Diego's 2013 IRWM Plan.



Mark Stadler, IRWM Program Manager, welcoming attendees to the 2016 Summit
Photo Credit: Loisa Burton, Water Authority

On February 29, 2016, the RWMG hosted the second San Diego IRWM Program Summit to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Program and in preparation for the 2019 IRWM Plan update. The Summit was used to recognize the Program’s major accomplishments and to re-focus IRWM priorities. In addition, discussions about the future of the IRWM Program were held. The 2016 Summit guided development of the Technical Development Areas that were prioritized by the RWMG and RAC and was used to inform the updates made to the 2019 IRWM Plan Goals and Objectives (see *Chapter 2, Vision and Objectives*) and project scoring criteria (see Table 9-1 and 9-2 in *Chapter 9, Project Evaluation and Prioritization*).

As described in Table 6-10, summits will continue to be held as needed in response to major milestones of the IRWM Program, such as the updating or amending of the IRWM Plan.

Table 6-10: IRWM Summits

Summits	
Phase	Features
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	Clean Water Summit held that was focused entirely around San Diego IRWM planning effort; background on IRWM planning process was presented
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	No summit held
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	IRWM Summit held at the outset of the 2013 IRWM Plan to gain input from regional stakeholders on how to enhance water resources management in San Diego IRWM Region
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	IRWM Summit held to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Program and in preparation for the 2019 IRWM Plan update.
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	No summit held
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	Summit(s) will be held as needed in response to major milestones of the IRWM Program

Partnerships and Letters of Support: The San Diego IRWM Program benefits from both formal and informal partnerships, summarized in Table 6-11. As previously described, the RWMG formed a formal partnership through the signing of an MOU in 2005, with several revisions and updates since then, as shown in Table 6-11. Aside from the sharing of ideas and funds, the group has found many other ways to collaborate, such as participating on the Water Conservation Action Committee, getting involved with regional groundwater management planning, developing a regional guidance for low-impact development, and developing and implementing a watershed signage program.

The Tri-County FACC is a formal partnership of the three IRWM planning regions in the San Diego Funding Area (described in *Chapter 3, Region Description*). It was established in April 2009 through joint adoption of an MOU outlining measures for inter-regional coordination. This partnership is a unique opportunity to collaborate with neighboring planning regions to address common objectives, issues, and conflicts.

The RAC, an informal partnership, has realized many benefits including opening the lines of communication between various water-related agencies and organizations and providing opportunities to collaborate, maximize benefits, and realize both a cost savings and improvement in project efficiency.

The RAC and interested parties have offered letters of support for the IRWM Program and the Region Acceptance Process Application. The RWMG has sent letters of support on behalf of the Upper Santa Margarita Planning Region’s grant applications. Partnerships and letters of support help strengthen the basis for the IRWM Plan, support IRWM Plan implementation, and provide a network for the dissemination of information and for the solicitation of region-wide support. Additionally, letters have been sent in support of state legislation and in response to DWR’s IRWM Program materials.

Table 6-11: RWMG Partnerships and Letters of Support

Partnerships and Letters of Support	
Phase	Features
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	RWMG formed a formal partnership through signing of 2005 MOU
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	RWMG developed revised 2007 and 2009 MOUs and then signed new 2011 MOU; Tri-County FACC established through joint adoption of 2009 MOU outlining measures for inter-regional coordination
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	RWMG and Tri-County FACC continued to enhance collaboration and coordination of water resources planning
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	The RWMG extended its IRWM partnership MOU when it expired in 2016 and amended it again in 2018. The three Tri-County FACC members did the same for their MOU when it expired in 2014.
Updating the 2013/2007 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	RWMG and Tri-County FACC continued to enhance collaboration and coordination of water resources planning
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	The RWMG will consider its IRWM partnership MOU when it expires in 2020. The three Tri-County FACC members will do the same for their MOU when it expires in 2020. The three agencies will support each other as appropriate.

6.4.1 Environmental Justice and Disadvantaged Communities

Environmental justice and DAC concerns in the Region include urbanized areas located near or adjacent to current or past industrial areas, as well as rural backcountry areas. *Chapter 3, Region Description*, provides an overview of the physical location and a description of DACs within the Region. As required by DWR, the following sections provide an overview and background of environmental justice and DAC stakeholders in the Region.

Since World War II, the Region has experienced substantial growth, becoming a major port and increasing industrial activities during this time. Such rapid growth and development led to unsustainable land use combinations in portions of the Region. Such areas include those located in the south, southeastern, and border areas of the Region where residential areas and industrial zones were integrated. The location of homes and schools adjacent to industrial facilities has resulted in situations where communities are threatened by the past and present impacts of industrial pollution. Water-related impacts in such areas may include the

“Infrastructure development in rural disadvantaged communities comes with an extensive and intricate set of challenges, and as such, we appreciate that the Regional Water Management Group has provided us with the flexible support necessary to address a web of issues and details that have arisen over three rounds of funding and eleven rural water resources projects. The collaborative partnership has proven invaluable for the communities that we serve.”

-Jennifer Hazard, RAC Member Representing Rural Community Assistance Corporation (2015-2018) and Alter Terra (2013-2015), DAC/EJ Caucus 2015-2018

residential areas and industrial zones were integrated. The location of homes and schools adjacent to industrial facilities has resulted in situations where communities are threatened by the past and present impacts of industrial pollution. Water-related impacts in such areas may include the

deposition of airborne industrial and manufacturing contaminants into surface waters and the degradation of groundwater from land contamination. In addition, following World War II, establishment of a major port led to a boom of the shipbuilding and boating industries; these industries have contributed to pollution issues that continue to affect San Diego Bay.

In rural backcountry areas of the Region, communities primarily face groundwater quantity and quality issues. These communities are generally outside of the Water Authority service area and rely on groundwater as their primary if not sole source of water supply. Backcountry groundwater issues are exacerbated by poor economic conditions and lack of local community expertise that can make it difficult to address public health concerns. Rural DACs in the Region have documented issues with water shortages, as well as high contamination levels of uranium, nitrate, and bacteria in available groundwater supplies.

Environmental justice (EJ) is interpreted in the 2019 IRWM Plan to mean that equal respect and value will be accorded to every individual and community. *Chapter 3, Region Description* includes the full definition of EJ as adopted by the San Diego IRWM Program, as well as how EJ communities can be mapped. In developing the 2013 IRWM Plan, attention was given to ensure that DACs are involved in identifying water management issues and solutions. This effort was expanded during development of the 2019 IRWM Plan through the Water Needs Assessment. As defined in the *IRWM Grant Program Guidelines* (DWR, 2016), a DAC is a community with an annual Median Household Income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide annual MHI, based on American Community Survey (ACS) data. At the time the 2019 IRWM Plan was written, 2012-2016 ACS data showed a statewide MHI of \$63,783; DACs therefore are communities with MHIs of \$51,026 or less. The San Diego IRWM Region used this number to define DACs of concern, which were mapped using a combination of Census places, tracts, and block-groups. The *2016 IRWM Guidelines* also includes consideration for Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs) and Underrepresented Communities (URCs). *Section 3.3 in Chapter 3, Region Description* presents communities within the Region that are classified as DAC, EDA, and URC, as well as definitions for determining if a community falls under one of these classifications. The results of the mapping exercises for DACs, EDAs, URCs, and EJs presented in *Chapter 3, Region Description*, were vetted at a series of DAC workshops under the Water Needs Assessment, as well as by organizations working closely with DACs, and at RAC meetings.

Engaging DACs directly is always a challenge, and many barriers to participation exist for such communities. Such barriers include lack of trust, language and cultural differences, and the time that participation can take away from earning one's livelihood. The IRWM Program has largely relied on working with groups that already have existing relationships with DACs, including those that participate on the RAC. While organizations such as San Diego Coastkeeper, Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek, and Rural Community Assistance Corporation have helped the RAC and RWMG to identify DAC concerns and environmental justice issues, it was recognized that additional effort was required to identify and engage urban and rural DACs and identify and address environmental justice concerns. By providing IRWM grant funding to these non-governmental entities, the San Diego IRWM Program has been able to assist disadvantaged communities. The biggest challenge has been the ability to get through the invoicing process in a timely manner to reimburse these organizations for their efforts. This can be a real impediment to providing assistance to disadvantaged communities.

The Water Needs Assessment, funded under the Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant, seeks to increase engagement of DACs, EDAs, URCs, and EJs with the IRWM Program, especially those communities and organizations that had not previously been involved with IRWM. The Water Needs Assessment is being completed by the Tri-County FACC and uses direct outreach and community meeting presentations to identify key water management concerns for the target communities, encourage participation in IRWM, and identify how the IRWM Program can better serve them. Under

the Water Needs Assessment, the RWMG first mapped the Region’s DACs, EDAs, and EJs using established federal and state data, along with tribal lands, which are considered by the State to be URCs. Other URCs were not mapped because they were generally populations based on non-physical characteristics under the Region’s definition (see Chapter 3, *Region Description*). Workshops will be held in DACs to affirm that known DAC-EDA-EJ communities are not missing from the maps and to collect information on high priority water-related issues within these communities. The Tri-County FACC’s NGO partners, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and the Climate Science Alliance (CSA), helped update a stakeholder list for each identified DAC area, and conducted outreach (phone calls and emails) to inquire about their interests on receiving a Community Meeting presentation. These Community Meeting presentations (currently being help) will solicit input from local organizations and residents regarding their water-related issues and concerns. The community meetings also include discussion of the status of their current systems and opportunities to increase engagement with the IRWM Programs. The information gathered at these workshops and presentations will be used to inform the Water Needs Assessment and to build relationships with stakeholders in new and existing DAC areas. Following completion of the projects funded under the Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant, “DAC Water Stories” will be created to highlight DAC involvement in the IRWM program as a form of outreach and education in communities. Through continued relationship building, future long-term IRWM Program engagement will be more likely in DACs.

Engaging Disadvantaged Communities

Highlights

- Representation of DACs on the RAC and workgroups
- Targeted outreach meetings with urban and rural DAC stakeholders and advocacy groups
- Strategic Integration Workshop with “speed dating” format to facilitate the development of relationships between community-based organizations and potential project applicants

Lessons Learned / Barriers to Participation

- Financial constraints can restrict ability to participate
- Public meetings were held in disadvantaged areas to the greatest extent feasible to help lessen financial constraints that may prevent DACs from traveling to public meetings
- One-on-one communication between DAC leaders and RWMG or RAC representatives helped ensure that DACs had access to the planning process and helped to build trust

Directed Outreach Program for DACs and EJ Communities

The goal of outreach to disadvantaged and environmental justice communities is to identify and obtain input from groups that, as defined, have historically been disproportionately impacted with respect to the development, implementation or enforcement of laws, regulations and policies, due to race, culture or income. Through targeted outreach, the RWMG seeks to learn more about the major water-related concerns facing these groups such that long-term implementation of the 2013 IRWM Plan is responsive to those concerns.

Coordination with Water Management Groups and Water Agencies: If organized water management groups existed within the identified DACs (such as Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek in the Pueblo Watershed), the RWMG and RAC members reached out to invite participation in the IRWM Program. If no organized group existed, however, outreach was coordinated through the water agencies and municipalities serving those DACs in order to identify water resources projects that provide DAC benefits.

Coordination with San Diego Association of Governments: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the regional planning agency responsible for generating the regional growth projections

upon which the Water Authority and member agencies base their Urban Water Management Plan demand calculations. SANDAG has been an active participant in the RAC and other IRWM planning activities. Coordination with SANDAG has assisted the RWMG in surveying the Region’s DACs, monitoring changes to these communities, and identifying their needs.

Workgroup Efforts to Engage DACs: The Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup was established in 2008 to clarify critical water supply and water quality needs in the Region’s watersheds, and to identify outreach strategies that would bring DAC leaders to the table to engage in projects and partnerships that help to solve those critical needs. The Workgroup provided suggestions for helping the Region to understand and address the challenges faced by local DACs.

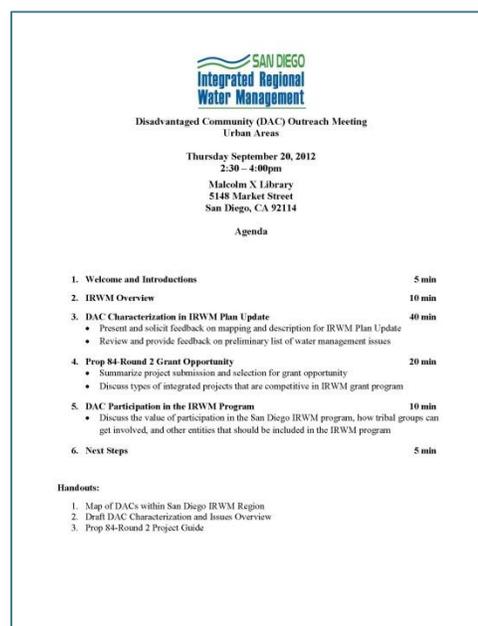
Disadvantaged Community Representation on the RAC: To ensure consideration of diverse views, RAC membership includes two organizations that identify and address DAC and environmental justice issues. Current or past DAC representatives on the RAC include San Diego Coastkeeper, Groundwork-San Diego Chollas Creek, Alter-Terra, and Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC). The RAC charter ensures the RAC will always include both urban and rural DAC representatives.

One-on-one Communication between DAC Leaders and RWMG or RAC Representatives: The RWMG and RAC contacted community leaders within the DACs, as well as organizations that support rural water systems, and asked to work with them to identify the current state of their water-related resources. This one-on-one correspondence ensured that DACs had access to the planning process, allowing their input to be incorporated and their interests to be represented early-on, prior to project implementation. Additionally, critical needs of the DACs which were identified through these discussions were translated into long-term targets for the IRWM Plan and potential projects.

For the 2013 IRWM Plan, the approach of working through groups and contacts that have existing relationships with DACs was continued. The Watershed Workshops that were held provided an avenue for reaching out to DACs. Watershed groups that sponsored or participated in those workshops were asked to identify and encourage the participation of individuals who could represent DACs, and the workshops were designed to make it easier for them to participate.

The Water Needs Assessment initiated outreach to DACs, EDAs, and URCs not previously engaged with the San Diego IRWM Program through leverage of contacts of current IRWM Program participants and NGO Partners (RCAC and Climate Science Alliance). Individual letters were sent to these new DAC, EDA, and URC contacts inviting further dialogue and engagement with these leaders and organizations.

Targeted Outreach Meetings: Targeted outreach has been held both with representatives of DACs and with DAC residents directly. Outreach to DAC representatives generally focused on bigger-picture DAC needs and improving the IRWM Program’s understanding of the barriers to participation for DACs. The San Diego IRWM Program has periodically held outreach meetings with urban and rural DAC stakeholders and advocacy groups. The purpose of these meetings was to introduce DAC stakeholders to the IRWM Program, discuss grant opportunities, and discuss key water management issues facing DACs in the Region. As a result, multiple projects aimed at meeting critical water supply



Agenda for DAC outreach meeting

and water quality needs of DACs were submitted for consideration of Proposition 84 grant funding. Some of these projects also included other components benefitting DACs, such as trails near waterways, creek restoration, and flood control measures. As part of the Water Needs Assessment, four Workshops targeting DACs across the San Diego Funding Area and up to 15 Speakers Bureau Presentations to targeted DAC organizations and communities within the San Diego IRWM Region are being held. To the extent feasible, targeted DAC outreach utilizes a “go-to-them” approach with workshops and Speakers Bureaus hosted in DAC areas.

Table 6-12 shows when the various types of outreach to DACs occurred during the four phases of the IRWM Program.

Table 6-12: Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities

Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities						
Phase	Coordination with Water Groups	Coordination with SANDAG	Workgroup Efforts to Engage DACs	RAC	One-on-one Communication	DAC Outreach Meetings
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	RWVG and RAC invited organized water management groups and agencies to participate in the IRWM Program	Coordination with SANDAG assisted in surveying the Region’s DACs, monitoring changes to these communities, and identifying their needs	None	None	None	None
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	Continued emphasis on inviting water management groups in DACs to participate in the IRWM program	None	Established to clarify critical water supply and quality needs in the Region’s watersheds and to identify outreach strategies to encourage DAC leaders to engage in projects and partnerships that help solve those critical needs	DAC representation on the RAC by San Diego Coastkeeper and Rural Community Assistance Corporation	RWVG contacted DAC community leaders and asked them to identify the current state of their water resources; the critical needs identified through these discussions were translated into long-term targets and potential projects	Outreach meetings to introduce DAC stakeholders to the IRWM Program, discuss grant opportunities, and discuss key water management issues facing DACs in the Region
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	Continued emphasis on inviting water management groups in DACs to participate in the IRWM program	None	None	DAC representation on RAC by Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek and Rural Communities Assistance Corporation	Watershed groups that sponsored or participated in watershed workshops identified and encouraged the participation DACs	Targeted outreach meetings to gain better understanding of the water supply and water quality needs of the Region’s DACs

Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities						
Phase	Coordination with Water Groups	Coordination with SANDAG	Workgroup Efforts to Engage DACs	RAC	One-on-one Communication	DAC Outreach Meetings
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014 - 2019)	Continued emphasis on inviting water management groups in DACs to participate in the IRWM program	None	None	Continued DAC representation on RAC	Continued one-on-one communication with DACs to identify major issues and priorities related to water management	Hold outreach meetings to learn more about the major water-related concerns facing DACs so long-term implementation of the Plan is responsive to those concerns
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017 - 2019)	Continued emphasis on inviting water management groups in DACs to participate in the IRWM program	None	None	DAC representation on RAC by RCAC and Alter Terra	Water Needs Assessment outreach to new DACs, EDAs, and URCs	Speakers Bureau presentations to targeted DACs, EDAs, and URCs to gain better understanding of the water supply and water quality needs of the Region's DACs
Future IRWM Plan Implementation (2019+)	Continued emphasis on inviting water management groups in DACs to participate in the IRWM program	TBD	TBD	Continued DAC representation on RAC	Watershed groups that sponsored or participated in watershed workshops identified and encouraged the participation DACs	TBD

Projects benefitting DACs have consistently been prioritized during the local project selection process, with a total of 19 projects funding under Proposition 84 that directly benefitted DACs, and a separate funding opportunity under Proposition 1 for DACs:

- Proposition 84-Round 1 Implementation Grant: 11 high-priority projects, 3 with direct benefits to local DACs
- Proposition 84 – Round 2 Implementation Grant: 7 high-priority projects, 2 with direct benefits to local DACs
- Proposition 84 – Round 3 Implementation Grant: 7 drought-relief projects, 4 with direct benefits to local DACs
- Proposition 84 – Round 4 Implementation Grant: 13 high-priority projects, 10 with direct benefits to local DACs
- Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Grant: 9 high-priority projects, all with direct benefits to DACs (8 within the San Diego IRWM Region)

6.4.2 Native American Tribes

San Diego County features the largest number of Tribes and Reservations of any county in the United States. There are 18 federally-recognized Tribal Nation Reservations and 17 Tribal Governments (the Barona and Viejas Bands share joint-trust and administrative responsibility for the Capitan Grande Reservation). Additionally, a 19th reservation in the San Luis Rey Valley was denied to the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseño Indians, though the Band remains active in the San Diego region, while the Mt. Laguna Reservation was deeded to private ownership in 1947. A description of each Tribe is provided in *Chapter 4, Tribal Nations of San Diego County*, along with a detailed map showing Tribal lands. Figure 6-3 provides a summary version.

Figure 6-3: Location of Tribal lands in the San Diego IRWM Region



San Diego County features the largest number of Tribes and Reservations of any county in the United States.

Development of the Tribal Nation Reservations has historically been hampered by their remote location and poor proximity to utility services, complexity of Indian law and politics, and dependence on federal programs. For many tribes, gaming is seen as an opportunity to gain economic independence and provide expanded infrastructure, education, health care, and emergency services for their members. Water and sanitation services have been developed by various tribes – including Barona, Campo, Pala, Pauma, Rincon, Sycuan, and Viejas Bands – to service the casinos and adjacent Reservation lands. Targeted outreach to Native American tribes is necessary to overcome potential barriers to participation in the IRWM Program, such as cultural differences,

sovereignty issues, and lack of trust. Increased participation of tribal groups is a goal moving forward in the IRWM Program. Outreach opportunities with tribal groups will continue to be pursued throughout the IRWM Program to identify major issues and priorities of those communities, as well as to encourage submission of grant applications. One-on-one coordination with tribal groups has helped with gauging their interest in identifying water resource issues that could be addressed through the IRWM program.

As part of the 2013 IRWM Plan development process, the RWMG contacted the 17 federally-recognized Tribal Governments in San Diego County through their respective EPA director, water director, or other environmental liaison. Communication was conducted via telephone, email, fax, and/or mail, when requested. Based on feedback from some tribal representatives, the RWMG provided each tribe with a questionnaire that was to be used to describe each tribe’s water management issues. Seven tribes provided completed questionnaires. Tribal representatives were generally cautious with regard to the questionnaire, expressing concern about the purpose of the IRWM program and how the information may be used now and in the future. Some of these concerns were explicitly expressed by tribal representatives during meetings or through written

correspondence, and other concerns were expressed verbally during follow-up calls and other informal communications.

For example, past experiences dealing with the County and State over water issues have made some tribal representatives and their respective councils reluctant to trust the stated intention of data collection efforts. Several tribes expressed concern over the possibility that information disclosed via the questionnaire could lead to surplus water supplies on reservations being taken away or diverted to urban areas. One representative expressed concern that the information given through the questionnaire would be shared and included in non-IRWM documents or used outside of the IRWM process for different purposes or motivations. While the questionnaire explicitly directed respondents not to divulge any privately held information, these concerns did prevent some tribal governments from responding.

Another concern explicitly expressed by tribal representatives is whether CEQA documentation would be required for projects funded through the IRWM program. A primary goal of the 2013 IRWM Plan was to document water management issues in the region, establishing a baseline condition to be referenced in State grant applications. All projects funded through State grants must comply with applicable CEQA requirements. However, CEQA is not applicable for projects on reservation lands and any requirement for CEQA compliance would be an unnecessary cost, at best, and an affront to tribal sovereignty, at worst.

Engaging Native American Tribes

Highlights

- Targeted outreach meetings with the Region's tribes and Native American stakeholder groups
- One-on-one communication with tribal representatives helped with gauging their interest in involvement and with identifying issues of concern and priorities for the 2013 IRWM Plan
- Included three Tribal seats on the RAC to increase representation; each Tribe represents a different part of the planning region
- Awarded approximately \$5.4 million in grant funding to the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) for their Rural Disadvantaged Community Partnership Project, of which approximately \$1.67 million has gone to tribal projects

Lessons Learned / Barriers to Participation

- Reluctance from some tribes to share information about water resources, and concern about the purpose of the IRWM Program and how information would be used now and in the future
- Some tribal governments did not want to participate in the DWR grant program because any CEQA requirement is viewed as incompatible with tribal sovereignty
- Concern about how the IRWM Program is incorporating tribal interests. Specific concerns were raised about a single tribal representative on the RAC given that the tribes are separate sovereign entities
- Tribes are concerned about future water supplies for economic development and sustenance, and plan to use local water supplies based on their tribal rights to water.
- At targeted outreach meetings, tribes provided some suggestions for ways to expand tribal participation in the 2013 IRWM Plan and DWR grant program; some suggestions were incorporated into the stakeholder outreach effort, such as the tribal characterization template
- Some tribes have been reluctant to participate in the DWR IRWM grant program because DWR's contracts include a "sovereignty" clause that some viewed as impinging on tribal rights. The DWR contracts also require recipients of state grant funds to comply with CEQA requirements, but tribes, as sovereign nations complete the federal NEPA, not CEQA. The Water Authority, as the San Diego IRWM grant administrator, has worked extensively with tribal recipients of IRWM grant funds and DWR to overcome these obstacles and allow tribal projects to proceed.

Directed Outreach Program for Native American Tribes

Increased engagement of tribal groups is a goal moving forward in the IRWM program. Outreach opportunities with tribal groups will continue to be pursued throughout the IRWM program to identify major issues and priorities of those communities and to address water resource needs through submission of grant applications.

Tribal Representation on the RAC: To ensure the consideration of diverse views, RAC membership includes one of the Region's tribes. The La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians served on the RAC until the composition of the RAC membership was reorganized under the RAC charter. The RAC currently includes a representative from the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (and an alternate from the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians). The RAC charter ensures the RAC will always reserve three seats for tribal representatives. The Southern California Tribal Chairs Association has been invited to designate two additional tribal representatives to join the RAC (for a total of three tribal representatives), as of this writing, two of the seats remain open.

Tribal Outreach Meetings: The San Diego IRWM Region is home to a large number of tribes. As such, engaging with tribes has been important to the San Diego IRWM Program. To this end, multiple "pushes" for meetings with the tribes have occurred. The RWMG held two outreach meetings for tribal groups in May and June 2010. These meetings provided an overview of the San Diego IRWM Program and discussed grant opportunities and key water management issues facing tribes in the Region. In August 2012, targeted outreach meetings were held with the Region's tribes and Native American stakeholder groups. Representatives from eight of the 17 tribal governments in San Diego County attended. At the meetings the purpose of the 2013 IRWM Plan was introduced, and it was explained that the 2007 IRWM Plan had limited information on existing conditions for tribal lands and that a priority for the 2013 IRWM Plan was to expand this information. Members of the 2013 IRWM Plan team also explained the process by which Tribal governments could apply for capital project grants from DWR. The individual and collective concerns of the various tribes in the Region regarding water management were gathered at the meetings so they could be included and addressed in the 2013 IRWM Plan. To the extent that tribal representatives were willing, they were also encouraged to participate in the watershed workshops being conducted as part of the 2013 IRWM Plan process.

Additional outreach to tribes is being conducted as part of the 2018 Water Needs Assessment, including direct emails and community meetings. The outreach under the Water Needs Assessment is aimed at learning about opportunities for the IRWM Program to improve engagement with tribes, opportunities for tribes to participate in IRWM funding programs, and information about priority water and wastewater resource needs of tribes that could be included in the Region's priority needs.

One-on-one Communication between Tribal Leaders and RWMG or RAC Representatives: One-on-one communication with tribal representatives helped with gauging their interest in being involved in the IRWM effort and identifying issues of concern and priorities to be incorporated into the 2013 IRWM Plan. Tribes' EPA directors, water managers, environmental managers, cultural resource managers, or other liaisons with knowledge of water and/or wastewater issues on reservation lands were contacted for information on how water is managed, distributed, and treated on its reservation. Additionally, any water quality, water infrastructure, or flooding issues on the reservation were solicited for inclusion in the 2013 IRWM Plan.

Tribal Characterization Template: Tribes were given a tribal characterization template that identified the kind of information needed for the 2013 IRWM Plan. The template asked tribes to characterize the water systems, water quality, stormwater and flood management, and natural resources of tribal lands. It was stressed by team members associated with development of the 2013 IRWM Plan that

proprietary information was not needed for inclusion in the plan. It was also noted that any information provided would benefit the plan, create a more comprehensive description of how water is managed in the San Diego County, and set a baseline condition that could be referenced by the tribe if it decides to apply for a capital project grant from DWR.

Tribal Water Stories: To capture input from tribal groups in a culturally sensitive manner, tribes were extended the opportunity to share tribal water stories for the Tribal Water Stories Project. Initiated in 2009 at the state level, this Project is a compilation of stories, myths, and legends related to water and water use told by various California tribal groups. The Project also includes position papers and briefing papers describing the importance of water from a tribal perspective. The original 2009 report did not include perspectives from San Diego tribes, however, so an effort was made during the 2013 IRWM Plan process to collect traditional water-related information from the various local tribes. The intent was to employ trusted contacts to interview tribal representatives to produce a document or recording that captured both historical and contemporary tribal perspectives on water supply and quality issues in the Region. Table 6-13 shows when the various types of outreach occurred during the phases of the IRWM Program.

Table 6-13: Outreach to Native American Tribes

Outreach to Native American Tribes					
Phase	RAC	Tribal Outreach Meetings	One-on-one Communication	Tribal Characterization Template	Tribal Water Stories
Program Initiation (2005-2007)	Tribal representation on the RAC	None	None	None	None
IRWM Plan Implementation (2008-2013)	Tribal representation on the RAC by La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	Outreach meetings to provide tribal groups with an overview of IRWM Program and to discuss key water management issues facing tribes in the Region	None	None	None
Updating the 2007 IRWM Plan (2011-2013)	Tribal representation on RAC	Targeted outreach meetings to provide tribal groups with information about the 2013 IRWM Plan and process for applying for grants from DWR	One-on-one communication with tribal groups helped with gauging their interest in involvement and with identifying issues of concern and priorities that were then incorporated into the 2013 IRWM Plan	Provided to tribes to obtain information to include in 2013 IRWM Plan, such as characterization of water systems, water quality and natural resources of tribal lands	Tribes were provided opportunity to share tribal water stories that would help capture historical and contemporary tribal perspectives on water supply and quality issues

Outreach to Native American Tribes					
Phase	RAC	Tribal Outreach Meetings	One-on-one Communication	Tribal Characterization Template	Tribal Water Stories
IRWM Plan Implementation (2014-2019)	Continued tribal representation on RAC by San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians	Consistently held outreach meetings to encourage tribal involvement in IRWM Program	Continued one-on-one communication with tribal groups to identify major issues and priorities related to water management	None	None
Updating the 2013 IRWM Plan (2017-2019)	Continued tribal representation on RAC with three seats reserved for tribal representatives	Water Needs Assessment Speakers Bureau Presentations	Continued one-on-one communication with tribal groups to identify major issues and priorities related to water management	None	None
Future Plan Implementation (2020+)	Continued tribal representation on RAC, with three seats reserved for tribal representatives	Consistently hold outreach meetings to encourage tribal involvement in IRWM Program	Continued one-on-one communication with tribal groups to identify major issues and priorities related to water management	None	None

6.5 Updating or Amending the IRWM Plan

San Diego’s IRWM Plan is a living document that will continue to evolve with time. IRWM Plan proponents realize that it is important to update the IRWM Plan as appropriate, and to revise plan objectives and goals to address evolving regional needs and concerns. At a minimum, the IRWM Plan will be updated approximately every five years, or whenever a funding opportunity arises. Additionally, it is critical that outreach efforts remain ongoing and continue to expand over time. This will enable the successful maintenance, management, and implementation of the IRWM Plan. The 2019 IRWM Plan was prepared and adopted in a phased manner, with Phase 1 including general updates to the Plan along with requirements for compliance with the *2016 IRWM Guidelines*, and Phase 2 incorporating the results of the Stormwater Capture and Use Feasibility Study and Water Needs Assessment, which are being prepared under the Proposition 1 Planning Grant and DAC Involvement Grant, respectively.

Public Notice Requirements: When proposing to prepare or update an IRWM Plan, the RWMG will publish a notice of intent to prepare the IRWM Plan, consistent with §6066 of the Government Code. The notice of intent to prepare this 2019 IRWM Plan Update – Phase I was published in the San Diego Daily Transcript on two consecutive weeks in August 2018. Upon the completion of the IRWM Plan, the RWMG will publish a notice of intent to adopt the IRWM Plan and will adopt the IRWM Plan in a public meeting of the RWMG governing bodies. The notice of intent to adopt this 2019 IRWM Plan will be published in the San Diego Daily Transcript on two consecutive weeks in accordance with the requirements in the *2016 IRWM Guidelines*.

Plan Adoption: The governing bodies of each RWMG agency are responsible for the development and adoption of the IRWM Plan. The Water Authority Board of Directors, City of San Diego City Council, and County of San Diego Board of Supervisors are scheduled to adopt this 2019 IRWM Plan in May 2018 (Phase 1) and in September 2019 (Phase 2). Additionally, each project proponent named in an IRWM grant application must also adopt the IRWM Plan. Proof of adoption is provided to DWR, upon request, via resolutions of adoption with signatory blocks for each governing body adopting the IRWM Plan.

Plan Amendments: The governing bodies of each RWMG agency are responsible for determining their formal approval process for IRWM Plan Amendments. Amendments will likely require further approval by the governing bodies; however, the approval process will be dependent upon the nature and extent of each amendment. This Plan (see below) allows for periodic updates to the IRWM project list prior to new funding opportunities without a formal Plan Amendment.

Project Inclusion: As described in Chapter 9, *Project Evaluation and Prioritization*, projects may be added to the IRWM Plan whenever the online project database is opened for submission. Updating the project list will allow additional projects to be added to address changing conditions and needs in the Region. Database submittal does not require RWMG approval; however, a project may be considered included in the IRWM Plan only if it contributes to at least one of the IRWM objectives. The project database is found on the San Diego IRWM Program website (www.sdirwmp.org).

6.6 Potential Plan Implementation Obstacles

The three RWMG agencies have committed to continue financing San Diego's IRWM effort through 2020 per their most recent MOU. The cost to finance the effort is not immaterial, however, and having sufficient financing for the ongoing implementation of the IRWM Plan, including funds to support administrative responsibilities such as grant applications and grant reporting obligations, will remain critical to the successful implementation of the IRWM Plan and associated projects. The RWMG and RAC continue to discuss potential different funding mechanisms for program management and grant administration that do not place undue burdens on any IRWM participant.

Another hurdle in the path of plan implementation is ensuring that all interested stakeholders are able to participate. For example, the grant application process is quite complex and requires a significant amount of information from entities proposing projects for funding. Some potential sponsors, especially those from DACs, many non-profit organizations, and small public agencies, lack the technical expertise to assemble a proposal that meets all the requirements established by DWR. Moreover, the amount of information required for the actual application can be daunting and quite expensive.

An additional question concerns the future availability of state funding to support IRWM project implementation. The most recent bond to allocate IRWM funding was The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), which authorizes \$510 million in IRWM funding. As of this writing, no bonds currently being considered allocate funding for IRWM. Even if funding for IRWM is included in a future water bond, there is no guarantee that the voters will approve the next water bond. Just as they are discussing potential funding alternatives for program management and grant administration, the RAC and RWMG periodically consider different funding sources to support project implementation.

In order to obtain and maintain regional support for the IRWM Plan, it is critical to continue the ongoing evaluation of regional needs, community issues, and environmental justice issues. This will be achieved through the ongoing education and outreach efforts and regular IRWM Plan updates.

Additional obstacles identified for the Region include water rights concerns, water transfer logistics, international boundary considerations for the Tijuana River Watershed, cross-jurisdictional issues and differing regulations, geographical limitations, and climate change.

Table 6-14: Agencies and Organizations Involved in Water and Watershed Management in the San Diego IRWM Region

Agency / Organization	Authority (●) or Interest (○)					Watershed(s)	Level of Participation		
	Water	Wastewater	Land Use / Planning	Stormwater / Flood	Natural Resources		RAC or Workgroup	Stakeholder List	Contacted ¹
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation					○	Carlsbad	○	○	○
Alpine Sanitation District		●				San Diego, Sweetwater			E
Alter Terra	○		○		○	Tijuana	○	○	○
American Water Company	○					All		○	○
Association of Compost Producers					○	All		○	○
Back Country Land Trust					○	San Diego, Sweetwater			E
Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Diego		○	○
Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation					○	Carlsbad			E
Bonsall Conservancy					○	San Luis Rey			E
Buena Sanitation District		●				San Luis Rey, Carlsbad		○	○
Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation					○	Carlsbad	○	○	○
Building Industry Association of San Diego		○	○			All		○	○
Bureau of Indian Affairs	○	○	○	○	○	All		○	○
California Center for Sustainable Energy	○		○	○	○	All		○	○
California Coastal Coalition					○	All	○	○	○
California Coastal Conservancy					○	All			○
California Department of Fish and Wildlife					●	All		○	○
California Department of Water Resources	●					All	○	○	○
California Landscape Contractors Association	○		○	○	○	All	○	○	○
California Rural Water Association	○	○				All		○	○
California Trout					○	All	○	○	○
California Water Resources Control Board	●			●		All		○	○
Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	Tijuana		○	○
Carlsbad Municipal Water District	●					Carlsbad		○	○
City of Carlsbad		●	●	●		Carlsbad	○	○	○
City of Chula Vista		●	●	●		Sweetwater, Otay	○	○	○
City of Coronado		●	●	●		Otay		○	○
City of Del Mar	●	●	●	●		San Dieguito, Peñasquitos			○
City of El Cajon		●	●	●		San Diego, Sweetwater			○
City of Encinitas			●	●		Carlsbad	○	○	○
City of Escondido	●	●	●	●		San Luis Rey, Carlsbad, San Dieguito	○	○	○
City of Imperial Beach		●	●	●		Otay, Tijuana	○	○	○
City of La Mesa		●	●	●		San Diego, Pueblo, Sweetwater	○	○	○
City of Lemon Grove			●	●		Pueblo, Sweetwater			○
City of National City		●	●	●		Pueblo, Sweetwater, Otay		○	○
City of Oceanside	●	●	●	●		Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, Carlsbad	○	○	○
City of Poway	●	●	●	●		San Dieguito, Peñasquitos, San Diego	○	○	○

Agency / Organization	Authority (●) or Interest (○)					Watershed(s)	Level of Participation		
	Water	Wastewater	Land Use / Planning	Stormwater / Flood	Natural Resources		RAC or Workgroup	Stakeholder List	Contacted ¹
City of San Diego ³	●	●	●	●		San Dieguito, Peñasquitos, San Diego, Pueblo, Sweetwater, Otay, Tijuana	○	○	○
City of San Marcos			●	●		Carlsbad	○	○	○
City of Santee			●	●		San Diego		○	○
City of Solana Beach			●	●		Carlsbad, San Dieguito		○	○
City of Vista		●	●	●		San Luis Rey, Carlsbad		○	○
Cottonwood Creek Conservancy				●	○	Carlsbad			E
County of San Diego		●	●	●	●	All	○	○	○
Cuyamaca Water District	●					San Diego			E
Descanso Community Services District	●	●				Sweetwater			E
East Otay Mesa Sewer MD		●				Otay, Tijuana			E
Encina Wastewater Authority ⁴		●				Carlsbad		○	○
Environmental Health Coalition	○	○	○	○	○	All	○	○	○
Escondido Creek Conservancy					○	Carlsbad		○	○
Equinox Center	○	○	○	○	○	All		○	○
Fairbanks Ranch Community Services District		●				San Dieguito			E
Fallbrook Land Conservancy					○	Santa Margarita			○
Fallbrook Public Utility District	●	●				San Juan, Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey	○	○	○
Farm Bureau of San Diego County	○					All	○	○	○
Floodplain Management Association				○		All	○	○	○
Friends of Loma Alta Creek					○	Carlsbad		○	○
Friends of Mission Valley Preserve					○	San Diego		○	○
Friends of Rose Canyon					○	Peñasquitos	○	○	○
Friends of Rose Creek					○	Peñasquitos	○	○	○
Friends of Santee's River Park					○	San Diego		○	○
Greater San Diego County Resource Conservation District	○		○		○	All		○	○
Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek					○	Pueblo	○	○	○
Helix Water District	●					San Diego, Pueblo, Sweetwater	○	○	○
I Love A Clean San Diego					○	All		○	○
Ipai Nation of Santa Ysabel	○	○	○	○	○	San Luis Rey, San Dieguito		○	○
Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Inaja and Cosmit Reservation	○	○	○	○	○	San Diego		○	○
Industrial Environmental Association	○	○	○	○	○	All	○	○	○
International Boundary and Water Commission	○	○	○	○	○	Tijuana	○	○	○
Iron Mountain Conservancy					○	San Diego, Peñasquitos			○
Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation	○	○	○	○	○	Pueblo	○	○	○
Jamul Indian Village	○	○	○	○	○	Otay	○	○	○
Julian Community Services District	●	●				San Dieguito, San Diego		○	○
Julian Sanitation District		●				San Diego			E
Kumeyaay Diegueno Land Conservancy	○	○	○	○	○	All		○	○
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Luis Rey		○	○
La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	Tijuana		○	○
Lakeside River Park Conservancy					○	San Diego		○	○

Agency / Organization	Authority (●) or Interest (○)					Watershed(s)	Level of Participation		
	Water	Wastewater	Land Use / Planning	Stormwater / Flood	Natural Resources		RAC or Workgroup	Stakeholder List	Contacted ¹
Lakeside Water District	●					San Diego			○
Lakeside Sanitation District		●				San Diego			E
Leucadia Wastewater District		●				Carlsbad		○	○
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Luis Rey		○	○
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation					○	Peñasquitos		○	○
Majestic Pines Community Services District	●					San Diego			E
Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	Tijuana		○	○
Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Dieguito		○	○
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	●					All		○	○
Mission Resource Conservation District	○		○		○	Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey	○	○	○
Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation			○		○	San Diego			○
Mootamai Municipal Water District	●					San Luis Rey			E
Morro Hills Community Services District		●				San Luis Rey			E
Oceanside Utilities Commission	●	●				Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, Carlsbad	○	○	○
Olivenhain Municipal Water District	●					Carlsbad, San Dieguito	○	○	○
Otay Water District	●	●				San Diego, Sweetwater, Otay, Tijuana	○	○	○
Orange County Public Works	●	●				San Juan	○	○	○
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	●	●				San Diego, Sweetwater	○	○	○
Pala Band of Luiseno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey		○	○
Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey		○	○
Pauma Valley Community Services District	●	●				San Luis Rey			E
Pine Hills Mutual Water Company	●					San Diego			E
Pine Valley Mutual Water Company	●					Tijuana			E
Pine Valley Sanitation District		●				Tijuana			E
Planning and Engineering for Sustainability	○	○	○	○	○	All	○	○	○
Preserve Calavera					○	Carlsbad			E
Project Wildlife					○	All		○	○
Questhaven Municipal Water District	●					Carlsbad		○	○
Rainbow Municipal Water District	●	●				Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey		○	○
Ramona Municipal Water District	●	●				San Dieguito, San Diego			○
Rancho California Water District	●	●	○	○	○	San Juan, Santa Margarita	○	○	○
Rancho Pauma Mutual Water Company	●					San Luis Rey			E
Rancho Santa Fe Community Services District		●				Carlsbad, San Dieguito			E
Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Luis Rey		○	○
Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District	●					Carlsbad, San Dieguito		○	○
Rincon Ranch Community Services District		●				San Luis Rey			E
River Partners					○	All		○	○
Rose Creek Watershed Alliance					○	Peñasquitos	○	○	○
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	○	○				All	○	○	○
San Carlos Area Council, Mission Trails Park			●		●	San Diego	○	○	○
San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)			○			All	○	○	○

Agency / Organization	Authority (●) or Interest (○)					Watershed(s)	Level of Participation		
	Water	Wastewater	Land Use / Planning	Stormwater / Flood	Natural Resources		RAC or Workgroup	Stakeholder List	Contacted ¹
San Diego Audubon Society					○	All	○	○	○
San Diego Chamber of Commerce	○	○	○	○	○	All	○	○	○
San Diego CoastKeeper					○	All	○	○	○
San Diego Country Estates			○			San Diego		○	○
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District			●			All		○	○
San Diego County Farm Bureau	○		○			All	○	○	○
San Diego County Flood Control District				●		All	○		○
San Diego County Office of Education	○			○		All	○	○	○
San Diego County Water Authority	●					All	○	○	○
San Diego County Regional Airport Authority				●		All			○
San Diego Earthworks					○	All		○	○
San Diego Gas and Electric	○		○		○	All		○	○
San Diego Unified Port District			●	●		Pueblo, Sweetwater, Otay	○	○	○
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce			○			All	○	○	○
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board	○	●		●	○	All	○	○	○
San Diego River Conservancy					○	San Diego			○
San Diego River Park Foundation					○	San Diego	○	○	○
San Diego Zoological Society			○	○	○	San Dieguito, Pueblo	○	○	○
San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy					○	San Dieguito	○	○	○
San Dieguito Water District	●					Carlsbad			E
San Elijo Joint Powers Authority		●				Carlsbad, San Dieguito	○	○	○
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy					○	Carlsbad	○	○	○
San Luis Rey Watershed Council					○	San Luis Rey	○	○	○
San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Luis Rey, Carlsbad		○	○
Santa Fe Irrigation District	●					Carlsbad, San Dieguito	○	○	○
Sierra Club					○	All		○	○
Solana Center					○	Carlsbad, San Dieguito		○	○
South Bay Irrigation District ²						Sweetwater, Otay			E
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	○	○	○	○	○	All		○	○
Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project					○	All	○	○	○
Spring Valley Sanitation District		●				San Diego, Sweetwater			E
Surfrider Foundation San Diego					○	All		○	○
Sweetwater Authority	●					Sweetwater, Otay	○	○	○
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	○	○	○	○	○	Sweetwater		○	○
The Nature Conservancy					○	All	○	○	○
Tribal Reservation(s)	●	●	●	●	●	San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, Tijuana	○	○	○
Trust for Public Land					○	All			○
UC Cooperative Extension – San Diego County Farm & Home			○		○	All	○	○	○
Universities (UCSD, SDSU, USD, etc.)			●	●		All	○	○	○
Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District	●		○		○	San Luis Rey			E

Agency / Organization	Authority (●) or Interest (○)					Watershed(s)	Level of Participation		
	Water	Wastewater	Land Use / Planning	Stormwater / Flood	Natural Resources		RAC or Workgroup	Stakeholder List	Contacted ¹
U.S. Bureau of Land Management			●			All			E
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	●	○		●		All	○	○	○
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service					●	All		○	○
U.S. Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest			●		●	San Juan, Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, Tijuana			○
U.S. Geological Survey	○		○			All		○	○
U.S. Indian Health Services	○	○	○	○	○	All	○	○	○
U.S. Marine Corps Camp Pendleton	●	●	●	○		San Juan, Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey	○	○	○
Vallecitos County Water District	●	●				San Luis Rey, Carlsbad		○	○
Valley Center Municipal Water District	●	●				San Luis Rey, Carlsbad, San Dieguito		○	E
Valley Center Parks and Recreation District		●				San Luis Rey			E
Viejas Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians	○	○	○	○	○	San Diego, Sweetwater			
Vista Irrigation District	●					San Luis Rey, Carlsbad		○	○
Whispering Palms Community Services District		●				San Dieguito			E
WildCoast					○	All		○	○
Winter Gardens Sewer MD		●				San Diego			E
Wynola Water District	●					San Dieguito			E
Yuima Municipal Water District	●					San Luis Rey			E
Zoological Society of San Diego					○	All	○	○	○

1. "E" denotes entities that the RWMG sent an email invitation to participate in the IRWM program, even though some may not have opted to register for the stakeholder email list. The San Diego IRWM program strives to be a collaborative process that involves all interested parties and individuals.

2. City of National City and South Bay Irrigation District together form the Sweetwater Authority, which provides water supply to both service areas.

3. In addition to supplying more than 250,000 metered service connections within its own incorporated boundaries, the City of San Diego conveys and sells potable water to the City of Del Mar, the Santa Fe Irrigation District, San Dieguito Water District, and the California American Water Company, which, in turn, serves the Cities of Coronado and Imperial Beach and portions of south San Diego.

4. Encina Wastewater Authority is owned by six public agencies in a unique arrangement called a Joint Powers Agreement. The six owners are: the City of Carlsbad, City of Vista, City of Encinitas, Vallecitos Water District, Buena Sanitation District, and the Leucadia Wastewater District.

6.7 References

California Department of Water Resources. *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines*. 2016.

