



Section O

COORDINATION

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O. COORDINATION

Section O Summary – This Plan is developed in accordance with IRWM planning guidance developed by DWR and the State Board. The RWMG coordinated with these agencies and the Regional Board in developing the Plan. Implementing the IRWM Plan will require coordination between the proposed long-term IRWM institutional structure and a number of state and federal agencies, including regulatory agencies, land management agencies, and resource agencies. The IRWM institutional structure will also coordinate with local land use agencies and SANDAG in implementing the IRWM and preparing future Plan updates. Additionally, the Region’s IRWM planning effort will be coordinated with the La Jolla Shores ICWM Plan, adjacent IRWM Plans being prepared for southern Orange and Riverside Counties, and municipal, state, and federal agencies within the Republic of Mexico.

O.1 Overview

RWMG/RAC Coordination. As described in Section N, the RWMG developed a lengthy list of potential IRWM stakeholders (see Appendix 14, Attachment 2) through a series of stakeholder outreach efforts. The RWMG identified a number of local, state, and federal, agencies as “interested parties” to the IRWM planning process. Initial RWMG coordination with the interested parties included (see Section N) meetings, presentations, telephone contacts, or written/electronic correspondence.

Future Coordination Through Long-Term IRWM Institutional Structure. As discussed in Section G.2, a regional IRWM institutional structure (such as a MOU-derived council) will be formed to oversee implementation of the IRWM Plan. Once formed, this long-term institutional structure will take over IRWM planning responsibilities from the RWMG and RAC. The Region’s IRWM institutional structure will include interested water management agencies, organizations, and stakeholders, including:

- governmental agencies such as land use, water supply, flood control, recreation, and wastewater agencies,
- non-governmental organizations, including environmental advocacy groups, conservancies, business/industry/agricultural groups, educational/science groups, and other non-governmental stakeholder groups, and
- other stakeholders or members of the public.

Federal and state agencies that manage or regulate government lands will be invited to provide input to the IRWM institutional structure. Additionally, agencies that regulate water quality, public health, habitat and endangered species, flood control, stream courses, and water resources will be consulted on IRWM planning issues and invited to provide input on IRWM planning and water management. Coordination with these regulatory agencies will be required to address regulatory compliance and permit issues.

O.2 State of California Agencies

Key input to this IRWM Plan has been provided to the RWMG through a series of coordinating meetings and contacts with staff of the Regional Board, State Board, and DWR. Additionally, the Regional Board has attended RAC meetings as an invited guest to provide input and regulatory perspective to IRWM planning issues.

Continued coordination with the Regional Board, State Board, and DWR will occur as the RWMG and RAC transition into the long-term IRWM institutional structure addressed in Section G.2. Coordination with these agencies will also continue as the long-term IRWM institutional structure implements the Plan

Regional Board. The Regional Board is the prime water quality regulatory authority within the Region, and is responsible for protecting beneficial uses and establishing and enforcing water quality standards within the Region. This Plan was developed in coordination with the Regional Board, and targets achieving compliance with Regional Board receiving water quality standards, stormwater discharge standards, non-point source regulations, and wastewater/recycled water regulations. In developing the Plan, Regional Board input has been sought relative to:

- compliance with Basin Plan water quality objectives,
- protection of beneficial uses,

- stormwater regulation and non-point source control, and
- 303(d) impaired waters and TMDLs.

Continued coordination with the Regional Board will be required to implement the IRWM Plan, and the Regional Board will be invited to provide input to the Region's IRWM institutional organization and overall IRWM planning effort.

DWR and State Board. DWR establishes a framework for statewide water resources management within the *California Water Plan Update 2005*. As noted in Section A.1, regional IRWM planning represents one of the key initiatives of the *California Water Plan Update 2005*.

DWR and the State Board administer the state's IRWM program, and have developed statewide IRWM Program Guidelines (DWR and State Board, 2004 and 2007). DWR and the State Board administer Proposition 40, 50, and 84 funding programs.

The RWMG coordinated with DWR and the State Board in developing the Plan. Continued coordination with these agencies will be required to implement the Plan and seek sources of funding to assist in financing proposed IRWM projects.

Other State Agencies. Implementation of the Plan will require coordination with several additional state agencies, including:

Cal EPA. The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) oversees and coordinates public health and environmental regulation within six State of California departments: Air Resources Board, Department of Pesticide Regulation, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Integrated Waste Management Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the State Board.

Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DFG oversees implementation of the federal Endangered Species Act and regulates activities that may impact endangered species and their habitats.

California State Parks. California State Parks operates a number of state beaches, state parks, and coastal preserves and recreational areas within the Region.

California Department of Forestry. California Department of Forestry is charged with fire fighting, resource management (including administering state and federal forestry assistance programs), and protecting and enhancing California's forest lands.

California Coastal Conservancy. The California Coastal Conservancy works in partnership with local governments, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, business, and private landowners to coordinate and provide funding to purchase, protect, restore, and enhance coastal resources and access.

Caltrans. Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) is responsible for planning, maintaining, and constructing surface transportation facilities including highways, roads, bike paths, bridges, and rail transportation facilities. Caltrans addresses land use, air, and water quality impacts of such surface transportation facilities.

California Coastal Commission. The California Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal Cities and the County, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the Region's coastal zone. In this land use planning and regulation role, the Coastal Commission is involved in coastal water quality protection, habitat protection, and public access and recreation.

California State Lands Commission. The State Lands Commission oversees lands held in public trust. In this capacity, the Commission manages a variety of public lands, including submerged lands under tidal and navigable waterways. The Commission is also involved in securing and maintaining public access to public lands.

O.3 Federal Agencies

Regulatory Agencies. A number of federal agencies are involved in the regulation of water management planning within the Region, including:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA, through powers delegated to the Regional Board, implements the Clean Water Act and oversees Regional Board and State Board's implementation of federal NPDES permits, water quality standards, water quality enforcement, and water quality certification programs.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS oversees implementation of the federal Endangered Species Act and regulates activities that may impact endangered species and their habitats.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). NMFS oversees implementation of the Endangered Species Act for marine species and regulates activities that may impact these species.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has regulatory authority over all work within navigable waters, and regulates such projects through the issuance of permits. Additionally, the Corps of Engineers reviews and approves Special Area Management Plans (SAMPs). With this background, the Corps of Engineers can provide valued input to the Region's water management planning process.

Federal regulatory agencies will be invited to provide input to the Region's IRWM planning process. Coordination between the long-term IRWM institutional structure and these agencies will be required to address regulatory compliance and permitting issues.

Water Resources and Land Management Agencies. A number of federal agencies involved in water resources research and planning or land management will also be invited to provide input to the Region's IRWM planning effort. These agencies include:

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). USGS collects and analyzes regional hydrologic data, and coordinates with local agencies to perform special water resources studies.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM manages federal lands within the Region, including lands proposed as future Wilderness Areas.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS). USFS manages the Cleveland National Forest, which comprises a significant portion of the upstream reaches of the larger watersheds of the Region.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Natural Resource Conservation Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides technical and financial assistance in a variety of areas related to the conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). USBR is involved in a variety of water resources management areas central to the IRWM Plan, including water supply, the reclamation of land and water resources, surface water storage, desalination, recreation, agricultural land stewardship, and water rights. USBR also administers funding for the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Title XVI, Public Law 102-575). USBR has been an invited attendee at the RAC meetings, and will continue to be invited to provide input and share its water management expertise as the Region's long-term IRWM institutional structure is established.

U.S. Navy. The U.S. Navy operates numerous bases and installations within the Region, and plans and implements facilities (via the Naval Facilities Engineering Command) for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps within the County.

U.S. Marine Corps. The U.S. Marine Corps operates numerous bases and installations within the Region. U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is a Water Authority member agency.

Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau of Indian Affairs administers and manages lands held in trust for the Region's Native American Tribes.

IRWM Plan implementation will require cooperation and coordination with these federal agencies to:

- coordinate land use planning,
- address land conservation needs and endangered species and habitat management,
- develop and assess water resources data and technical information for project development, and
- investigate and assess funding opportunities.

O.4 Integrated Coastal Watershed Management (ICWM) Plan Coordination

As documented in Section M.1, an ICWM Plan has been developed to protect and improve two designated ASBS sites within the Region. The La Jolla Shores ICWM Plan was developed under Proposition 50 funding by the La Jolla Shores Watershed Management Group and includes coastal lands within the Peñasquitos HU that discharge to the La Jolla Ecological Reserve and the San Diego Marine Life Refuge.

As the La Jolla Shores ICWM Plan is fully within the Region, and the RAC and RWMG have coordinated with the La Jolla Shores ICWM planning group in developing the IRWM Plan. Continued coordination between the IRWM Plan and La Jolla Shores ICWM Plan will be required to implement the plans.

O.5 Inter-Regional Coordination with Adjacent Areas

Adjacent IRWM Plan Areas. Section B.1 describes the Region and its appropriateness as an IRWM planning area. The Region is exclusively within San Diego County and is comprised of portions of eleven parallel and similar hydrologic units that discharge to coastal waters within jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Board (Region 9).

As identified in Section B, portions of the Region's two most northern HUs are located outside the Region. A portion of the San Juan HU is located in Orange County, and a portion of the Santa Margarita River HU is located in Riverside County.

The south Orange County IRWM planning area has completed an IRWM Plan and received an implementation grant under Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Round 1. At the March 12, 2007 DWR Planning Area meeting, representatives from the south Orange County stated that they would prefer to continue conducting separate IRWM planning efforts. The RWMG concurs with this approach. As part of future planning efforts, the RWMG will work with representatives from south Orange County to identify potential areas of inter-regional water management coordination that can provide mutual benefits to both regions.

The stakeholders in the upper portion of the Santa Margarita River Watershed are currently preparing an IRWM plan. Representatives from the RWMG and this Upper Santa Margarita Region held an initial coordination meeting in April 2007, where both regions mutually agreed that a wholesale inclusion of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Region into this IRWM Plan is not feasible at this time. Currently the upper and lower regions of the Santa Margarita Watershed coordinate on implementation of watershed management plans and development and implementation of TMDLs. As IRWM planning progresses for both regions, potential additional options for inter-regional water management planning will be explored.

As also described in Section B, the eastern portion of San Diego County that is within the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Regional Board (Region 7) is also outside the Region. An IRWM planning effort is being initiated by the County and interested stakeholder groups within the Borrego Springs portion of this watershed. As IRWM planning activities for the Borrego Springs area progress, potential means for inter-regional water management planning will be explored.

International Coordination. A significant portion of the Tijuana HU is located within the Republic of Mexico. As a result, coordination with Mexican municipal, state, and federal agencies will be required to address water resources planning issues within the Tijuana HU.

O.6 Land Use Planning Agencies

Land Use Agencies. While the IRWM Plan focuses on water management, land use planning is an important component of regional water management. As documented in Section M, land use agencies within the Region (e.g. municipalities and the County) are involved in a wide array of activities that affect water management planning, including:

- regulating land use and land use planning, including regulating the siting of water management facilities,
- implementing regional non-point source runoff and stormwater compliance programs, and
- implementing multiple species and multiple habitat protection programs.

In addition to these land use-related activities, many land use agencies within the Region also:

- regulate and manage flood control,
- manage parks and recreation programs, and
- provide water and wastewater service.

The County and City of San Diego (RWMG members) represent the largest land use agencies within the Region, and additional land use agencies are represented within the RAC. Coordination among land use agencies within the Region is also established through the collective operation of stormwater compliance and non-point runoff programs by the NPDES stormwater copermittees (the County, the Region's 18 municipalities, the Unified Port District, and San Diego County Regional Airport Authority). The proposed IRWM institutional structure will build on this cooperation, and will require close coordination and cooperation among the Region's governmental and non-governmental water management agencies with land use agencies.

SANDAG. SANDAG has been an active participant in the RAC. In implementing the IRWM Plan, continued coordination between the IRWM institutional structure and SANDAG will be required to:

- insure that IRWM planning is based on up-to-date regional population, demographic, land use, and economic trends within the Region,
- monitor changes and needs of the Region's economically disadvantaged communities,

- coordinate regional water management and infrastructure with regional land use planning needs and trends, and
- implement an IRWM data management system that is compatible with data management systems used by regional land planners.

Section O References

California Department of Water Resources. *California Water Plan Update 2005*. 2005.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines*. 2004.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board. *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines, Proposal Solicitation Packages, Round 2*. June 2007.

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