



## Chapter 8 Plan Implementation

### 8.1 Introduction

The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan 2013 (IRWM Plan 2013) updates the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan 2007 and is the main IRWM planning document for the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region (Region). Chapter 8 discusses how the Region will implement the Plan using its governance structure (discussed in Chapter 2) and regional approaches to water management (described in Chapter 5). This chapter also will discuss how projects described in Chapter 6 will be used to address regional objectives that are described in Chapter 4. Finally, this chapter will describe a schedule for IRWM Plan 2013 implementation, as well as how progress will be documented.

Specifically this chapter discusses:

- The framework that will be used to implement IRWM Plan 2013;
- Implementation of IRWM Plan 2013 performance and monitoring that will be used to measure success;
- Collection and technical analysis of data used to measure IRWM Plan 2013 success;
- Flexible implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013 to address changing circumstances (adaptive management);
- Management of data relevant to the IRWM Plan 2013;
- Financing options for long term implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013;
- Coordination among water related planning and regulatory programs, and
- Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This Plan implementation chapter addresses DWR's guidance in implementing the IRWM Plan 2013 and explicitly meeting the Plan Performance and Monitoring Standard (see Sections 8.2 and 8.3), the Data Management Standard (see Section 8.4), the Finance Standard (see Section 8.5), the Technical Analyses Standard (see Section 8.6), the Relationship to Local Water Planning and Local Land Use Standards (see sections 8.7 and 8.8), and the Coordination Standard (see Section 8.9).

### 8.2 Framework for Evaluating and Monitoring Plan Implementation

This subchapter discusses the framework for evaluating and monitoring implementation of the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan 2013. The Cooperating Partners intend the IRWM Plan 2013 to be implemented over a 25 year period (to specifically 2038). The Steering Committee (Cooperating Partners) will be responsible for evaluating and monitoring the implementation the IRWM Plan 2013 and the progress towards meeting objectives and advancing projects listed in Chapter 4.

Implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013 initially will focus on addressing objectives and implementing priority projects. This focus will gain the maximum benefit from the Plan update while assuring consistency and coordination between the IRWM Plan 2013 and content of other relevant local plans. The Steering Committee, with the leadership of the Lead Agency, will continue regular meetings to guide implementation and address issues such as ongoing stakeholder support for the IRWM Program, outside funding opportunities, new project information from the IRWM data management system (IRWM DMS), interagency coordination, monitoring and reporting, and plan updates (including the Biennial Review and development of integrated regional projects).

The Cooperating Partners success in meeting objectives and implementing projects will be evaluated and summarized by the Steering Committee during the biennial review.

### **8.2.1 Implementation of Regional Objectives**

Actions to implement the IRWM Plan 2013 are focused on addressing the Region's objectives. They are based on an updated analysis of regional issues supply and demand and planning targets performed by the Cooperating Partners. The regional objectives include:

- Protect conserve, and augment water supplies;
- Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies;
- Practice balanced natural resource stewardship;
- Protect and improve water quality;
- Improve flood management;
- Improve emergency preparedness;
- Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability;
- Address climate change through adaptation and mitigation, and
- Ensure equitable distribution of benefits.

These objectives are based on and are consistent with a large number of planning and reporting documents developed by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), County agencies, various cities and water districts. The planning documents include:

- Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (2011)
- Annual Flood Control Maintenance Plan
- 2010 Urban Water Management Plans
- Watershed plans for streams on the south coast
- Water supply plans and water supply management plans
- Reports prepared pursuant to court order

These regional objectives address the issues and conflicts identified in Section 4.2.2. The objectives will be addressed through implementation of these plans and the projects discussed in Chapter 6. The responsibility for implementing the individual plans listed above rests with the agency required by law to develop and implement the plan. Each plan has specific requirements to report implementation and progress as summarized in Table 8.2.1. The Steering Committee will compile and evaluate these reports as discussed in Section 8.4.

Progress in addressing objectives will be measured against the planning targets summarized in Table 4.3. The processes for identifying projects as well as the projects themselves are discussed in Chapter 6; these projects address both short term and long term priorities. The steering committee anticipates that as projects are implemented that successfully address short term priorities, other projects will be developed and implemented to further address Regional objectives. Regular evaluation of regional objectives will occur during the Plan review process discussed in Section 8.3.8.

### **8.2.2 Relationship of IRWM Plan 2013 to Existing Water Related Planning**

The plans and other documents used to develop this IRWM Plan 2013 are noted in the text of various chapters or included in appendices. During development, the Cooperating Partners agencies responsible for water related and climate change adaptation plans were asked to review relevant sections of IRWM Plan 2013 for consistency with their existing plans and policies. On the basis of their review, any recommended changes were incorporated into IRWM Plan 2013. Since all of the agencies responsible for these plans are Cooperating Partners and were

involved in development of this update, the IRWM Plan 2013 update is assumed to be consistent with local water related plans and policies.

Table 8.1 provides a summary of existing water-related policy tools and their criteria. The IRWM process will monitor the ongoing implementation of these policy tools as part of the evaluation of IRWM Plan 2013 performance and to assure that objectives are being met.

**Table 8.1: Management Tools and Criteria Employed within the Santa Barbara Region.**

Policy Tools	Agencies	Adequacy of Supply	Protection of Water Quality	Emergency Preparedness	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>General Plans</b>	Cities and the County	Evaluation of projected demand	Evaluation of projected impacts	Adequacy of public safety	Adaptation to sea-level rise, including impacts to WWTP infrastructure and pipelines, evaluation of flood infrastructure
<b>UWMPs</b>	Larger suppliers	Match projected demand with future supplies		Drought response	Adequacy of supply during severe drought, Demonstrate adequacy of local supply with reduction in imported availability
<b>Groundwater Management Plans</b>	Lompoc Basin (within city boundaries), Carpinteria Valley WD, Buellton GW Basin	Do not exceed perennial yield	Protect source area water quality	Adequacy of supplies during drought	Response of groundwater basins to severe drought and sea water intrusion
<b>Watershed Management Plans</b>	South Coast Area	Protect sources of recharge	Protect source area water quality		Establish baseline conditions for quality, habitat and flows
<b>Adjudication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa Maria Basin</li> <li>• Goleta and Goleta West</li> </ul>	Protect perennial yield	Protect water quality		
<b>Drought Response Plans</b>	Large and medium sized suppliers	Provide for adequacy of supply during multi-year drought		Provide for adequacy of supply during multi-year drought	Adequacy of supply during severe drought

Policy Tools	Agencies	Adequacy of Supply	Protection of Water Quality	Emergency Preparedness	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>Landscape Ordinances</b>	Cities and County	Establish water conservation and xeriscape standards	Establish programs for capture of urban runoff and LID		
<b>SWMP</b>	Cities and County	Low Impact Development, stormwater capture, conservation, education	Provide for low Impact Development	Include flood management to provide public safety	

This and any new information generated during implementation or updating of these plans will be reviewed as part of the biennial review and as appropriate, incorporated into the IRWM Data Management System discussion in Section 8.4. This information will contribute to measuring how the IRWM Plan 2013 is meeting its objectives and to the “lessons learned” element of adaptive management discussed in Section 8.3.8.

### 8.2.3 Implementation Issues

Projects in the IRWM Plan 2013 have been vetted and prioritized through the process identified in Chapter 6. A number of issues may affect implementation of priority projects. Top tier projects can be found in Appendix 5-C. Issues relating to implementation may include technical feasibility (will the project accomplish its goals), economic feasibility (can the proponents afford to pay for the project), and political acceptability (will the voters, their representatives, and outside funding agencies support the project). In more specific terms, these factors include:

- Ability to achieve multiple objectives and provide multiple benefits;
- Status and availability of outside sources of funding;
- Status of design;
- Availability of matching funds to support grant applications;
- Benefits to DACs or Tribal community;
- Degree of integration between/among multiple organizations;
- Adaptation to potential effects of climate change;
- Level of GHG emissions or reduction of GHG emissions;
- Benefit-cost analysis, and
- Sub-regional support.

These and other issues were evaluated by the Steering Committee through the project vetting process discussed in Section 6. One purpose of this process was to identify projects with few challenges for implementation. In particular, each project has undergone sufficient design development and environmental review so that technical and permitting issues are understood and the project is feasible. In some cases, project funding is an issue and the lead agency will need support from grants or other supplemental sources to move forward. Finally, the nature of benefits and level of sub-regional support were key factors, but are less likely to directly affect the feasibility of implementation.

## 8.2.4 Possible Obstacles to Implementation

Implementation of IRWM Plan 2013 is a broader issue than implementation of individual projects. Public agencies focus on the purpose for which they were formed and legal mandates that apply to their functioning. Participation in the IRWM process is not mandated by law. Therefore agencies involved in the IRWM process must justify allocation of resources to the IRWM process to their ratepayers and other sources of funding. During development of the IRWM Plan 2013 and consideration of implementation issues (including funding), a number of obstacles to long term implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013 have been identified by the Steering Committee. The obstacles identified include:

- Lack of a single agency with direct statutory responsibility for the IRWM Program;
- Lack of readily available funding source(s);
- Challenge of maintaining a high level of public interest and involvement;
- Lack of permanent funding for projects at the State and federal level; and
- Nature of shared water planning issues with adjacent regions.

The sources of these obstacles are outlined in Table 8.2. Challenges to governance and the Region's stakeholder process are discussed in more detail in Chapter 2. The physical and hydrologic factors underlying the obstacles are discussed in Chapter 3 (Regional Description).

**Table 8.2: Obstacles to IRWM Plan Implementation**

Obstacle	Source of Obstacle	Approach
Lack of a single agency with direct statutory responsibility for the IRWM Program	Prop 50 and 84 and enabling legislation do not mandate a specific lead agency responsible for IRWM implementation	Steering Committee to identify agency willing and able to assume IRWM lead
Lack of readily available funding source(s)	Prop 50 and 84 establish competitive grants to fund relatively short term activities, no long term funding is provided.	Cooperating Partners to evaluate funding options (See Chapter 8.5)
Challenge of maintaining a high level of public interest and involvement	The IRWM process is long term and deliberative and seeks progress through consensus and is therefore not attractive to high visibility media or public interest.	Steering Committee to develop strategy to include individual decision-making body briefings and participation in public events
Lack of permanent funding for projects at the State or federal level	Prop 50 and 84 establish competitive grants to fund projects with defined financial resources. Federal funding depends on congressional action varies annually in amount and intent.	Cooperating Partners to evaluate funding options (See Chapter 8.5)
Localized nature of in-County water resources and flood issues	Santa Barbara County has geographically distinct sub-regions that each have unique and separate water resources and flood control issues	Regional agencies (CWA, RCD, FCD) to promote region-wide discussions and activities (such as advisory panels)
Nature of shared water planning issues with adjacent regions	The Region shares limited water resources issues with two of the three adjacent Regions. The Santa Maria Groundwater Basin is shared with the San Luis Obispo Region and is managed under court order.	Region-wide agencies to explore areas of similar concerns (climate change) as opportunities for shared efforts

The Steering Committee has devised and implemented strategies to address these issues as discussed in Chapter 2 (Governance and Stakeholder Involvement) and 8 (Financing).

### 8.3 Plan Performance and Monitoring

The DWR Performance and Monitoring Standard states that IRWM Plans “shall include performance measures and monitoring to document progress toward meeting plan objectives.” The intent of this standard is to ensure the following: that the RWMG (the Cooperating Partners) is efficiently making progress towards meeting Plan objectives and targets; that the RWMG is implementing projects listed in the Plan; and that each project in the Plan is monitored to comply with all applicable rules, laws, and permit requirements. In order to assure progress, the Steering Committee will guide implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013. Performance and monitoring will be addressed in the periodic Biennial Reviews and IRWM funded projects will report on performance in quarterly progress reports and the project final report presented to DWR.

As discussed in Section 8.2, the IRWM Plan 2013 will rely on a number of federal, State and local ongoing programs for its implementation. For example, local agencies will address the IRWM Plan 2013 objective *protect and improve water quality* through the federally mandated TMDL program and the State requirement for Salt and Nutrient Plans.

Existing reports and studies listed in Table 8.3 will be stored in the IRWM information site and used as a foundation for developing a monitoring program. New information from update plans as well as programs that monitor water resources directly (such as groundwater monitoring and stream gaging programs) will be gathered and incorporated into the IRWM DMS discussed in Section 8.5.2. The monitoring information will be used by the Steering Committee in its Biennial Review as discussed below.

**Table 8.3: Partial Listing of Foundational Plans and other Documents.**

<b>Planning and Other Documents</b>
<b>Regional</b>
Santa Barbara County Water Supply and Demand Current Uses and Future Estimates (2013)
Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (2011)
Cachuma Resources Conservation District Final Mitigated Negative Declaration SCH#2008101027 (2008)
Santa Maria Valley Management Area 2011 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition
Santa Barbara County 2011 Groundwater Report (2012)
<b>Watershed</b>
Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan (2005)
Rincon Creek Watershed Plan (2007)
San Jose Creek Watershed Plan (2003)
<b>City/District 2010 UWMP</b>
Carpinteria Valley Water District
Central Coast Water Authority
City of Lompoc
City of Santa Barbara
City of Santa Maria
Goleta Water District
Montecito Water District
<b>Groundwater Management Plans</b>
Groundwater Management Plan Buellton Groundwater Basin (1995)
Groundwater Management Plan Goleta Groundwater Basin (2010)
Groundwater Management Plan Carpinteria Groundwater Basin (2008)
Groundwater Management Plan Lompoc Groundwater Basin (2013)
<b>Stormwater Management Plans</b>
Santa Barbara County
City of Buellton
City of Carpinteria
City of Goleta

<b>Planning and Other Documents</b>
City of Lompoc
City of Santa Barbara
City of Santa Maria
City of Solvang
<b>Other Water Related Plans</b>
Santa Maria Valley Watershed Characterization for Hydromodification Management Within the City of Santa Maria (2010)
Twitchell Operations Manual and Capital Improvement Program
City of Santa Barbara Water Supply Planning Study (2009)
City of Santa Barbara Long-Term Water Supply Plan (2011)
Goleta Water District Water Supply Management Plan (2011)
Santa Barbara County Sanitary Survey, Questa Engineers (2003)
Tertiary Upgrade Report, Heal the Ocean, Metcalf & Eddy, (2001)
Ocean Outfall Survey, Heal the Ocean

### **8.3.1 Group within the RWMG Responsible for IRMW Implementation Evaluation**

Currently the Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency) is the lead agency for implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013 on behalf of the Steering Committee. Since 2006, the Water Agency has chaired Steering Committee meetings, hired contractors to develop the IRWM Plan 2013, and managed IRWM implementation and planning grant contracts with DWR. Although discussion has occurred regarding the Water Agency’s continuing role, any change in future role and responsibility would require concurrence and support of the Steering Committee. Under the direction of the Steering Committee, the Water Agency, or another agreed-upon Cooperating Partner member, will be responsible for developing evaluations and reports tracking IRWM implementation grant projects and Cooperating Partners success at meeting objectives.

The County Water Agency, or other agreed-upon Cooperating Partners member, will rely on individual agencies that are responsible for specific programs or actions to provide information used to evaluate implementation. Information may be obtained from:

- Specific projects reported by lead agency responsible for implementing the project
- Monitoring by regional agencies (water quality, delivery of water to Region, ground- surface water monitoring) reported by agencies implementing these programs
- Specific plans and monitoring (UWMPs, SWMPs, WDRs etc) reported by lead agency responsible for developing each plan.

### **8.3.2 Frequency of Evaluating the RWMG Performance at Project Implementation and Measuring Progress**

The Steering Committee will continue to employ the Biennial Review process established in the 2007 IRWMP. This process will be used to evaluate the overall implementation of the overall plan and implementation of related projects. Information regarding water related projects in the Region will comprise the basis for this evaluation. Projects funded by propositions 50, 1E, and 84 will comply with regular reporting consistent with agreements with the SWRCB and DWR. Other grant funded projects will be reported quarterly or biannually, while individual agency projects (self-funded) will report on a schedule dictated by policy of each agency Board, typically annually.

### **8.3.3 Improving Implementation of Future Projects**

Implementation of the IRWM process and the development of related projects are both iterative processes. The Steering Committee is committed to improve the implementation of future projects through Monitoring and Data Management (discussed in Section 8.4) and adaptive management discussed in Section 8.3.8. Given their experience with IRWM Planning and project implementation, the Water Agency and the Steering Committee view the IRWM DMS as a potentially important tool in providing timely and comprehensive feedback. The Steering Committee will consider applying for Proposition 84 Round 3 Implementation grant funding to augment IRWM DMS data gathering capacity, including the capacity to track future projects. Upgrading the DMS system (discussed below) would allow more efficient and effective monitoring and would expedite the Biennial Review process. In particular, both are means to more effectively manage water resources and mitigate project impacts.

### **8.3.4 Development of Project-Specific Monitoring Plans and Activities**

Currently development of project specific monitoring is the responsibility of project's lead agency, and is reported to the respective agency Board of Directors. If the project is funded through the IRWM process, reporting to the Water Agency and DWR is required and the IRWM Steering Committee receives regular updates. Other grant- funded projects are reported to the granting agency pursuant to terms of the funding agreement. Information on project specific monitoring plans will be compiled and evaluated as part of the Biennial Review process.

The regional IRWM DMS does not currently have the capacity to take in or report out on project performance. The Region will consider including a planning project in the Prop 84 Round 3 Implementation grant application to further develop the OPTI DMS so as to allow tracking of all projects in the Region along as well as monitoring of the metrics outlined in Chapter 4. Because these metrics may be derived from monitoring programs implemented by a number of agencies, expansion of the capability of the IRWM DMS will streamline the process.

### **8.3.5 Focus of Project-Specific Monitoring**

A typical project is monitored throughout its development to assure and document successful implementation. Monitoring may include procedures to identify and correct problems or unanticipated conditions encountered during development and implementation of the project. Typically monitoring of some form occurs in each stage of project development. For example, a Preliminary Monitoring Plan may be developed during environmental (CEQA) review or as a basis for a grant request, whichever event occurs first. A formal monitoring plan is often developed based on final permits and prior to constructions startup to assure protection of environmental resources and compliance with plan and specifications. As a project is developed, monitoring of progress will evolve as show in Table 8.4

**Table 8.4: Typical Project Specific Monitoring Plan**

Stage of Project	Aspect of Project	Example Issues	Agency Developing Plan	Monitoring/Reporting Entity
Planning	Identification of need Conceptual design	Feasibility Cost	Lead Agency or Consultant	Lead Agency
Design	Development and permitting	Ground acceleration Soils	Lead Agency (or consultant)	Lead Agency
Environmental Review	CEQA compliance, permitting	Sensitive habitat Cultural resources	Lead Agency (or consultant)	Lead Agency
Plans and Specifications	Preparation of final design and bid documents	Cost Schedule	Lead Agency (or consultant)	Lead Agency
Construction	Site preparation	Archaeological sites Soils compaction	Lead Agency/	Site engineer/ environmental compliance officer
Construction	Facility construction	Materials specifications Facility layout	Lead Agency	Construction engineer
Operation	Facility commissioning	Operational monitoring Water Quality Air emissions	Lead Agency	Construction engineer
Post Construction	Completion of construction and startup	Engineering (as built drawings) Impact assessment (environmental mitigation report)	Lead Agency	Lead Agency

Prior to implementation, the formal monitoring protocol and schedule is developed and incorporated into a written plan for the project. This monitoring plan will be the responsibility of the lead agency but may be executed by a consultant with particular expertise. The monitoring plan will include a number of protocols including:

- Observational methodology
- Location and frequency

- Reporting and data management
- Evaluation and dissemination of the data

Monitoring summaries and reports may be stored in the IRWM DMS. As the IRWM DMS expands its capability, the data may be compiled and stored directly.

### 8.3.6 Periodic Update Process

Per the IRWM Program Guidelines, all IRWM plans need to include adaptive management processes for updating plans in response to changing conditions. The Cooperating Partners will continue the Biennial Review process implemented through the 2007 IRWM Plan as described below.

As part of an overall adaptive management strategy for the evaluation of projects and plan performance, the 2007 IRWM Plan established a process for the Cooperating Partners to conduct a biennial review of the IRWM Plan and evaluate Santa Barbara IRWM Plan's objectives, priorities, water management strategies, and project lists. The IRWM Plan also committed the Cooperating Partners to modifying the aforementioned elements as appropriate. Specifically, the 2007 IRWM Plan described the implementation of the adaptive management framework as follows:

*The IRWMP's overall adaptive management framework will be implemented in the following manner in accordance with the established governance practices described in Section 1:*

- 1. IRWMP managers will conduct a biennial review and produce a 5-year report summarizing progress made in achieving IRWMP goals, including the tracking of funded projects, modifications to projects, and development of new projects as a result of the plan. The results of the biennial review and the 5-year report will be posted on the IRWMP Web site (<http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/water/irwmp.htm>). The performance of implemented projects will be compared to original project objectives to ensure objectives were met.*
- 2. IRWMP objectives, priorities, and water management strategies will be evaluated during the biennial review and modified appropriately. The need to develop different projects to better meet the plan objectives and regional issues will be considered, as will the need to modify existing projects. Projects that may be deleted (for example, because their purpose has been met through another project or because conditions have changed) also will be considered at this time.*
- 3. Minor adjustments to planning assumptions, operations, or actions will be adopted as necessary. If significant changes to the approved IRWMP are found to be required in the biennial review or the 5-year IRWMP report, the plan will be revised and submitted for approval by Cooperating Partners as necessary.*

### 8.3.7 Review and Updates of the IRWM Plan

In conformance with the above, the Cooperating Partners undertook the biennial review process involving an extensive and exhaustive public process. A biennial review was conducted in 2010 and again in 2012. Over the course of several months, the Cooperating Partners and the Steering Committee met approximately once per month to:

- Identify, redefine and scope the Region's issues, conflicts and objectives in the categories of water demand, groundwater management, infrastructure, water supply, flood management, emergency preparedness, water quality and natural resource stewardship, climate change and equitable distribution of benefits;

- Utilize new data or information to update issues, objectives, and targets;
- Solicit and develop projects that align with the Region’s goals and objectives as identified and updated;
- Solicit and develop projects that align with DWR’s Program Preferences;
- Outline the objective and scientific processes employed in the selection of projects for inclusion into the Implementation Grant application;
- Determine criteria and sub-criteria for project selection process.
- Score, rank and select projects for inclusion in the Implementation grant application;
- Review the draft and final list of selected projects.

### **2010 Biennial Review**

As a result of the 2010 biennial review, the Region identified the following objectives:

- Increase water use efficiency including water reuse and water conservation measures to increase and extend existing water supplies;
- Improve operational efficiency, transfers, and supply reliability;
- Increase water supply in the least costly, most efficient, and most reliable manner;
- Improve management of groundwater basins through conjunctive use;
- Improve flood management to protect people, property, and ecosystems;
- Improve water quality;
- Improve quality of groundwater, stormwater runoff, agricultural water runoff, and treated water discharges to regional water bodies;
- Improve water management to protect and restore ecosystems and wildlife habitat.

Further, the 2009-2010 biennial review process included 78 new or updated projects in the IRWM Plan, seven of which were selected for inclusion in the implementation grant application based on their ranking with the established selection criteria and alignment with the Region ‘s objectives and DWR’s Prop 84 program preferences.

### **2012 Biennial Review**

As part of the IRWM Plan 2013, a biennial review took place in fall of 2012. The process established updated issues and conflicts, objectives, resource management strategies, and targets aligned with regional objectives. In addition, there was a strategic review of the existing project list and a new Call-for-Projects that resulted in an updated prioritized project list to be included in IRWM Plan 2013.

As such, the biennial review process has proved successful as an adaptive management approach for the Plan and projects and will be continued as the 2013 IRWM Plan is implemented. The next biennial review will have four elements.

1. In between biennial reviews, the Cooperating Partners will coordinate planning activities by requesting that new projects or new project information be entered into the data management system (OPTI) by regional stakeholders; the Cooperating Partners Steering Committee will meet periodically to update issues and objectives, review progress on reaching targets, and prioritize projects for a potential Prop 84 Implementation grant application.
2. IRWM managers will conduct a biennial review and produce a report summarizing progress made in achieving IRWM Plan 2013 goals, including the tracking of funded projects, modifications to projects, and development of new projects in the Region. The results of the Biennial Review will be posted on the

IRWM web site and the IRWM DMS. The performance of the Plan elements and implemented projects will be compared to original project objectives to ensure objectives are being met.

3. IRWM issues and conflicts, objectives, water management strategies, and targets will be evaluated during the Biennial Review and modified appropriately. New data and information will be access and used to update issues, objectives, and targets. The need to develop different projects to better meet objectives and address regional issues will be considered, as will the need to modify existing projects. Projects that may be deleted (for example, because their purpose has been met through another project or because conditions have changed) also will be considered at this time.
4. Minor adjustments to planning assumptions, operations, or actions may be adopted as appropriate by the Steering Committee in consultation with the Cooperating Partners. Adjustments may include such actions as:
  - Incorporation of new projects or project information;
  - New or clarification of strategies such as climate adaptation strategies;
  - Changes to the monitoring, data management and reporting program, and/or
  - Addition of a new cooperating partner agency (new cooperating Partner agency can be added at any time).

## 8.4 Data Management

The IRWM Plan 2013 has established a data management system (IRWM DMS) that collects, stores, and disseminated data to provide relevant regional information to IRWM participants, stakeholders, the public, and the State. A broad set of data has been collected that includes IRWM project information, reports and documents, urban water management plans, regional plans and studies, agency documents, and project documents including designs, feasibility studies, and reports.

The Santa Barbara County IRWM DMS stores data electronically in two primary locations. The IRWM Program site on the County of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division website (<http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp/irwmp.aspx?id=39044>) provides a forum for the sharing of reports, public meeting dates, agendas, meeting minutes, and annual reports. The other data storage location is the Santa Barbara County IRWM GIS-enabled project website named OPTI (Online Project Tracking and Integration) (<http://irwm.rmcwater.com/sb/login.php>).

### 8.4.1 Data Needs

The data needs within the Santa Barbara County IRWM region typically include those dealing with water resource management, land use management, climate change, and other topics related to water management planning and projects.

Prior to beginning work on the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan 2013, data available on the County of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division website was limited to the 2007 IRWM Plan, Prop 50 and Prop 84 information, archived meeting information, and a link to the OPTI database. For the IRWM Plan 2013, the County of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division IRWM Program website “Archive” tab was expanded to include two drop-down menus, one with meeting information and the other with regional documents. Much of the data gathered has been used as a resource for or referenced in the IRWM Plan 2013.

### 8.4.2 Existing Data and Documents

A partial listing of the types of regional documents available on the County of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division website includes the following:

- Santa Barbara Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, May 2007, <http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp/irwmp.aspx?id=39044>;
- Cooperating Partner documents such as the MOU and Biennial Review;
- Proposition 50 documents;
- Proposition 84 documents such as DWR Guidelines, presentations, solicitation packages, comment letters, tri-county correspondences, and OPTI database information;
- Planning documents such as the Santa Barbara County Water Supply and Demand Current Uses and Future Estimates (2013), Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Assessment, April 18, 2013 (see Chapter 1), agency/city 2010 UWMPs, groundwater reports, water quality plans, watershed plans, and environmental compliance documents;
- Climate change documents, and
- Recycled water documents including the regional South Coast Recycled Water Development Plan, Santa Barbara IRWM Plan 2013, May 2013, Metcalf & Eddy’s “Cost of Tertiary Wastewater Treatment for Southern Santa Barbara County”, and local agency planning documents.

### **8.4.3 Data Collection Techniques**

The following section details data collection techniques. Specifically, the following subtopics are addressed: the criteria and approach for developing the database, the attributes of the database, the future needs and maintenance of the database, and the approach to resolving data management issues.

#### **Criteria and Approach for Development of the Web-based Project Database**

The web-based GIS-enabled IRWM project database system was developed to collect, store, and disseminate project data to monitor progress towards addressing Santa Barbara IRWM Plan 2013 regional objectives and targets.

The Cooperating Partners contracted with a consulting firm to research the different approaches to developing the IRWM DMS. In addition, the Cooperating Partners established a Data Management Workgroup to evaluate data management needs and oversee the selection of the IRWM DMS. The Data Management Workgroup was comprised of Cooperating Partner representatives. Workgroup meetings were held to test the SB IRWM OPTI DMS and provide instructions to stakeholders on how to use the DMS and enter project information.

The OPTI DMS was selected by the Data Management. The OPTI database was designed to streamline the SB IRWM regions ability to inventory, review, and integrate projects. With OPTI, stakeholders have the opportunity to collaborate on projects and develop potential interregional projects. OPTI acts as a community forum for stakeholders to input and share information about projects, events, and other IRWM regional announcements. The OPTI interface allows for a streamlined project selection process improving the project review, prioritization, and selection process.

#### **Criteria for Development of Project Database**

The criteria used to develop the SB IRWMP OPTI database include:

- A geo-referencing feature for stakeholders to visually see the regional distribution and types of projects within the SB IRWM Region
- Ability to view projects based on objectives, project status, or proponent
- Access project type and location information to facilitate collaboration, integration, and identification of multiple benefits
- Ability for data to be peer-reviewed for reasonableness and accuracy in a transparent fashion and be available in one place for review by all cooperating partners
- Database that allows for version control and consistent understanding of current project or project list status by all stakeholders

- Dynamic interface that can be modified to meet SB IRWM Region data management needs
- Ability to store all comments and edits made by stakeholders on projects
- Ability to track projects of interest
- Web-based database to allow easy access by all stakeholders
- Ease of use by participating agencies and stakeholders

### Attributes of Project Database

The IRWM OPTI project database was developed in a modular fashion allowing for an expandable database and interface. The attributes of the database are multifold and include the following modules.

### User Manager

The User Manager module allows public users to register for an account on the system, edit their profile information, and sign up to receive email announcements for their selected categories. Customized access permissions allow the system administrator to manage user accounts as well as manage user permissions for uploading and editing project information. Additionally, project proponents will have access to sharing tools that allow editorial access to project data by a select group of users.

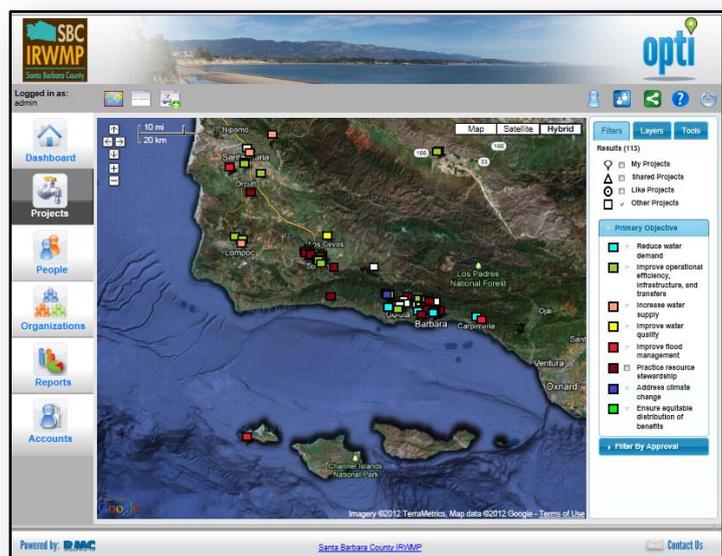
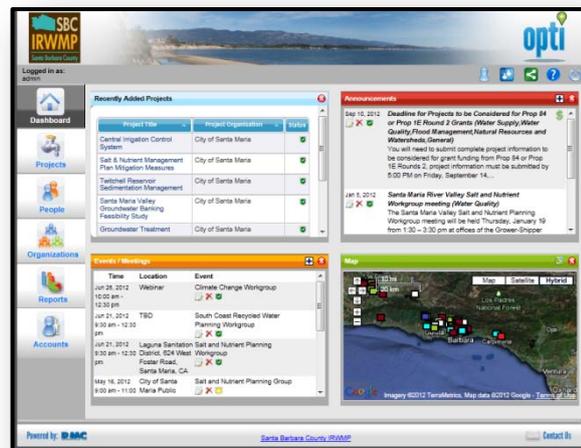
### Home Page

The Home Page, also referred to as the Dashboard, is a dynamic user-customizable home page containing announcements for funding opportunities, events, new projects, calendars, and other useful information to keep the participants informed about the activities within the IRWM community. The Home Page contains easy-to-use tools that allow public users the ability to submit announcements for each of the categories. An administrative interface provides tools for the system administrator to approve announcements submitted by the public or create new announcements to post to the Dashboard.

### Map View and List View

From either the Map View or List View, project proponents may enter and submit project information and upload documents and pictures using a web-based form. Submitted projects will be accepted by the system administrator prior to making the project available to other public users on the DMS.

To add projects, project proponents can select the project location on the map, enter the project address, upload an area map of the project area, or draw the project area on the map interface. Geo-referencing projects allow stakeholders to visually see



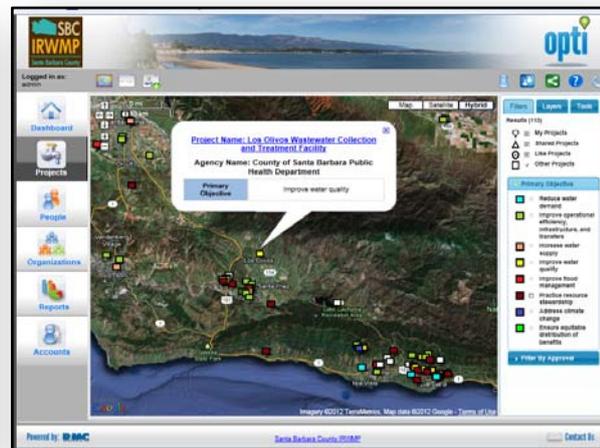
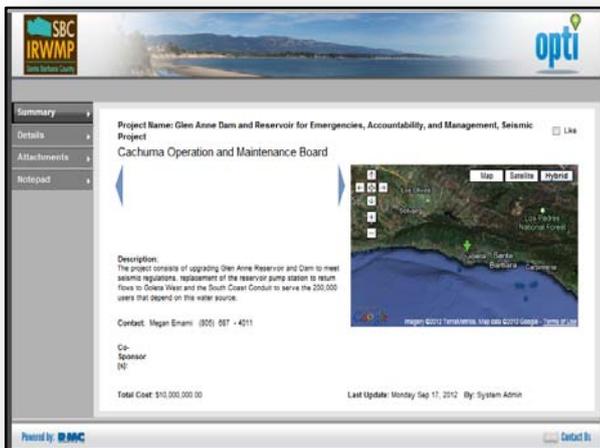
the regional distribution and types of projects within the whole Region or within their local area. The Map View and List View can display projects in both tabular and map views with simple search and sorting tools that provide users the ability to quickly locate project information. In the Map View, a project summary can be accessed by clicking on the project location on the map.

**Project Tracker**

The Project Tracker allows users to track the status of their projects, all of the accepted projects, and the projects that they are tracking. This module allows users to upload documents, track project status, enter and update goals and objectives, and track communications and input throughout the implementation of the project. Project data can be peer-reviewed for reasonableness and accuracy in a transparent fashion and be available in one place for review by all Cooperating Partners (RWMG).

**Explorer/Query Tools**

The comprehensive query module allows users to employ standard search tools, perform keyword searches, and perform custom queries from all project data within the database to create desired report outputs with applicable roll-up and summary information. Map explorer tools provide project groupings to be viewed based on varying characteristics such as objective, project status, or proponent and will facilitate collaboration, integration, and identification of multiple benefits.



#### **8.4.4 Future Needs and Maintenance of the DMS**

The OPTI database is currently maintained by the consulting company RMC Water and Environment and its information technology (IT) consultant team which designed the system for the Region. The OPTI database was developed to require very little maintenance and updates are completed only when requested by the Cooperating Partners.

The Water Agency has committed to providing funding to maintain the OPTI project database beyond 2013. OPTI is a dynamic interface that has the capability of expanding into a project tracking system. In the future, OPTI could be modified to track SB IRWMP project progress, if funding is available and with the approval of the Cooperating Partners. Project proponents will be responsible for updating project information on OPTI. Projects may be entered on a continual year-round basis into OPTI.

#### **8.4.5 Resolving Data Management Issues**

The OPTI consultant, with oversight from the lead agency, is responsible for resolving data management issues. Very minimal technical maintenance needs to be performed on OPTI, as it was designed for minimal maintenance requirements. The IRWM Program website is currently maintained by Santa Barbara County Public Works that is responsible for resolving data management issues

#### **8.4.6 How Stakeholders Contribute Data to the DMS**

The OPTI database is open to anyone interested in joining the Santa Barbara County IRWM Planning Community. Anyone interested in joining OPTI must sign-up and create a username and password. All participants who sign-up on OPTI will become OPTI public stakeholders. Public stakeholders can view projects and IRWM plan information, however for participants who wish to input or share project data on OPTI, they must request to become a Community Member. Community Members have the ability to submit projects, share projects with other community members, and post announcements and events. There are no restrictions on who can become a community member. Technical issues and questions regarding OPTI can be submitted via the comment form located on the SB IRWMP OPTI site.

Once project data is submitted into OPTI the project administrator at RMC Water and Environment reviews the project information. All projects must be water related to be approved by the project administrator. Once projects are approved, all SB IRWMP OPTI members will have the opportunity to view project data.

Use of the OPTI database was facilitated by two training sessions conducted using a web conferencing system in 2012. Both training sessions were publicized to all stakeholders in the Region. A consultant conducted several individual training sessions with assistance available upon request. Santa Barbara County also assisted several disadvantaged communities with project data entry into the OPTI database. The training and one-on-one assistance assured that all interested stakeholders could submit and have access to database information.

Stakeholders may contribute data to the IRWM Program website sponsored by the County of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division (<http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp/irwmp.aspx?id=39044>) by contacting the Santa Barbara County Water Agency Manager listed on the “Contact Us” tab on the website. The website provides a forum for the sharing of reports, public meeting dates, agendas, meeting minutes, and annual reports.

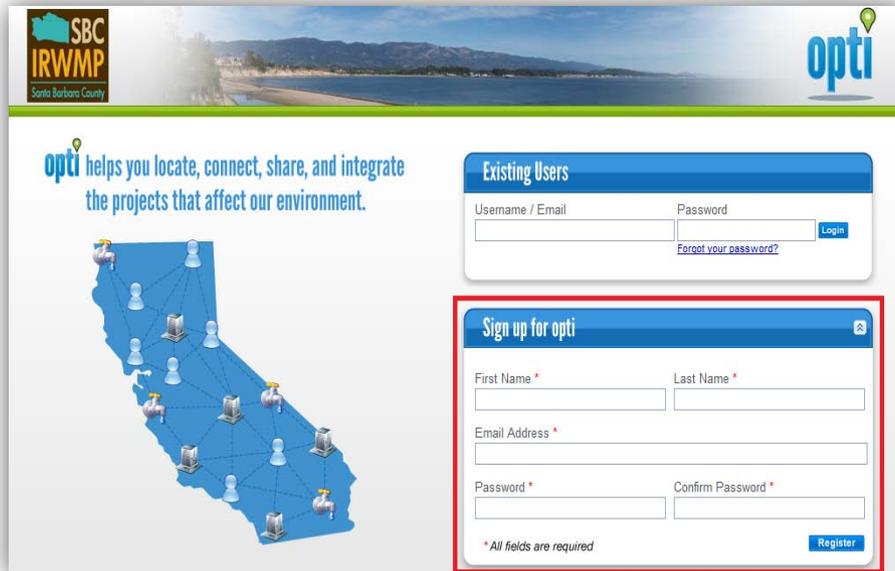
#### **8.4.7 Procedure for Accessing DMS**

There are two ways SB IRWM stakeholders and other participants can access OPTI, via a direct link to the sign in page or via the existing Santa Barbara County Water Agency IRWM Plan website. The direct link to register and/or log-in to the SB IRWM OPTI site is: <http://irwm.rmewater.com/sb/login.php>.

The Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan website (<http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp/default.aspx>) was updated in June 2012 and provides a link to the OPTI sign in page. The Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan website will continue to serve as a forum for sharing reports, public meeting dates, agendas, meeting minutes, and annual reports.

Once on the site, under the “Sign up for OPTI” window, stakeholders will be required to enter their full names, email address, and create a password to access OPTI (see Figure 1).

**Figure 8.1: Santa Barbara IRWM Plan 2013 OPTI Sign-in Page**



#### **8.4.8 Stakeholder Communication**

Stakeholder communication is accomplished in two ways, one via announcements/events/meeting information posted on the OPTI dashboard site and in email blasts sent out to the Cooperating Partners and Stakeholder groups. The IRWM Plan 2013 public stakeholder meetings, Cooperating Partner meetings, and workgroup meetings serve as the venues for information sharing along with regular and frequent communications with these groups regarding sections of the Plan, funding opportunities available through DWR and other funding agencies as well as email updates on event and complementary educational opportunities and forums. Communications were augmented by training sessions on the OPTI as referenced above in section 2. Other settings where information will be shared include project progress meetings, public workshops, email subscription lists, and e-newsletters. All these forums will serve to continue facilitating the ongoing data and information sharing between stakeholders.

#### **8.4.9 DMS Data Gathering**

Community members on OPTI can input project data under the Add Project feature. To have a project considered for inclusion in the IRWM Plan 2013 the following data/information needs to be submitted into OPTI:

- General information (contact information for project sponsor)
- Project location
- Project description
- Project funding
- Regional objectives met by the project
- Project benefits
- Project qualifications:
  - Project Status

- Matching funds
- Reduction in water demand
- Increase water supplies for beneficial use
- Improve water supply reliability
- Water quality
- Resource stewardship
- Improve flood management
- Benefits to DACs or Tribal communities
- Integration between multiple organizations
- Address climate change through adaptation and mitigation
- Beneficial impacts to other regions

Various data/information fields have been denoted as requirements before submitting project information into OPTI to ensure project proponents provide the necessary required data for those interested in pursuing grant funding. Once project data is entered, submitted, and approved by the project administrator all OPTI public stakeholders and community members can view project information.

#### **8.4.10 DMS Reporting**

The OPTI database was developed with a reporting tool to generate reports on individual and/or multiple projects and associated project information.

#### **8.4.11 Maintaining the DMS**

The OPTI database is managed by the Cooperating Partners with the Water Agency acting as the lead agency. The lead agency is responsible for maintaining the DMS. The Water Agency contracts with a consulting firm for the day-to-day operations of the OPTI database. The consulting firm is responsible for programming and maintaining the website, accepting new Community Members, managing data, resolving technical issues, and assisting and interfacing with users.

Cooperating Partners will periodically review the DMS maintenance policy including the costs, upkeep, and appropriate use of the DMS.

#### **8.4.12 Quality Assurance and Control Measures to Validate Data Entered into the DMS**

The IRWM DMS collects, stores, and disseminates data to provide relevant regional information to IRWM participants, stakeholders, the public, and the State. A broad set of data has been collected that includes IRWM project information, reports and documents, urban water management plans, regional plans and studies, agency documents, and project documents including designs, feasibility studies, and reports.

The Santa Barbara County IRWM DMS stores data electronically in two primary locations. The IRWM Program site on the County of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division website (<http://www.countyofsb.org/irwmp/irwmp.aspx?id=39044>) provides a forum for the sharing of reports, public meeting dates, agendas, meeting minutes, and annual reports. The quality of this data is controlled by checking the source of the information. As most documents are from State, regional or local agencies or organizations, the source assures a level of accuracy.

For the OPTI system, there are two sources of data. One source is the Water Agency staff or its representatives who input meeting and announcements information and occasionally project information. The OPTI system accurately records information as entered by the Project Proponents who are able to regularly review project information and print out project details to assure accuracy.

Most of the OPTI project information is entered by project proponents and it is not possible to validate all that information as there are over 125 projects with over 20 information fields. However, the Cooperating Partners, through the Objectives, Targets, and Projects Workgroup (Projects Workgroup), do review the top ranked projects for accuracy. The query module in OPTI facilitates the review as it allows users to employ standard search tools, perform keyword searches, and perform custom queries from all project data within the database to create desired report outputs with applicable roll-up and summary information. The top projects are ranked based on criteria established by the Projects Workgroup and approved by the Cooperating Partners Steering Committee. The Projects Workgroup members are assigned several projects to peer review for accuracy. Comments and questions from that peer review are recorded and later an in-person meetings takes place where the Projects Workgroup member and the project sponsor have an opportunity to review the project, ask and answer questions, and confirm, to the best of their ability, the project information entered into the OPTI system. The consultant makes any changes to the project information per the conclusions of the Project Workgroup.

If the region is interested in applying for IRWM grants, top tier projects undergo further review for quality control. Consultants preparing the grant and project proponents conduct research to verify project information.

#### **8.4.13 Process for Data Sharing with Stakeholders in the Region**

The OPTI system was developed to help participating agencies and stakeholders locate, connect, share, and integrate IRWM Plan 2013 projects and project data within the Santa Barbara IRWM community, other regions, and all governmental agencies. The OPTI database is open to anyone interested in joining the Santa Barbara County IRWM Planning Community and data sharing is easy. All participants who sign-up on OPTI have become public stakeholders. Public stakeholders can view project and IRWM plan information on OPTI. The OPTI sharing feature was designed to facilitate regional and interregional project coordination and development.

#### **8.4.14 Process for Sharing Data with State and Federal Agencies**

OPTI employs a comprehensive query module that allows State and federal agency users to employ standard search tools, perform keyword searches, and perform custom queries from all project data within the database to create desired report outputs with applicable roll-up and summary information. Map explorer tools provide project groupings to be viewed based on varying characteristics such as objective, project status, or proponent and will facilitate collaboration, integration, and identification of multiple benefits.

The database has an easy-to-use map feature that uses GIS to pinpoint the project location. Geo-referencing projects will allow the State and all stakeholders to visually see the regional distribution and types of projects within the whole Region or within their local area. The State also can create a display of projects in both tabular and map views with simple search and sorting tools to quickly locate project information. Project summary or detail information can be accessed by clicking on the project area or location on the map or via the project list interface.

#### **8.4.15 Compatibility with and Distribution to State Databases**

The data saved in OPTI is not measurement or monitoring data as is found in the State databases that include SWAMP, Water Data Library, Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) program, California Environmental Information Catalog (CEIC), and the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES). Because OPTI data is not the same type as stored in the aforementioned databases, it cannot be easily stored or integrated into the State databases. Should additional State funding become available, the Region will evaluate the advisability of sponsoring a project dedicated to planning and implementing the adaptation of specific regional data to State databases.

### **8.5 Finance**

The Cooperating Partners have considered options for developing, maintaining, and implementing financing for the implementation of IRWM Plan 2013 at a programmatic level. The Region understands that DWR expects the majority of the cost of developing, maintaining, and implementing the IRWM Plan 2013 to be borne by local entities with State and federal money augmenting to a smaller degree. The Region has demonstrated a history of

effective management to promote regional IRWM program goals. The Region, in partnership with the State and IRWM Program, is committed to providing resources to further support both the operations and maintenance of IRWM supported projects and programs. The operations and maintenance costs for projects will be assumed by the project sponsors that commit to supporting operations and maintenance costs in an IRWM grant application and as a member of the Cooperating Partners.

To meet the resource needs for the IRWM Plan 2013, the Region will need to secure funding support in form of monetary resources from local, State, and federal sources and local in-kind services. This section documents the various funding sources and approaches that were reviewed by the Cooperating Partners Steering Committee and how those sources may fit together. Sources of funding for the IRWM program are first considered and then sources of funding for IRWM projects.

While committed to maintaining and implementing the IRWM Plan 2013, the Region acknowledges there is a high level of uncertainty regarding whether all sources when combined will be adequate to carry out the planning needs. A recent study by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) noted that financing options beyond State general obligation bonds (such as propositions 50 and 84) are limited. The PPIC study notes that the “California infrastructure finance system is hamstrung by strict supermajority voter approval requirements (two-thirds) on local revenue measures, a decline in user fees, and insufficient ability to engage in public-private partnerships. Indeed, in these key areas of local funding, user fees, and partnerships with the private sector, California appears to be backsliding.”<sup>1</sup> The Cooperating Partners have actively donated in-kind time to update the 2007 IRWM Plan to comply with new guidelines resulting in this IRWM Plan 2013. This has provided an important first step toward project funding as an approved IRWM Plan is required to be eligible for project funding from Proposition 84, other State and federal funding sources, and future General Obligation water bonds. In addition, the Cooperating Partners have been active in all stages of the IRWM process beginning with Proposition 50, the RAP process, and the 2006 propositions 1E and 84. This has resulted in funding to the Region from the program of close to \$30 million.

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<sup>1</sup> Ellen Hanak, *Paying for Infrastructure: California’s Choices* (Public Policy Institute of California, 2009), 2.

### 8.5.1 Sources for IRWM Program Funding

Potential funding sources considered by the Steering Committee are summarized below in Table 8.5

**Table 8.5: Potential Sources of Funding Considered for IRWM Program**

	Sources	Expected Contribution – Stability and Longevity	Targeted Beneficiaries
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind or cash donations</li> <li>• Cooperating Partner Fees</li> <li>• User Fee (for O &amp; M costs)</li> <li>• Impact Fees</li> <li>• Bonds and Property Tax for Projects and Parcel Tax (for O &amp; M costs)</li> <li>• Benefit Assessment District</li> <li>• Water Enterprise Fund</li> <li>• Utility Fee (to be used for O &amp; M costs)</li> </ul>	Moderate	Region's residents, environment, and economy
<b>State</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competitive grants</li> <li>• Appropriations/General Fund</li> <li>• Statewide Assessments</li> <li>• State Mitigation Funds</li> </ul>	Moderate	Statewide environment and economy
<b>Federal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriations</li> <li>• Competitive grants</li> </ul>	Moderate	Areas of national environmental or economic significance
<b>Others</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and corporate donors</li> <li>• Foundations and other non-profit organizations</li> </ul>	Low	Particular communities or targeted interests in the Region

The Steering Committee also identified potential barriers to financing. In general, the public and rate payers are resistant to rate increases or other types of new or additional infrastructure related financial burdens. Recent voter approved general obligation (GO) bonds may have lulled voters into thinking that all infrastructure improvements should be funded by State GO Water bonds.

Recent decisions and actions by the Cooperating Partners have showed that the governing body is resilient and well able to adapt to changing circumstances. The Steering Committee has been open to considering the rotation or change of the Lead Agency (Project Manager) role regarding the management of grant applications and the administration of the program. Various members of the Cooperating Partners have stepped forward to contribute to projects through cash donations or through the in-kind donation of time to serve on various workgroups or subcommittees. In addition, there is a high level of participation from all agencies throughout the Region.

The Cooperating Partners considered and discussed reorganizing its governance structure as a 501(c)(3) or JPA. But, after a thorough discussion, it was determined that organizing around a memorandum of understanding, as is now in place, was the simplest and most effective governance mechanism available to the Region.

The Cooperating Partners will continue to conduct collaborative activities coupled with efforts to secure regional funding. Those activities include the following:

- Identifying new stakeholders and work with identified stakeholders to build broad support for the IRWM Program;
- Conducting outreach activities to educate the public about the program, the IRWM objectives and targets, the need for infrastructure improvements to achieve targets, and the need for local revenue to fund infrastructure needs;
- Continue sponsoring DAC IRWM participation and providing funding for technical expertise, studies, and support of DACs;
- Continue to foster the development of integrated regional projects that can facilitate partnerships and better leverage existing funding;
- Continue to conduct biennial reviews to stay in compliance with IRWM Plan commitments, and
- Continue to maintain and operate the OPTI project database

### **8.5.2 Funding to Implement Regional Projects**

#### **In-kind or Cash Donations**

Members of the Cooperating Partners will be responsible for providing the majority of the regionally-based funding. This funding may be donated in the form of cash or in-kind services to be delivered by the staff of the Region’s participating agencies, cities and organizations. The Region has a history of providing both forms of contributions. For example, in the process of writing this plan, one Cooperating Partner donated cash toward a sub-regional assessment and other Cooperating Partners donated staff time. Staff time was spent by serving on the Steering Committee, working groups or subcommittees, as project proponents, and/or in an administrative role. Project sponsors will be responsible for the costs of operation and maintenance; the certainty of this funding is very high barring unforeseen circumstances.

#### **Other Funding Mechanisms**

There are existing funding mechanisms that will continue to be utilized for the development and conservation of water supply, the upgrade of wastewater facilities, and to implement other regional priorities these mechanisms may not be adequate to achieve many regional IRWM objectives and meet regional IRWM targets. California already relies heavily on local and regional agencies to manage infrastructure. As the Public Policy Institute study goes on to state California has “some of the strictest rules in the nation for raising local revenues. Proposition 13, passed in 1978, limited property assessments and mandated supermajority voter approval for the passage of special taxes. California is also one of only eight states with supermajority requirements on the passage of local General Obligation bonds. In 1996, voters passed Proposition 218, a constitutional amendment that reduced the revenue-raising authority of locally elected governing boards by mandating majority votes for general taxes, assessments, and “property-related” fees. Subsequently, in 2006, the California Supreme Court extended the reach of Proposition 218’s restrictions to water and wastewater utilities. They are now barred from raising fees that exceed the “proportional cost” of providing service to the parcel—a potential obstacle to financing new facilities.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, 7.

**Table 8.6: Potential Local Funding Alternatives for Projects**

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<b>In-kind/Cash Contributions</b>	In-kind or cash donations	Results in equitable distribution due to broad representation participating in Cooperating Partners	Once a commitment is made, this is a reliable form of funding. This type of funding will be used for O & M costs.	High
<b>SB IRWM User (CP) Fee/Dues</b>	Levee a surcharge or user fee for participation in the IRWM program. These funds could then be used to fund overall program management activities and projects that contribute to the IRWM plan objectives. Could be used for O & M.	Results in equitable distribution of benefits and costs	There exists significant resistance to this method as most users already support projects with in-kind participation and matching funds. Rate payers could resist support.	Medium

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<p><b>State Mitigation Funds</b></p>	<p>A conservation bank generally protects threatened and endangered species habitat. Credits are established for the specific sensitive species that occur on the site.</p> <p>Mitigation banking is the same concept as conservation banking, but is specifically for wetland restoration, creation, and enhancement undertaken to compensate for unavoidable wetland losses. Use of mitigation bank credits must occur in advance of development or project, when the compensation cannot be achieved at the development site or would not be as environmentally beneficial. The SWRCB, RWQCB, Coastal Commission have various mitigation funds.</p>	<p>The IRWM Region would work with the RWQCB to get appropriate regional IRWM projects approved and on the list. Projects can be scalable.</p>	<p>Mitigation banking helps to consolidate small, fragmented wetland mitigation projects into large contiguous sites which will have much higher wildlife habitat values. Mitigation banks are generally approved by the wildlife agencies, the USACOE and USEPA.</p> <p>Mitigation banks are a viable alternate to the current practice of requiring piecemeal mitigation for individual project impacts, and they provide incentives to private landowners to practice conservation. Additionally, they take advantage of economies of scale otherwise unavailable to individual mitigation projects. Mitigation banks can play an important role within regional planning.</p> <p>Don't need direct nexus between project type and mitigation type.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<b>User Charge</b>	Any fee, tax, or impost payment, direct or indirect, that must be paid to a facility owner or operator by a facility user, as a necessary condition of use of the facility. Can be used for O & M.	Equitable because charge only paid by user. Example is sewer charge that appears on property tax bill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When users pay for facilities through higher water rates, they have a built-in incentive to use the facilities efficiently. Can lower overall investment needs.</li> <li>• Hard sell to the public because there is only an indirect benefit (the hope of grant funding, not the reality of it)</li> </ul>	Stable
<b>Impact Fees</b>	Levies an assessment on the incremental costs incurred by new development. These “impact fees” are an up-front charge that gets rolled into new home prices or taken out of developer profits. Can be used for O & M.	Can raise equity concerns by increasing the costs of low- and middle-income housing.	Popular way to pay for transportation projects With new Proposition 218 restrictions on water and wastewater agencies, impact fees will play a larger role in funding. Impact fees offer the advantage of not requiring voter approval. Still tough for water agencies to accomplish. Unreliable source when market conditions weaken and construction slows.	Can be unstable
<b>Sales Tax</b>	Tax increment assigned to sales tax. Can be used for O & M.	Raises equity concerns because of disproportionate impact on low income individuals	Would be very hard to get approved. Drop in sales tax revenue occurs during recessions or other unstable economic times.	Moderate

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<b>Bonds and Property Tax for Capital Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A bond is a debt security issued by a state, municipality or county to finance capital expenditures.</li> <li>Property Tax - assessed on real estate by the local government - usually based on the value of the property (including the land) you own.</li> </ul>	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipal bonds - are exempt from federal taxes and may be exempt from State taxes.</li> <li>Property Tax – hard sell. Not likely local property owners would be willing to divert funding to regional effort.</li> </ul>	Property tax revenues could be reduced somewhat if falling property values force the County to lower assessed valuations.
<b>Parcel Tax</b>	Parcel tax is the common term in California for a "qualified special tax" imposed by a local unit of government. Special taxes are permitted by the California Constitution, requiring approval at an election of at least 2/3rds of those voting on the measure. LA County is trying to use this mechanism to fund a stormwater measure. Can be used for O & M.	Parcel Tax – LA Co has considered a parcel tax that would have all property owners pay for runoff from public places – this approach would be appropriate for funding the general benefits of multipurpose projects. In Santa Barbara County, there is not a strong history of regional measures succeeding e.g. Educational Foundation measure recently failed in primary election.	Parcel taxes - cannot be varied to fit well with the existing funding sources of the cities to guarantee that all residents pay their fair share. Parcel taxes could not vary between watersheds. Requires 2/3 vote. Poor nexus between payment and runoff from private properties.	Parcel tax revenues are stable.

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<b>Benefit Assessment</b>	Requires half of weighted vote of property owners. Large properties could defeat the vote. Used for flood control, sewer, storm drain, sanitation, and water assessments.	Good nexus between payment and contribution to runoff from private property. Must assume that responsibility for runoff from streets is proportion to runoff from private property.	Can vary to fit well with the existing funding sources of the cities to guarantee that all residents pay their fair share. Assessments could vary between watersheds. May not cover the costs of general benefits, which could be much of the total. Assesses only those properties benefiting.	Revenues are very stable.
<b>Water Enterprise Fund</b>	An enterprise fund establishes a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal services for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. Under enterprise accounting, the revenues in expenditures of services are separated into separate funds with its own financial statements, rather than commingled with the revenues and expenses of all other government activities.	N/A	Provides separate accounting and financial reporting which can make fund tracking easier and therefore, investment decisions more public and accountable.	Stable

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<b>Capital Improvement Programs (CIP)</b>	CIP budgets often include budgets for IRWM projects. The CIPs address project costs, project implementation schedules, and funding sources for implementing budgeted projects		Due to the varied nature of CIP budgets, the longevity and certainty of this funding source is highly variable. Also difficult because of Prop 218 requirements/restriction.	Highly variable
<b>Utility Fee</b>	May not be used for general government services, but will likely cover more than assessments. It is a fee charged in proportion to the users use of the facilities rather than according to the monetary value as in property taxation. This mechanism connects the costs of maintaining the infrastructure more directly to the benefits received.	Good nexus between payment and contribution to runoff from private property. Must assume that responsibility for runoff from streets is proportion to runoff from private property.	Can be varied to fit well with the existing funding sources of the cities to guarantee that all residents pay their fair share. The fees could vary between watersheds.	Revenues are very stable

Funding Type	Description	Equity	Pros and Cons	Stability of Revenue
<p><b>Pollution Tax (carbon emissions)</b></p>	<p>Tax intended to promote ecologically sustainable activities and make private parties or organizations feel the social burden of their actions. Carbon taxes on the use of fossil fuels by GHG produced. There are such taxes on the disposal of waste.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countywide tax to distribute the burden throughout the County.</li> <li>• Some green tax shift proposals have been criticized as being fiscally regressive (a tax with an average tax rate that decreases as the taxpayer's income increases). There are approaches to mitigate inequities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the correct taxation level or the tax collection system needed to do so is difficult, and may lead to further distortions or unintended consequences.</li> <li>• Can tax on many things including sediment accumulation, carbon emissions, groundwater extraction, wastewater discharge. Landfills do this for different types of waste.</li> </ul>	<p>Stable</p>

### 8.5.3 State Funding Strategy

Voters of the State of California have passed a number of statewide water and watershed funding measures in the past several years including propositions 12, 13, 40, 50, and most recently Proposition 84, which has provided significant IRWM funding. The Santa Barbara County IRWM Program was formed because of the funding available through the State. As funding from Proposition 84 dwindles, passage of a statewide water bond in the future would greatly assist the Region in meeting planning targets. The following activities are recommended as a part of a State funding strategy.

Evaluate and apply for existing State funding opportunities such as:

- Proposition 84, Round 3, grant applications for IRWMP project implementation;
- Bay-Delta watershed program grants;
- CARB Cap and Trade Revenue, and
- Participate in and provide leadership for future statewide funding measure.

**Table 8.7: State Funding Options**

Funding Type	Description
Loans and Grants	There are multiple grants and loans available from regional, State and federal sources. Some State grants and loans that are particularly appropriate for the Region include: Prop 84 (Ch 6(b) and (c) (technologies for clean drinking water), Prop 84 Implementation, Prop 84 Stormwater Grants, Urban Streams Restoration (DWR), Infrastructure SRF (ISRF) (Economic Dev. Bank), SDW SRF, CWSRF, Water Recycling Funding Program, Non-Point Source (CWA 319(h)), and State Coastal Conservancy. Federal sources include: Water Recycling Grants, WaterSMART (Energy Eff., System Optimization, Advanced Water Treatment, Climate Change), Water and Wastewater Revolving Funds, etc.

### 8.5.4 Federal Funding Strategy

Regional agencies seeking federal funding opportunities and federal agencies may collaborate to provide opportunities to fund IRWMP projects. There may be new limited opportunities to collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and Vandenberg Air Force Base, both with large land and water assets and access federal funding through these agencies for mutually beneficial local projects. The Steering Committee will research and pursue future federal opportunities. While no definitive funding plan has been developed to date; a description of potential federal funding sources for implementation of IRWMP projects is identified in Table 8.8.

**Table 8.8: Federal Funding Options**

Funding Type	Description
Loans and Grants	Federal sources include: Water Recycling Grants, WaterSMART (Energy Efficiency, System Optimization, Advanced Water Treatment, Climate Change), Water and Wastewater Revolving Funds, Title XVI, etc.
Budget	Sources include programs in EPA, Interior, and ACOE budgets; Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), future economic stimulus funding

## 8.6 Technical Analysis

The technical analyses used to develop the IRWM Plan 2013 were based on the studies listed in Appendix 3 and noted in the text of Chapter 3. These analyses were incorporated in the Regional Description (Chapter 3) and used as a basis for identifying regional objectives and planning targets (Chapter 4). The sections of the original Regional Description from the 2007 IRWM Plan was updated using more recent studies, plans and other documents (see partial list in section 8.3 and Table 8.3.1). The IRWM Plan 2013 utilized the following planning documents: UWMPs, Santa Barbara County Groundwater Report (2011), flood control plans, court ordered reports, agency capital improvement plans, groundwater management plans, and engineering reports. Other technical analysis was utilized to update issues such as water quality regulatory compliance, water rights status, groundwater supply and quality, urban and agricultural water use efficiency, salt and nutrient planning, TMDL processes, recycled water, water supply and demand, ocean water quality reporting, CCRWQCB and local agency monitoring reports, water and wastewater treatment requirements and plant updates, watershed management, LID, septic-to-sewer conversions, and water storage facility augmentation.

Other technical analysis for ongoing IRWM Plan 2013 implementation will rely in part on reporting associated with ongoing monitoring programs. Several of these programs already provide data to the State through the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA). Existing programs include:

- Local agency cooperative monitoring plans (surface- and groundwater) implemented through contract with the USGS;
- Monitoring done by Water Quality Inc. in collaboration with the CCRWQCB;
- Monitoring done pursuant to NPDES discharge permits and WDRs reported to CCRWQCB;
- Monitoring done to satisfy public health requirements for drinking water supplies, and
- Ocean water quality monitoring at public beaches.

Monitoring of other elements of the IRWM Plan 2013 will occur through implementation of other existing programs discussed in Sections 8.5. Reports prepared pursuant to these other programs will be reviewed as part of the ongoing IRWM monitoring. Data relevant to implementation of the IRWM Plan 2013 from these reports will be incorporated into the IRWM DMS as discussed in Chapter 8.4.

## 8.7 Integration with Local Water Planning

The plans and reporting documents relevant to the developing this IRWM update are listed in Appendix 3 or linked in the text of Chapter 3. The documents listed in this appendix were used as a basis for developing the IRWM Plan 2013. In particular, the 2010 UWMPs, the tri-annual County Groundwater Report (2011), and the 2013 Santa Barbara County Supply Demand Report provided important data and planning context during the IRWM process. The document types are listed in Table 8.9 below.

**Table 8.9: Relationship between Local Planning Documents associated with IRWM Plan 2013 Objectives\***

Planning Document	Augment Supplies	Increase Conservation	Infrastructure Reliability	Salt and Nutrient Planning	Recycling	Emergency Preparedness	Climate Change Adaptation	GHG Control	Water Quality
<b>UWMPs</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>County Groundwater Report</b>			X	X					X
<b>Flood Control Plan</b>			X			X	X		
<b>Court Ordered Reports</b>	X		X	X					X
<b>Agency Capital Improvement Plans</b>	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Ground Water Management Plans</b>	X		X		X		X		X
<b>Engineering Reports</b>	X		X	X	X		X	X	X

During development of IRWM Plan 2013, the agencies responsible for water related and climate change adaptation plans were asked to review relevant sections of IRWM Plan 2013 for consistency with their existing plans and policies. On the basis of their review, any recommended changes and updated data were incorporated into IRWM Plan 2013. This review has assured that the IRWM Plan 2013 is consistent with the Planning Documents in Appendix 3. Documents referenced in Appendix 3, as well as any newly available planning documents, will be consulted in any future updates.

Table 8.10 provides a summary of existing water related policy tools and their criteria. The IRWM process will monitor the ongoing implementation of these policy tools as part of the evaluation of Plan performance.

**Table 8.10: Management Tools and Criteria Employed within the Santa Barbara Region.**

<b>Policy Tools</b>	<b>Agencies</b>	<b>Adequacy of Supply</b>	<b>Protection of Water Quality</b>	<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>
<b>General Plans</b>	Cities and County	Evaluation of project demand and conservation	Evaluation of project impacts	Adequacy of public safety	Sea-level rise, WWTP infrastructure
<b>UWMPs</b>	Larger suppliers	Match projects demand with future supplies	Demonstrate adequacy of supply	Drought response	Source adequacy, demand management measures
<b>Groundwater Management Plans</b>	Certain overlying user agencies	Cannot exceed perennial yield		Adequacy of supplies during drought	Groundwater levels and management
<b>Watershed Management Plans</b>	South Coast Area	Protect sources of recharge	Protect source area water quality	Forest management	Establish baseline conditions
<b>Adjudication</b>	Santa Maria Basin	Protect perennial yield; conservation	Water quality standards	Adequacy of supplies during drought	Groundwater level monitoring; conjunctive use; conservation
<b>Drought Response Plans</b>	Large and medium sized suppliers	Provide for adequacy of supply during multi-year drought		Provide for adequacy of supply during multi-year drought	Adequate supply during drought using conservation and water recycling
<b>Landscape Ordinances</b>	Cities and County	Mandate water conservation and xeriscape	Capture of urban runoff and LID		
<b>SWMP</b>	Cities and County	Low Impact Development, stormwater capture, conservation, education	Low Impact Development	Flood management	

## **8.8 Relation to Local Land Use Planning**

### **8.8.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the processes and procedures that foster communication between land use managers and the Cooperating Partners (RWMG) with the intent of effectively integrating water management and land use planning. The chapter documents the historic, existing and planned relationships between local land use planning, regional water issues and water management objectives.

### **8.8.2 Existing and Historical Relationships between Local Land Use Planning Entities and Water Management Entities**

Relationships between local land use planning entities and water management entities in the Santa Barbara Region are well established and most pre-date the IRWM program and plan. These relationships have been borne out of the fact that water in the Santa Barbara Region has long been a defining characteristic and at most times the determining factor in overall land use as well as type of land uses in the County. Therefore, the communication and relationships between land use planning and water use planning has been shaped by the following forces:

- Reliance of the Region on groundwater resources;
- Federal and State regulations, and
- Public input and civil society.

All of these forces converge and at times produce a synergistic and positive outcome for water resources and at times contravene one another. Nonetheless, these are all integral and necessary parts in planning for a sustainable water future.

### **8.8.3 Reliance on Groundwater Resources**

The Santa Barbara IRWM region's primary water source is groundwater, which includes water for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural uses. This is not a unique set of circumstance in the Central Coast hydrological region, which is the most groundwater dependent region in the state, but it is unique in the context of the state. While this dependence on groundwater resources provides great water independence and local benefit, it also presents a set of challenges and requires a great degree of coordination and collaboration with all county wide water supply entities to ensure the judicious and fair use of the finite water resources the region/county has. In order to accomplish that each water supplier, i.e. water districts, water companies, community service districts and jurisdictions must monitor water use and recharge carefully to avoid situations of overdraft. As such, throughout the decades, the Santa Barbara region has developed and institutionalized a coordinated system of information sharing, documentation and water and land use planning ethic that is ingrained in and practiced by water and land use management authorities, including locally elected officials.

There is, however, an outlier to the system. While there is a significant amount of monitoring going on within the region and information sharing between and among water use managers and land use managers, there is a whole segment of agricultural users and private well owners who are not subject to these monitoring requirements and/or water use reporting given the State of California's Water Rights Laws. As such, this presents a large impediment to local agencies and jurisdictions in the Region when it comes to accuracy of groundwater figures and also undermines the ability of local land and water use managers to exercise protective measures over precious groundwater resources. Indeed, this is area that demands further scrutiny, monitoring and coordination.

### **8.8.4 Federal and State Regulations**

Beginning in the latter half of the 1970's with a host of environmental protections passed at the federal level by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including Section 208 and 201 (Clean Water Act), there has been a recognition of the importance of the marriage between land use and water resources and the mutually reinforcing roles they play. This legislation forced the hands of water management, entities, land use management entities, and elected officials to communicate and be responsive to various pressures placed on natural resources, i.e. land

and water by human populations and their needs, i.e. residential, industrial, commercial, conservation. Regulations demanded that local agencies and resource agencies, i.e. USFS, ACOE, CDFG, RWQCB, etc work to provide balanced solutions to these intersecting and competing interests.

Statewide, legislation (beginning in the 1970’s and continuing to the present) including the California Environmental Quality Act and the State of California’s General Plan Requirements, and the Urban Water Management Planning Act provides other points of intersection between the spheres of land and water use. While CEQA is an overarching assessment of all resources, water and land use included, it is applicable to each land use project that is contemplated to be implemented and provides for the application of controlling land use of water use measures. It can also lead to the death of projects based upon the deleterious impacts upon one or both of these resources areas and/or the complete re-contouring of a project to comply with federal, State and local land and water use regulations. CEQA legislation enjoins a holistic and broad approach to decision making in that includes all members of formalized decision making structures as well as the public. CEQA is a requirement of all projects included in or funded by DWR through the IRWM Plan.

Tools of local land and water use controls are the General Plans, policies, development standards and ordinances, all of which allow for great latitude over the regulation of resource areas within jurisdictions provided they comply with State law. In a nutshell, however, the General Plan and policies coupled with the implementing development standards and ordinance documents guide and direct all land and water use decisions in a particular jurisdiction. Managing entities and decision-makers strategically guide and employ local tools for the judicious use and conservation of resources. Local agencies, water districts, community services districts, etc. are empowered to enact ordinances regulating resources, such as land and water use based n the local conditions, need for protection and or other conditions that may occur. Some examples of these types of ordinances are summarized in the table below and as can be anticipated given the regions reliance on groundwater, conservation measures, particularly related to irrigation figure prominently into the types of controls applied.

**Table 8.11: Examples of Local Controls that Regulate Water Uses and Land Uses**

Controlling Entity	Local Control Tool	Purpose
Montecito Water District	Ordinance 89 and Ordinance 90	Limit in water usage per acre enacted as a result of high water consumption rates primarily due to landscape irrigation. Enacted in 2007 and still in effect.
City of Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 14.23.009 and Chapter 22.80	Implement drought tolerant landscaping for water conservation on projects that require design review. Enacted as an update the existing code in 2008 and still in effect
Santa Barbara County	Floodplain Management Ordinance – Ordinance 3898	To promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions as flood hazard areas of Santa Barbara County are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare. Enabling legislation, Government Code sections 65302, 65560 and 65800, which conferred upon local government units authority to adopt regulations designed to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry.
City of Lompoc	Chapter 15.52 Lompoc Municipal Code	Adopted in 2010, this ordinance amended existing municipal code language relating to water efficient landscape and irrigation standards, this measure, employed a landscape water budget to regulate the landscape irrigation.

### **8.8.5 Urban Water Management Plans**

Passed in the early 1980's, the California Urban Water Management Planning Act (Water Code sections 10610 et seq.) mandates that every supplier providing water for municipal purposes to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre feet of water annually, prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), at least once every five years. These plans are intended to support long-term resource planning and ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future water demands over a 20-year planning horizon. In the Santa Barbara region, UWMPs provide an excellent nexus between water planning and land use planning and are often times foundational documents that direct or shape new land use policies, controls and/or water use programs, incentive or regulations on a local level. UWMPs also play a role in informing the discussions and formulations of regional and sub-regional goals, objectives and targets in the IRWM Plan.

In the Region, the UWMPs are fundamental to providing an inventory of water resources and a blueprint for water planning, needs changes and system wide adjustments.

### **8.8.6 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits**

Authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Point sources are discrete conveyances such as pipes or man-made ditches. Individual homes that are connected to a municipal system, use a septic system, or do not have a surface discharge do not need an NPDES permit; however, industrial, municipal, and other facilities must obtain permits if their discharges go directly to surface waters. Since its introduction in 1972, the NPDES permit program is responsible for significant improvements to our Nation's water quality. In California, the Municipal Storm Water Permitting Program regulates storm water discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). MS4 permits were issued in two phases.

Under Phase I, which started in 1990, Regional Water Quality Control Boards adopted National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit (NPDES) storm water permits for medium (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large (serving 250,000 people) municipalities. Most of these permits are issued to a group of co-permittees encompassing an entire metropolitan area. These permits are reissued as the permits expire. The Phase I MS4 permits require the discharger to develop and implement a Storm Water Management Plan/Program with the goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MEP is the performance standard specified in Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act. The management programs specify what best management practices (BMPs) will be used to address certain program areas. The program areas include public education and outreach; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction and post-construction; and good housekeeping for municipal operations. In general, medium and large municipalities are required to conduct monitoring.

On April 30, 2003 as part of Phase II, the State Water Resources Control Board issued a General Permit for the Discharge of Storm Water from Small MS4s (WQ Order No. 2003-0005-DWQ) to provide permit coverage for smaller municipalities (population less than 100,000), including non-traditional Small MS4s, which are facilities such as military bases, public campuses, prison and hospital complexes. The Phase II Small MS4 General Permit covers Phase II permittees statewide. On February 5, 2013 the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit was adopted and these became effective on July 1, 2013. Pursuant to these regulations, local land use and water use entities collaborate and coordinate through the permit process to ensure that these federal and State regulations are met.

Municipal/urban areas commonly include large impervious surfaces which contribute to increased runoff flow, velocity and volume. As a result, creeks and streams are hydrologically impacted through streambed and channel scouring, instream sedimentation and loss of aquatic and riparian habitat. In addition to hydrological impacts, large impervious surfaces contribute to greater pollutant loading, resulting in turbid water, nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, and increased temperature and trash. These types of impacts are currently, increasingly and effectively being mitigated by the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) measures, which are widely embraced and deployed by land use entities throughout the County. There are high levels of collaboration between land use and water use entities on this topic and these measures.

In addition, the public and local NGOs have a large role to play in local jurisdictions' formulation and implementation of BMPs for MS4 SWPPPs. In addition, water quality needs and deficiencies are often brought in to the IRWM process and inform the discussions and formulations of regional and sub-regional goals, objectives and targets in the IRWM Plan.

### **8.8.7 Public and Civil Society**

Coupled with the Region's dependence on groundwater and the compulsory federal and state regulations, there has historically been and there continues to be a robust, vocal and engaged community of citizens and NGOs that have taken an active role in water and land use planning. These entities and individuals regularly monitor all types of land and water uses county wide and regularly provide comment letters to applicable jurisdictions and decision makers. As a result, there is a climate of generally water savvy, land use savvy individuals who are involved in planning issues in the Region.

### **8.8.8 Relationships between Local Land Use Planning Entities and Water Management Entities in the Context of IRWMP**

The Cooperating Partners of the IRWM is made up of approximately 30 entities in the region representing different water and land use management authority. As such, they bring the litany of public sentiment over land and water use issues, the reality of water supply in the Region as well as the regulatory requirements to bear in the IRWM process and ultimately the IRWM Plan 2013. The basic formulation of overarching issues and conflicts in each of the sub-regions and the overall region percolates up to the formation of targets, objective, goals and resource management strategies that are borne out of the tensions among the forces discussed above. The IRWM process and IRWM Plan 2013, therefore, provide a forum and an edifice upon which to collectively and creatively problem solve to create a more holistic water and land use paradigm for near and long-term sustainability of regions resources, chief among them water and water dependent resources, i.e. riparian habitats, wetlands, native fauna, etc.

Over the past 5 years, the IRWM program and process has become more inclusive, more interactive and engaged in stakeholder outreach to local and regional planning bodies, both formal (APA, AEP) and informal through presentations, provision of information, educational opportunities and communications. Members of the IRWM stakeholder group include all relevant planning managers and directors of county and jurisdictional planning and community development departments as well and planning associations, planning advocacy groups, individuals as well as environmental advocacy groups/NGOs and land trust entities.

Apart from the public meetings and workshops that the Coopering Partners have organized and participated in pursuant to project selection associated with Rounds 1 and 2 of Proposition 84, Planning and Implementation applications, Update of the 2007 IRWM Plan, and other IRWM information meetings, there has also been on-going outreach, engagement and presentations to various Land Use entities. Over the past five years, these include:

- Presentations on the water and land use nexus to *The Citizen's Planning Association of Santa Barbara County* (<http://www.citizensplanning.org/>). The Citizen's Planning Association (CPA) was established in 1960 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to educate the public in Santa Barbara County on the environmental and planning issues paramount to our communities and neighborhoods, and to encourage both the County and City of Santa Barbara to develop and adopt General Plans to protect Santa Barbara County's cherished quality of life. The CPA is a stakeholder in the IRWM process and is a frequent commenter on countywide land use issues at cities' Planning Commissions and City Councils, the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.
- Presentation to *BEACON* staff and a presentation at a *BEACON* Public Board Meeting. BEACON is the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) and is a California Joint Powers agency established in 1992 to address coastal erosion, beach nourishment, and clean oceans within the central California Coast from Point Conception to Point Mugu. The member agencies of BEACON include the counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura as well as the coastal cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme. The BEACON Board is made up of

two Supervisors from each county and one counsel person from each coastal city for a total of 10. BEACON is involved in an array of coastal studies and projects within its jurisdiction and works in close coordination with the parks, planning and public works departments of BEACON's member agencies. BEACON is staffed by a combination of specialist consultants and participation from member agency staff. Funding for BEACON comes through annual agency membership dues and grant funding from State and federal agencies. Specific coastal studies and project development activities are contracted out by BEACON to other agencies or consultants.

- Two presentations to the County's Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) on the Land Use and Water Use Nexus as well as the a presentation on the Groundwater Basin Assessment being prepared as an Attachment to the IRWM for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.
- Meetings with the Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau to discuss the IRWM program and collaboration opportunities as well as the type, extent and need for of water projects on privately held agricultural lands in the region.
- A meeting and presentation to the Channel Counties Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) Board, whose membership spans the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura. The presentation was given by the IRWM representatives from each of the three regions and facilitated a discussion on both land, use and water sue issues and well as collaborative inter-regional communication.
- Three presentation and meetings with the Goleta Slough Management Committee established in 1991. The Committee's purpose is to work cooperatively with regulatory agencies, property owners and public interest groups to provide for a healthy Goleta Slough considering the Slough's ecosystem and recognizing a mixture of land uses. The Committee Members include the City of Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara Airport, the City of Goleta, the Goleta Sanitary District, the University of California at Santa Barbara and the Coastal Conservancy. The Committee has an ongoing dialogue with the IRWM and an IRWM representative attends Committee meetings.
- A regionwide Land Use/Water Use Planning Workshop discussing the IRWM planning process in the Region and current opportunities for increased collaboration and enhanced communication was organized in late 2013 (November 7, 2013) (Appendix 2-D, Land and Water Use Workshop Notice). The topics discussed by water and land use planning managers included the following:
  - Status Update on Water Resources in the Santa Barbara Region including a presentation from the Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD) on agricultural water conservation, education and outreach, the Livestock and Land program for improved water quality as well as the CRCD's work and success on various watershed management plans;
  - The role of Urban Water Management Plans in the IRWM and General Plans, Ordinances and Landscaping Guidelines County wide;
  - Floodplain legislative requirements in the update to the County wide the Housing Element;
  - Stormwater and LID programs and projects;
  - New regulations, i.e. Salts and Nutrients and TMDLs as well as a project in the Santa Maria Watershed to filter nutrients Effective Implementation of Programs, i.e. floodplain restoration, groundwater recharge, habitat restoration
  - How Water Agencies and Land Use Planning Agencies currently communicate
  - Improving planning efforts and coordination between water agencies and land use planning agencies
  - Shared knowledge of the IRWM planning document
  - Stronger water elements in local general plans

Reactive v. Proactive – early communication and input to link IRWM planning and land use plans. The workshop was attended by a broad group of participants from the Santa Barbara IRWM, as well as representatives from the RWMG of the SLO IRWM, the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM in addition to DWR staff.

The IRWM Region is also currently coordinating with the Ventura IRWM and the San Luis Obispo IRWM regions to organize a three region workshop with the Channel Counties Chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP) and the California Chapter, Central Coast Section of the American Planning Association (APA) for continuing education units (CEU) in 2014 on the nexus between various water and land use issues and solutions and the IRWM. The goal of the workshop is to generate greater awareness of the IRWM process and the Plan's ability to provide foundational informational and guiding principles for a sustainable and more holistic relationship between the spheres of water and land use.

Finally, as discussed in Chapter 2, Governance and Participation, the lead agency has launched a targeted effort to include members of the agricultural community, a large segment of the population that has been historically disenfranchised and absent from the IRWM process. Notably, agriculture is the primary industry in the Region and accounts from the majority of water use in the County and bringing this industry and predominant land use to the IRWM table allows for a more realistic and accurate picture of water use, land use and issues to emerge. Bringing daylight to the needs, challenges and opportunities of all land uses in each of the watersheds strengthens the IRWM Plan 2014, adds greater credibility and will result in better projects that propel the region towards a more complete and sustainable water future.

### **8.8.9 Upcoming Issues and Relationships between Local Land Use Planning Entities and Water Management Entities in the Context of IRWMP**

There are a number of areas in which greater collaboration and proactive communication between and among water and land use planning entities can be facilitated through the established IRWM process. As there are a vast number of overlapping organizations and stakeholders that are currently engaged in the IRWM program and process, leveraging the extensive network and the information prepared in various IRWM plans and applications will create a more holistic and accurate picture of water and land in the Region. Most obviously, the issues that rise to the greatest priority include those which are regulatory:

- AB 857 (2002) establishes three priorities that encourage all State agencies to promote infill development within existing communities, protect the State's most valuable environmental and agricultural resources, and encourage efficient development patterns overall;
- AB 32 (2006), Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, establishes a target to reduce statewide carbon emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020;
- AB 162 (2007) was passed as part of a package of six bills addressing flood risk management and flood protection in California. This bill specifically requires additional consideration of flood risk in local land use planning throughout California and named the DWR as a source for floodplain information and technical data that local governments will need to comply with AB 162.
- SB 375 (2008), Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, sets emission reduction targets and incentives for local governments to support sustainable growth patterns;
- SB 732 (2008) provides a statutory framework to implement new programs under Proposition 84 and establishes the Strategic Growth Council to coordinate the program aimed at improved air, water and transportation, and
- State Water Board's 2009 Recycled Water Policy Update is aimed at increasing the use of recycled water and implements State and federal water quality laws. The Recycled Water Policy requires that Salt and Nutrient Management Plans are completed by 2014 to facilitate basin-wide management of salts and nutrients from all sources in a manner that optimizes recycled water use while ensuring protection of groundwater supply and beneficial uses, agricultural beneficial uses, and human health. The Recycled Water Policy requires stakeholders to develop implementation plans to meet these objectives for salts and nutrients.

The IRWM has a role to play not only by providing a forum for dialogue, but also for solutions and solutions that are collectively oriented and beneficial for a number of agencies and stakeholders, if that makes sense. IRWM plans, in and of themselves, are tools that can be consulted for both educational purposes and/or implemented to ameliorate challenges in and around land and water use issues and/or conflicts. It is therefore, the intent of the IRWM Region to be more proactive with the region wide land use planning agencies and water use agencies to annually revisit the state of land use/water use nexus and document progress made to the land use/water use goals of strengthening relationships between land use and water use entities region wide by holding at least one land use/water use forum region wide on an annual basis. As the obstacles that we face in California become more interdependent and interwoven, so too will our solutions to challenges need to be more interwoven and collaborative. In addition, the goal of the Region is to increase land use manager and or agent participation among stakeholders and also within the Cooperating Partners. By communicating more frequently and in a more nuanced way with the land use and water use managers region wide, better and potentially more sustainable solutions will be developed and implemented to reach the Region's IRWM Water Management Objectives.

## **8.9 Coordination**

### **8.9.1 Coordination of Activities within the Region**

The Steering Committee, with the leadership of the Lead Agency, will continue regular meetings to guide implementation and address issues such as ongoing stakeholder support for the IRWM Program, outside funding opportunities, new project information from the IRWM data management system (IRWM DMS), interagency coordination, monitoring and reporting, and plan updates (including the biennial review and development of integrated regional projects). Project data will be updated through the OPTI data management system. Steering Committee meetings will be publicized to all regional stakeholders. The Cooperating Partners success in meeting objectives and implementing projects will be evaluated and summarized by the Steering Committee during the biennial review.

The Lead Agency and the Steering Committee will focus keeping up-to-date on and assisting with coordination regarding shared water planning issues in the region such as groundwater overdraft, salt and nutrient planning, recycled water development, and augmentation of surface storage. The performance of projects that are a part of Prop 84 Round 1 Implementation grant will be monitored by the Steering Committee giving insight into progress on reaching regional targets and objectives. The Steering Committee will seek updates on important planning reports such as the Santa Barbara County Supply and Demand Report (to be completed at the end of 2013). The Region will consider applying for funding in Round 3 of the Prop 84 Implementation funding and through that process the Steering Committee will have to opportunity to bring together local project proponents and increase stakeholder participation. The associated dialogue opens up opportunities to promote solutions to regional issues and challenges and discuss resolutions to current conflicts. This will also be an opportunities for the Subcommittee on Integration and Alternative Approaches (see section 6.2 Integration) to consider the needs of specific agencies and the interconnected needs of the Region. The subcommittee's role includes review of issues, objectives, and projects to promote solutions and projects that take advantage of efficiencies gained through regional and sub-regional cooperation.

### **8.9.2 Identification and Coordination with Neighboring IRWM Regions**

The Region will continue the coordination with its neighboring regions as elaborated on in section 3.14 (Neighboring IRWM Efforts). The Region began coordinating with other regions as far back as 2005. Collaboration has continued to the present and will continue into the future. Recent collaborative efforts include various meetings and conference calls between San Luis Obispo IRWM and Ventura County IRWM regarding shared watershed issues, potential projects and collaboration. The regions share emails, information, frequent dialogue, and each of the IRWM main contacts for the respective regions are on each other's stakeholder lists. In 2009, the regions of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura adopted a *Letter of Intent to Coordinate Across IRWM Regions* that was agreed upon and signed as well as submitted to DWR. The regions will continue this collaboration in the future on the issues of land use planning, climate change, watershed issues including those shared with Ventura regarding the Los Padres National Forest.

### 8.9.3 Coordination with Agencies

Coordination with local, State, and federal agencies will continue as the IRWM Plan is implemented and projects move forward. As mentioned in the proceeding section, both the Ventura and Santa Barbara region are coordinating with the National Forest Service regarding Los Padres National Forest. Coordination with State agencies will include the following issues and agencies:

- Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding sensitive species, the Lower Santa Ynez Fish Management Plan, and the Cachuma Project Biological Opinion
- Central Coast RWQCB regarding TMDLs, salt and nutrient planning, wastewater quality treatment, waste discharge requirements, NPDES permitting, Basin Plan amendments, and the Agricultural Regulatory Program's Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
- Department of Water Resources regarding climate change, IRWM strategic planning, Proposition 84 Round 1 projects, the IRWM program, and future IRWM grant applications.

Various agencies will coordinate CEQA compliance with the projects that are contained in the Plan being subject to their own CEQA review and evaluation. Each lead agency sponsoring any project that is contained in the IRWM Plan expressly states that before proceeding with any project-related work, CEQA review (and NEPA review) as necessary and appropriate will be conducted. As a matter of review criteria for projects to be considered for funding, compliance with CEQA is taken into consideration.

The Steering Committee will continue its coordination with local agencies through the Cooperating Partners that represent approximately 30 cities, agencies and districts - the majority of local agencies in the Region. The IRWM structure creates a valuable forum and process to collectively and creatively problem solve among local agencies. The Steering Committee will conduct regular meetings and arrange for members to make presentations regarding key issues, projects, and events in the region. Stakeholder outreach will continue as directed by the Steering Committee and Lead Agency.

Outreach will continue to land use agencies in the form of presentations and meeting attendance. The participation of land use agencies in the IRWM project development and selection process will be encouraged particularly in the areas of stormwater, LID, climate change, flood control, groundwater recharge, habitat management, water conservation (e.g. landscape ordinances and general plans), and recreation.