



San Luis Obispo County Region
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)

Date: October 6, 2021
Time: 10am – 11am
Location: GoToMeeting
Via Teleconference: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/674240077>
Or dial in using your phone: +1 (571) 317-3112, Access Code: 674-240-077

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Consider Adopting Resolution Regarding Virtual Meetings (AB 361)
- 3) Receive Update from Staff regarding State Funding Programs
 - a) Small Community Drought Relief Program
 - b) 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding
 - c) Prop 1, Round 2 IRWM Implementation
- 4) Prop 1, Round 1 Update
 - a) Receive Update from Staff Regarding San Simeon CSD's Awarded Project and Consider Recommending Action
- 5) Announcements & Member Updates
- 6) Public Comment

NOTICE: All IRWM notices will be emailed only by the online mailing list service. Please sign-up for the IRWM Stakeholder mailing list online at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm>

For more information, please contact
Brendan Clark, County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department
bclark@co.slo.ca.us
(805) 788-2316
www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm



San Luis Obispo County Region
 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)
slocounty.ca.gov/irwm

2021-2022 RWMG SCHEDULE IRWM Prop 1 Round 2 Grant Application

The following meetings, workshops, and actions are scheduled to release the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Water Survey and respond to Proposition 1 IRWM grant opportunities for San Luis Obispo County.

For notices via e-mail, please sign up for the IRWM Stakeholder Mailing List online at <http://slocounty.ca.gov/irwm>

Date	Activity	Location	Key Actions
2021			
August 4	RWMG Meeting	Online	
September 1	RWMG Meeting	Online	<i>County of San Luis Obispo Regional Water Survey</i>
October 6	RWMG Meeting	Online	<i>Drought Grant PSP Release, Prop 1 Round 1 Grant Updates</i>
November 3	RWMG Meeting	Online	<i>Prop 1, Round 2 Preparation</i>
December 1	No RWMG Meeting scheduled at this time*		
2022			
January 5	No RWMG Meeting scheduled at this time*		
February 2	RWMG Meeting	TBD	<i>Call for Projects, Project Scoring/Selection, and Project Showcase pending final PSP from DWR</i>
March 3	RWMG Meeting		
April 6	RWMG Meeting		
May 4	RWMG Meeting		
Mid 2022	BOS Authorizes Round 2 Grant Application		
Fall 2022	Round 2 Grant Applications Due to DWR.		

* Subject to change pending the release of the Prop. 1, Round 2 Guidelines and Solicitation Package.

RWMG = Regional Water Management Group
 WRAC = Water Resources Advisory Committee

TO: Regional Water Management Group

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Item 2: Consider Adopting Resolution Regarding Virtual Meetings (AB 361)

Summary

On March 4, 2020, California State Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That proclamation remains in effect to date. On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting Law, the Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq.). On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, clarifying the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Brown Act, noting that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021.

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), which allows legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue meeting by teleconference, provided they make certain findings, including that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. AB 361 requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every 30 days.

This staff report is presented today for the RWMG to consider the finding that holding in person meetings would present imminent risks to the health or safety of board members, staff and all attendees of RWMG public meetings.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the RWMG adopt the attached resolution, invoking the provisions of AB 361 related to the holding of teleconferencing/virtual public meetings. Additionally, Staff also recommends that the RWMG nominate a member to sign the resolution on behalf of the Committee.

Attachment

- Resolution acknowledging the Governor's State of Emergency and Authorizing Teleconference Meetings for 30 Days per AB 361

In The REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

_____ day _____, 20__

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP ACKNOWLEDGING
GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING
MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE FOR A PERIOD OF
THIRTY DAYS PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

The following Resolution is now offered and read:

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the proclaimed state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 that suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, Government Code Section 54950 *et seq.* (the "Brown Act"), provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21 that clarified the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Brown Act, and further provided that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361), allowing legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act to continue meeting by teleconference if the legislative body determines that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and further requires that certain findings be made by the legislative body every thirty (30) days; and

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (“CDC”) caution that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>); and

WHEREAS, the CDC has established a “Community Transmission” metric with 4 tiers designed to reflect a community’s COVID-19 case rate and percent positivity; and

WHEREAS, the County of San Luis Obispo currently has a Community Transmission metric of “high” which is the most serious of the tiers; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Regional Water Management Group (the “RWMG”) deems it necessary to find holding in person meetings would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and thus intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the RWMG that:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct.
2. The Proclamation of State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic issued by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, remains in effect.
3. Based on the recitals above, the RWMG finds that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
4. Staff is directed to return at the next regularly scheduled meeting with an item for the RWMG to consider making the findings required by AB 361 to continue meeting under its provisions.

Upon motion of Member _____, seconded by Member _____, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINING:

the foregoing resolution is hereby adopted.

Member
Regional Water Management Group

ATTEST:

Brendan Clark, PE
Supervising Water Resources Engineer / IRWM Program Manager
Department of Public Works

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

RITA L. NEAL
County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

Dated: _____

TO: Regional Water Management Group

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Item 3: Receive Update from Staff regarding State Funding Programs

Discussion

There are multiple active and upcoming funding programs from DWR:

- Small Community Drought Relief Program – **Open now**
 - Critical drought relief projects for small systems (<3,000 connections or 3,000AF/Yr)
 - <https://water.ca.gov/News/News-Releases/2021/Aug-21/State-Agencies-Announce-First-Round-of-Commitments-for-Drought-Funding-Small-Communities>
- 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding – **Draft Available Until 10/8**
 - Draft guidelines released on Sept. 23rd.
 - <https://water.ca.gov/Water-Basics/Drought/Urban-Multi-Benefit-Drought>
- Proposition 1, Round 2, IRWM Implementation Grant
 - DWR to release draft guidelines and solicitation package in December/January.
 - Call for projects will start shortly after draft package is released.

TO: Regional Water Management Group

FROM: Brendan Clark, Supervising Water Resources Engineer

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Item 4a: Receive Update from Staff Regarding San Simeon CSD's Awarded Project and Consider Recommending Action.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the RWMG advise the Board of Supervisors to seek removal of San Simeon CSD's project from the Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Agreement.

Discussion

Based on our program's MOU (attached), the Flood Control District (District) is the Lead Agency of our Program (Section 4.2.1) and the District, by way of its Public Works Department, shall notify the RWMG of recommendations being taken to the District's Board of Supervisors for action (Section 4.5).

Staff is preparing an item for the Board related to the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program's Proposition 1, Round 1 Implementation Grant. This awarded grant included an allocation of \$500,000 for San Simeon CSD. Staff is recommending removal of the San Simeon CSD's project from the Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Agreement based on the following project status and programmatic concerns:

Status of the project indicates it is unlikely to meet the requirements of the December 28, 2022 Grant Agreement deadline:

- The timeline for securing an easement or other legal instrument for locating the project on Hearst Corporation property is uncertain¹,
- The additional \$1.8 Million of funding needed for the project is not being pursued, and
- There is an uncertain timeline for design completion².

Risks to losing grant funding for the IRWM Program should be minimized:

- The Grant Agreement states: *"any placeholder projects that fail to complete CEQA and/or acquire permits will be deleted from the Agreement. The total grant award will be reduced by the amount of the deleted project(s). Replacement projects will not be allowed. Reduced amount will be made available to the respective Funding Area in future funding rounds on a competitive basis."*
- There is only one "future funding round" and it is expected to begin by the end of 2021. If the San Simeon CSD Project remains in the agreement and does not meet the deadline, the \$500,000 grant award would be lost.

Removing the project now will enable these funds to be added to our County's available grant award for the soon-to-be-released final funding round.

¹ The letter agreement with Hearst Corporation noted in their grant application expired on December 31, 2019, and whether SSCSD will reach agreement with Hearst Corporation remains unclear.

² SSCSD Regular Board Meeting Packet, Item 3A.iii, 8/12/2021

San Luis Obispo County Region
Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants
Memorandum of Understanding

The undersigned agencies and organizations hereby agree as follows:

1. BACKGROUND

The State of California has established an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and grant program pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 75001 et seq., also known as Proposition 84). This program is anticipated to be perpetuated and/or modified by future Bond acts. The IRWM program provides guidance for collaborative efforts to manage all aspects of water resources in a region by crossing jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries to involve multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups in order to address issues and differing perspectives of all entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions. Regions that develop IRWM plans in accordance with the guidelines are eligible for certain water resources grant funding opportunities.

In accordance with PRC Section 75001 (et seq.) and State IRWM Program guidelines, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (dated 2009), signed by eleven agencies within San Luis Obispo County, established a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region, and the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region was officially accepted by the State in May 2009.

The San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region water resources stakeholders have determined the need to update the IRWM MOU in order to meet new State IRWM guidelines, to clarify the governance structure for IRWM planning in the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region, and encourage broader participation. This MOU, in conjunction with the current IRWM Plan, sets forth the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region's governance structure thereby allowing members and other stakeholders to understand how to participate in the IRWM Plan development and implementation.

2. PURPOSE, GOALS, AND APPROACH

2.1 Purpose. The purpose of this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is to establish the mutual understandings among the San Luis Obispo County Region participants with respect to their joint efforts to develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region, including the definition of common IRWM terms, roles and responsibilities of IRWM Program Participants, and decision-making processes.

2.2 Goals. The goal of the IRWM program is to provide a reliable, long-term, and high-quality water supply, and to establish a unified vision among the participants' goals for water quality improvement, ecosystem preservation, water supply protection and enhancement, ground water management and flood management, in the context of social justice and climate change adaptation, while protecting the environment. The adopted IRWM plan will identify major water-related goals, objectives and conflicts within the region, consider a broad variety of water management strategies, identify the appropriate mix of water demand and supply management alternatives, water quality protections, flood management strategies, and environmental stewardship actions.

2.3 Approach. The San Luis Obispo County Region participants are specifying their shared intent to coordinate and collaborate on water management issues, giving consideration to disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes and their water related needs. In order to

enhance participation of stakeholders, it will be necessary to work at a sub-regional level to better understand the water resources needs and priorities throughout the region. When applying for grants, the San Luis Obispo County Region will strive to distribute the grant funding request fairly across the geographic region. The goal is to distribute awarded funding from each grant cycle equally across the sub-regions (i.e. one quarter of the overall funding to benefit each of the three sub-regions' projects/programs and one quarter of the overall funding to benefit regional projects/programs), to the extent feasible.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan). A comprehensive plan for a defined geographic area which shall satisfy the requirements of California's IRWM Program.

3.2 San Luis Obispo County Region (Region). The geographic area of San Luis Obispo County, which is coterminous with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) boundary.

3.3 Local Agency. Any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the state, a public utility as defined in Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code, or a mutual water company as defined in Section 2725 of the Public Utilities Code.

3.4 Program Participants. Development and implementation of the Region's Plan is a collaborative effort undertaken by the Region's participants, as further discussed in Section 4. The effort is being led by the District, in partnership with the Regional Water Management Group, Water Resources Advisory Committee, Implementation Affiliates, and Interested Stakeholders. Only regional projects and programs to be implemented by those agencies which have adopted the Plan will be eligible for grant applications. The Region categorizes IRWM Program Participants into the following:

3.4.1 Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). A group in which three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management, as well as those other persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of the Plan, participate by means of this memorandum of understanding, in accordance with requirements of the California Water Code (CWC § 10539). The Region's RWMG members are signatories to this MOU, have adopted the current Plan, and may designate a representative to participate in RWMG activities and its Working Group. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The RWMG has the capacity to carry out projects (i.e. financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). The agencies/organizations that form the RWMG may have planning or implementation projects eligible for State IRWM grants.

3.4.2 Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). This is the committee comprised of water purveyor, resource conservation district, environmental and agricultural, and other water resources representatives that was originally established in the 1940s to advise the District Board of Supervisors on water resource issues. The WRAC is a Brown Act committee that meets monthly, with the exception of July and August. Many participants are actively engaged in issues relevant to Plan development and implementation, and will represent important stakeholder groups throughout the program.

3.4.3 RWMG Working Group (Working Group). The Working Group will involve representatives from the RWMG who have technical expertise and are able to work on the details associated with IRWM efforts. The Working Group will engage stakeholders at a sub-regional level in order to better understand the specific water resources needs and priorities of that sub-region.

3.4.4 **Implementation Affiliates.** These entities will adopt the Plan by resolution, but would not be signatories of the MOU. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Implementation Affiliates have the capacity to carry out projects (i.e. financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). In order to have a planning or implementation project eligible for State IRWM grants, agencies must be an Implementation Affiliate if they are not a part of the RWMG.

3.4.5 **Interested Stakeholders.** These individuals, organizations, and nonprofits (including those that are not IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations) who are interested in the IRWM program. The Interested Stakeholders may sign a letter of support for the Plan, or otherwise provide input to the RWMG, but would not be eligible for directly receiving State IRWM grant funds.

3.5 Sub-regions. The Region's IRWM program seeks to engage stakeholders and understand the water resources needs of the Region. To adequately ensure this balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM program, the RWMG will utilize a sub-regional geographic structure, allowing more focused planning and local outreach efforts that are later brought into the context of the overall IRWM Region. These sub-regions have been deliberately defined in terms of logical planning and watershed/ hydrogeologic unit boundaries. These "sub-regions" include the North Coast, North County, and South County (see Attachment 1).

3.6 Regional Projects or Programs. Projects or programs to be implemented by the RWMG and/or Implementation Affiliates are identified in the Plan and are based upon the State's IRWM Guidelines under which the current Plan was adopted, which includes but is not limited to: reducing water demand through agricultural and urban water use efficiency, increasing water supplies for any beneficial use, improving operational efficiency and water supply reliability, improving water quality, improving resource stewardship, and improving flood management.

3.7 Integration. Assembling into one document the water-related management strategies, projects, programs, and plans of the Region. The development and implementation of the Plan should demonstrate the RWMG is forming, coordinating and integrating separate efforts in order to function as a unified effort in a collaborative manner that balances interests and engages a variety of stakeholders and seeks to efficiently integrate regional resources. The Plan development will identify water management strategies for the Region and the priority projects and programs that demonstrate how these strategies work together to meet goals identified in Section 2. It will also identify regional benefits of linkages between projects and plans that address different primary water-related objectives (for example, identifying regional benefits of linkages between a water supply project and a flood management project in the same watershed).

4. IRWM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

4.1 Program Participant Structure. Elements of the Plan will be developed and implemented by the Program Participants. The RWMG, including the District as the Lead Agency, and the Implementation Affiliates are responsible for Plan development and implementation.

4.2 Plan Development and Implementation. The Region's Plan that was adopted by the District, developed in coordination with and approved by stakeholders in 2005, and updated in 2007, will be the basis for subsequent adopted Plans for the Region. The Working Group will propose changes to the previous versions of the Plan to comply with new State guidelines and incorporate new information and projects. Since a key element of the IRWM Program is integration, the RWMG will work with Program Participants to identify water management strategies for the Region and sub-regions and the priority projects that demonstrate how these strategies work together to meet the purpose and goals in Section 2. How each Program

Participant contributes and participates in Plan development and implementation is described below:

4.2.1 Lead Agency. The District will act as the lead agency for Plan development, will execute this MOU, and will adopt the Plan in accordance with 4.3 and 4.4 below. The District will ultimately be responsible for the final production of the Region's Plan, hiring consultant(s) to develop the Plan, and presentations to stakeholders, submittal of IRWM grant applications, and execution and administration of grant agreements with the State. As the Lead Agency, the District will execute and administer agreements with RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates responsible for the implementation of projects that are awarded grants, including data collection relevant to grant agreements, project reporting, etc. Efforts described in Section 4.2.1 are subject to the availability of funding.

4.2.2 RWMG. Members will execute this MOU and adopt the Plan in accordance with 4.3 and 4.4 below. RWMG members will designate a representative with clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. This representative will be eligible to participate on the Working Group. All RWMG members, whether or not their representative is participating in the Working Group, hereby agree to provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the Plan and participate in the review of the Plan. RWMG members will consider integrating projects and programs with other agencies when possible, especially with disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes, in accordance with State IRWM Guidelines. RWMG members responsible for the implementation of regional projects and programs awarded grant funding will be responsible, through contract with the District, for complying with the provisions of the District's grant agreement with the State. The RWMG will provide updates to the WRAC and seek WRAC support of recommendations at key decision points.

4.2.3 WRAC. The WRAC will provide a forum for public meetings/ workshops related to Plan development and implementation at key decision points. The WRAC will review and comment on the RWMG recommendations to the District's Board of Supervisors at key decision points.

4.2.4 Working Group. Representatives of the Working Group will be designated by the RWMG member and will have clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. The District will provide materials with sufficient lead time for RWMG member and Working Group engagement. The Working Group will develop information, draft documents and recommendations pertaining to the Plan update consistent with current State IRWM Guidelines during Plan development. Efforts are anticipated to include stakeholder outreach, collection and incorporation of updated data, etc. The Working Group will develop information and recommendations for IRWM program planning and implementation, stakeholder outreach, and pursuit of funding opportunities. All RWMG members will participate in the process to select the Region's IRWM projects and programs for grant applications by way of the Working Group, who will conduct project/program solicitations and evaluations, and will make recommendations on grant funding allocations. The Working Group will need to conduct sub-regional public meetings during Plan development and implementation to facilitate stakeholder participation.

4.2.5 Implementation Affiliates. Implementation Affiliates shall adopt the Plan in accordance with Section 4.3. Implementation Affiliates will designate a representative with clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. All

Implementation Affiliates will provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the Plan and participate in the review of the Plan and for implementation activities, such as project status updates, project reporting, data collection, etc. Implementation Affiliates will consider integrating projects and programs with neighboring agencies when possible, especially with disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes, in accordance with State IRWM Guidelines. Implementation Affiliates responsible for the implementation of regional projects and programs awarded grant funding will be responsible, through contract with the District, for complying with the provisions of the District's grant agreement with the State.

4.2.6 **Interested Stakeholders.** Interested Stakeholders may participate in the Plan development and implementation process by way of participation at WRAC and/or RWMG meetings. Interested Stakeholders that are not WRAC members will be notified when an IRWM program item will be reviewed by the WRAC if they request inclusion on the IRWM contact list (Section 5.6). Sub-regional meetings will be required to ensure Interested Stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities, who may not necessarily be able to attend WRAC meetings, can participate in Plan development and implementation.

4.3 IRWM Plan Adoption. Plan approval and adoption will be required of the governing bodies of RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates. Plan updates to meet new State guidelines, add new RWMG Members, add or remove and evaluate regional projects and programs, or other updates to information do not require Plan re-adoption. Significant changes to the Plan, including revised goals and objectives, revised methodologies (such as methodology for evaluating, ranking, and prioritizing projects and programs), revised regional boundaries, or other changes deemed significant by the RWMG and the Lead Agency, will require Plan re-adoption via the decision-making process described in Section 4.5.

4.4 Personnel and Financial Resources. It is expected that Program Participants will contribute the resources necessary to fulfill the responsibilities listed within Section 4 of this MOU. Program Participants that receive implementation grant funding, shall contribute a proportionate share of non-project costs associated with the grant agreement, based on awarded implementation funding (for example, contributing toward the cost of updating the Plan, should that be a condition of grant award)..

4.5 Decision Making. The RWMG shall develop IRWM program materials and will make recommendations to the Lead Agency at key decision points of the IRWM program. Written input will be sought between the representatives of RWMG members in the event the need for a decision arises that cannot be brought forth to the RWMG before a decision needs to be made. The District, by way of its Public Works Department, shall notify the RWMG agencies of recommendations being taken to the District's Board of Supervisors for action. The District's Board of Supervisors may approve, alter, or return any said recommendation of the RWMG. Furthermore, if the District's Board of Supervisors intends to alter an item or proposition approved by the RWMG, the District's Board of Supervisors shall set forth in writing its findings, after which the Board will hold a public hearing. The RWMG agencies shall have the right to appear and address the District's Board of Supervisors.

5. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

5.1 Need for the Region's IRWM Plan

5.1.1 To improve communication and cooperation between public and private agencies and minimize conflict-generated solutions.

5.1.2 To enhance our existing water management efforts by increasing stakeholder awareness of important issues, providing more opportunities for collaborative efforts and improving efficiencies in government and water management.

5.1.3 To qualify for state grants and other funding opportunities only available to those regions which have developed IRWM plans.

5.2 Subject matter scope of the IRWM Plan. The Plan focuses on water supply, water quality protection and improvement, ecosystem preservation and restoration, groundwater monitoring and management, and flood management as these are the most prevalent water resource issues facing the Region.

5.3 Geographical scope of the IRWM Program. The Region for this memorandum is coterminous with the boundary of San Luis Obispo County. This is an appropriate geographic region for integrated regional water management planning because it encompasses all aspects of water management generally within the same physical, political, environmental, social, and economic boundaries. The Region may engage stakeholders within the three sub-regions in order to better understand the specific water resources needs and priorities of that sub-region, which would then be incorporated into the context of the greater IRWM Region planning and implementation.

The Region is bordered by the Greater Monterey County IRWM region to the north, the Santa Barbara County and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM regions to the south, and the Kern County IRWM region to the east.

Water resources issues that overlap neighboring regional boundaries are either covered by existing cooperative water management plans (i.e. Nacitone Watershed Management Plan), adjudication (i.e. Santa Maria Groundwater Basin), and operational agreements (i.e. Nacimiento Reservoir), or have no defining water resource management issue. All of these items are to be included in the Region's Plan consistent with the plans of neighboring regions. The RWMG will continue to coordinate with neighboring regions to address additional water resources issues and possible integrated water management strategies in our respective IRWM plans.

5.4 Non-binding nature. This document and participation in the IRWM program efforts are nonbinding, and in no way suggest that a RWMG member or Implementation Affiliate may not continue its own planning and undertake efforts to secure project funding from any source. An agency/ organization may withdraw from participation in accordance with Section 5.7.

5.5 Other on-going regional efforts. Development of the Plan is separate from efforts of other organizations to develop water-related plans on a regional basis. As the Plan is developed, work products can be shared with these separate efforts to provide them with current information.

5.6 Reports and communications. The WRAC, an IRWM contact list, and the District's website will serve as the forum for updates and correspondence relating to the IRWM program and Plan development.

5.7 Termination. Because the Plan will require periodic review and updating for use into the future, it is envisioned that the joint efforts of those involved will be ongoing in maintaining a living document. Thus this MOU will remain as a reflection of the understandings of the RWMG Members. As indicated, parties to this MOU may terminate their involvement at any time, but must provide all RWMG agencies with 30 days' advance notice of intent to terminate.

5.8 Superseded Prior MOU. This MOU supersedes the MOU dated April 21, 2009 (2009 MOU).

5.9 Counterparts. This MOU may be executed in counterparts and has the same force and effect as if all the signatures were obtained in one document.

6. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We, the undersigned representatives of our respective agencies or organizations, acknowledge the above as our understanding of how the San Luis Integrated Regional Water Management Plan will be developed.

_____ signature

_____ printed name

_____ agency

_____ date

Attachment 1 – San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region and Sub-Regions Map

