



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

AGENDA

Date: October 4, 2017
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: SLO City/County Library Community Room, 995 Palm St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

- 1) Introductions/Public Comment
- 2) RWMG Membership Update
- 3) 2018 IRWM Plan Update
 - a) Plan Update Schedule
 - b) RWMG Working Group recommendations to update IRWM Plan
 - c) Discussion on Climate Change standard requirements, including hosting public workshop and/or formation of working group
- 4) Stormwater Resource Plan efforts
 - a) Presentation on Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) efforts
 - b) Discussion for the participation/representation of the SLO County RWMG as part of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Stormwater Resource Plan effort (handouts will be provided at the meeting)
- 5) Disadvantage Community (DAC) Involvement Activities
 - a) Presentation on revised proposal to DWR for DAC Involvement activities
 - b) Discussion on scoping for the Needs Assessment activity

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.slocountywater.org/irwm>

NEXT RWMG MEETING:

Wednesday **December 6, 2017** at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
SLO City/County Library Community Room, 995 Palm St, San Luis Obispo CA

(note: no meeting in November)

For more information, please contact
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TO: IRWM Regional Water Management Group

FROM: Mladen Bandov, Water Resources Engineer

DATE: October 4, 2017

SUBJECT: Item #3: 2018 IRWM Plan Update

Recommendations

1. Receive update on the schedule for the 2018 IRWM Plan Update
2. Consider RWMG Working Group recommendations to update the IRWM Plan
3. Discussion on Climate Change standard requirements, including hosting public workshop and/or formation of working group

Discussion

IRWM Plan Schedule

On September 21, 2017, County staff participated in the Proposition 1 Implementation Grant Program discussion as part of the IRWM Roundtable of Regions (RoR) with the Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR staff discussed the feedback received from IRWM regions on the proposed changes to the grant solicitation process from an earlier meeting. Based on the feedback, DWR staff proposed a revised concept for the grant solicitation process and solicited input from the IRWM region participants.

The proposed revised process (to be presented by County staff in detail at the October 4, 2017 RWMG meeting) will most likely add additional requirements to the eligibility of implementation projects for the upcoming Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation grant solicitation. The proposed revised process also pushes out the schedule for the solicitation (see following table):

Proposed Revised Process (as discussed by DWR on September 21, 2017)	Anticipated Date
Prop 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation	
Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Prop 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation Grant - release	Spring 2018
Grant applicant presentation and consultation with DWR for proposed project(s)	Spring/Summer 2018
DWR reviews potential project(s), including a list of observations and comments	Summer/Fall 2018
Applications due	Fall 2018
Prop 1 IRWM Round 2 Implementation	
PSP and application process	2020

As a result of the anticipated release of the Draft PSP in Spring 2018, the timing for the 2018 IRWM Plan Update will also be extended to coincide with the application due date. This extension provides more time to include elements of the IRWM Plan that were initially proposed to be updated/revised at a time following the plan adoption to ensure eligible for the grant application.

RWMG Working Group – July 2017

The RWMG Working Group met on July 24, 2017 to discuss the following changes for the 2018 IRWM Plan update:

- 1) Section E – Goals and Objectives
 - Adding new goals/objectives
 - Revising existing goals/objectives
 - Refining the definition of sub-regional priorities
- 2) Section F – Resource Management Strategies
 - Considering addition of three new RMS
 - Sediment Management
 - Outreach and Engagement
 - Water and Culture
 - Considering the review of existing RMS
- 3) Section G – Project Solicitation, Selection and Prioritization
 - Updating the project lists into three (3) categories:
 - Full Project List (IRWM-related project and concept abstracts)
 - Project Implementation List (detailed scored and ranked projects)
 - Opportunity-Specific Project List (detailed projects for specific grant)
 - Adding scoring for additional project review factors
- 4) Prioritization of objectives, RMS, and/or projects

The Working Group’s recommendations (to be presented by County staff in detail at the October 4, 2017 RWMG meeting) generally included the following:

- 1) Section E – Goals and Objectives:** Keeping the existing goals and objectives, with the exception of adding/revising objectives needed to meet the Climate Change standard, and refining sub-regional priorities to be uniform across the entire region (note: many sub-regional priorities were similar or repeated in at least two sub-regions)
- 2) Section F – Resource Management Strategies:** Adding the three new RMS and reviewing the existing RMS to be up-to-date for the region
- 3) Section G – Project Solicitation, Selection and Prioritization:** Updating the project lists into three (3) lists: a Full Project List with projects and concepts included at various levels, a Project Implementation List with a scored and rank list of high priority projects, and an Opportunity-Specific Project List that is approved by the RWMG in response to a specific

grant opportunity. The scoring will include a numerical assignment of the project meeting a set of project review factors.

- 4) No recommendation was made in adding prioritization for objectives or RMS. The ranking of projects provides a degree of prioritization for implementation of the IRWM Plan. However, projects ranking on the general Project Implementation List does not necessarily provide inclusion for grant opportunities; each grant opportunity will indicate through its criteria which projects would be most appropriate to be included. For example, during the Proposition 84 IRWM 2014 Drought Grant solicitation, those projects that addressed drought issues such as emergency intertie projects were better at responding to the solicitation than other projects.

Climate Change Standard

County staff is working on updating Section P. Climate Change of the IRWM Plan to meet the 2016 IRWM Plan Standards. It is recommended that the RWMG consider on a decision-making process to address the climate change standard requirements including

- Identifying and evaluating vulnerabilities due to climate change impacts
- Vetting and prioritizing those vulnerabilities
- Determining the feasibility of the RWMG to address those vulnerabilities
- Incorporation of strategies to eliminate or minimize the prioritized vulnerabilities
- Policies or procedures that promote adaptive management, as more climate change effects manifest, new tools are developed, and additional information becomes available

The decision-making process can be a public workshop, a RWMG Working Group, or other structure. This decision-making process will be informed by the work currently underway by County staff.

Attachment:

1. 2018 IRWM Plan Update Schedule
2. Excerpt from 2016 IRWM Plan Standards on Climate Change
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p1Guidelines/2016Prop1IRWMGuidelines_FINAL_07192016.pdf



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slocountywater.org/irwm

2018 IRWM PLAN ADOPTION SCHEDULE

The following meetings, workshops, and actions are scheduled to achieve adoption of the 2018 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for San Luis Obispo (SLO) County.

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

Date	Activity	Location	Key Actions
2017			
October 4	RWMG Meeting	SLO City/County Library Community Room	Schedule Update
November – January	Climate Change Workshop / Working Group meetings	TBD	Draft Plan Preparation; Climate Change standard
December 6	RWMG Meeting	SLO City/County Library Community Room	Progress update to RWMG/Stakeholders
2018			
February 7	RWMG Meeting	SLO City/County Library Community Room	Public Draft Presentation
Mid-March	Sub-Regional Workshops	Several workshops throughout the County	Public Draft Presentation
Early April	IRWM Plan Public Draft Comments due		
May 2	RWMG Meeting	SLO City/County Library Community Room	IRWM Plan Adoption
Late June	County of SLO Board of Supervisors Meeting	County Government Center Board Chambers	Public Hearing for IRWM Plan Adoption
June thru August	IRWM Plan Adoption by RWMG Members due		
Late Summer	Proof of Adoption submitted to Department of Water Resources for Plan Review		

RWMG = Regional Water Management Group

WRAC = Water Resources Advisory Committee

SLO City/County Library Community Room is located at 995 Palm Street in San Luis Obispo

County of SLO Board of Supervisors Chambers is located at 1055 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo CA

- ◆ That a RWMG coordinates its activities with local agencies, Native American Tribes, and stakeholders to avoid conflict within the region and to best utilize resources.
- ◆ That RWMGs are aware of adjacent planning efforts and are coordinating with adjacent RWMGs
- ◆ That the RWMGs are aware of state, federal, and local agency resources and roles in the implementation of their plans and projects.

COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN AN IRWM REGION

This coordination process could include mechanisms such as the posting of proposed projects and Native American Tribe and stakeholder meetings on a website, a portion of every Native American Tribe and stakeholder meeting held by the RWMG set aside to discuss upcoming proposed projects and activities of interest to Native American Tribe and/or stakeholders, or the development of a team within the RWMG who would be responsible for bringing together local agencies, Native American Tribes, and stakeholders groups in a setting where their projects and activities could be discussed. In doing so, opportunities for combining activities or eliminating redundant or overlapping efforts could be realized.

IDENTIFICATION AND COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORING IRWM REGIONS

Although adjacent RWMGs may function independently, coordination is still essential. If there are no adjacent IRWM regions bordering the IRWM region, then the IRWM Plan should indicate such. In the IRWM Plan, submit a map showing the IRWM region and any adjacent IRWM regions. Describe how the adjacent IRWM regions have similar and different water management issues from your own. Describe how your RWMG coordinates with adjacent RWMGs. Additionally, discuss any joint project opportunities and/or conflicts. If water management issues are similar to an adjacent IRWM region, explain if any discussions have taken place or are planned to consider consolidating into a single, larger, more regional IRWM region.

COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES

Coordination with State, federal, or local agencies for implementation of projects may include, but is not limited to the following:

- ◆ State agencies, such as California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), DWR, Department of Fish and Wildlife, SWRCB, RWQCBs, and California Coastal Commission.
- ◆ Federal agencies, such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).
- ◆ Local agencies, such as county flood control districts, public works departments, and environmental health departments.

Climate Change

Climate change is a complex issue; therefore, this guidance is meant to help RWMGs integrate climate change considerations into their IRWM planning and project review process. California is already seeing the effects of climate change on hydrology (snowpack, river flows, storm intensity, temperature, winds, and sea levels). Planning for and adapting to these changes, particularly their impacts on public safety, ecosystems, infrastructure, and long-term water supply reliability, will be among the most significant water management challenges of this century. By design, IRWM planning efforts are collaborative and include many entities dealing with water management. These aspects make IRWM a good platform for addressing broad-based concerns like climate change where multiple facets of water management are affected.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

While there are numerous pieces of policy and legislation dealing with climate change, the following are important regarding the State's response to climate change, including how IRWM planning efforts analyze climate change on a project level.

- ◆ EO S-3-05 and the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32; amending California Health and Safety Code Division 25.5, §38500, *et seq.*) lay the foundation for California's response to climate change.
- ◆ Public Resources Code §21083.05 requires periodic updates to the CEQA Guidelines for analyzing mitigation of GHG or the effects of GHG emissions in CEQA documents.

- ◆ EO S-13-08, signed by the Governor on November 14, 2008, directed the preparation of a sea level rise impact study, a transportation systems vulnerability assessment, and preparation of the California Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- ◆ OPC Resolution, adopted on March 11, 2011, requires the vulnerabilities associated with SLR to be considered for all projects or programs receiving funding from the State. In 2013 OPC issued a SLR guidance document.
- ◆ EO B-30-15, signed by the Governor on April 29, 2015, expanded EO S-3-05 by establishing an additional California GHG reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. EO B-30-15 also emphasized the need for State agencies to take climate change into account in planning and investment decisions.

VULNERABILITIES AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Effects of climate change have been identified in a variety of California resources; Volume 1 Appendix A provides links to various Climate Change resources and tools discussed below. Regional information can be found in the *California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide*, as well as through on-line tools, such as *Cal-Adapt*. RWMGs should consider whether more detailed and downscaled analyses should be pursued. Vulnerability evaluation tools, from simple checklists to more complex ones, are available on-line and at the links provided in Appendix A.

- ◆ The *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning* is a handbook designed for use by RWMGs in integrating climate change into IRWM plans; not only in identifying effects and evaluating vulnerabilities, but also in providing an analytical framework for incorporating climate change impacts into a regional and watershed planning approach. The handbook also presents various case studies to help improve decisions about water resources management systems in adapting them to current and future climate change.
- ◆ Once vulnerabilities of a region have been assessed by the RWMG, those vulnerabilities are vetted through an IRWM decision-making process to prioritize them and to determine the feasibility for the RWMG to address them. Section 4.4 of the *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning* provides several factors that a RWMG might want to consider when prioritizing its vulnerabilities. These factors include the region's overall planning priorities, risks involved, potential for multiple stressors, and potential adaptive capacity.
- ◆ RWMGs should incorporate strategies to eliminate or minimize the prioritized vulnerabilities into a broader planning context that considers the uncertainties associated with climate change.
- ◆ IRWM Plans should contain policies or procedures that promote adaptive management. As more effects of climate change manifest, new tools are developed, and new information becomes available, RWMGs will need to adjust their IRWM Plans to integrate new knowledge and data into those plans. Section 7 of the *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning* describes several approaches for handling uncertainty and incorporating new information as it becomes available.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION (GHG REDUCTION)

- ◆ IRWM plans can also help mitigate climate change by reducing energy consumption, especially the energy embedded in water use, and ultimately reducing GHG emissions. Water management results in the consumption of energy in California and the accompanying production of GHG emissions, where water must be pumped from long distances from underground aquifers or over significant elevations. End-uses of water also have an important role in energy consumption. According to the California Energy Commission (2005), 19% of the electricity and 30% of the non-power plant natural gas of the State's energy consumption (i.e., 12% of all energy used in California) are spent on water-related activities, primarily related to end-uses of water. What the customer does with the water results in 10% of the total energy used.
- ◆ The close connection between water resource management and energy is an important consideration for helping the State meet its GHG emission reduction goals. All aspects of water resources management have an impact on GHG emissions, including the development and use of water for habitat management and recreation; domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural supply; hydroelectric power production; and flood control.

CEQA project-level analyses in the area of climate change may assist RWMGs with a means of disclosing and evaluating GHG emissions of project alternatives. An analysis of GHG emissions on a project – performed so that it not only serves to evaluate that aspect of a project for the purposes of IRWM project selection, but also satisfies the requirements of CEQA – may be a useful analysis that satisfies multiple purposes. In preparing a project-level GHG emissions analysis, RWMGs and the project proponents should estimate GHG emissions from the project; establish significance criteria; identify those project components that may support carbon sequestration; and, explain how the project may help in adapting to effects of climate change. Section 3 of the *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning* provides guidance on how to evaluate GHG emissions. Where practical, RWMGs should consider the mitigation strategies adopted by CARB in its *Climate Change Scoping Plan*.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

While there are many sources of information on climate change, RWMGS should consider the documents when assessing the vulnerabilities and effects of climate change on their regions; considering how to adapt to those effects; and seeking to mitigate GHG emissions:

- ◆ *Managing an Uncertain Future: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California's Water* (DWR, 2008) – This white paper urges a different approach to managing California's water and other natural resources in the face of climate change.
- ◆ *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning* (USEPA, DWR, USACE, and the Resource Legacy Fund, 2011) – The handbook is intended to assist IRWM regions with incorporating climate change analysis and methodologies into their planning efforts. As noted previously, the handbook contains a vulnerability assessment, which is the minimum level of assessment for IRWM Plan; adaptation and mitigation strategies are also included.
- ◆ *California Climate Adaptation Planning Guide* (APG) (California Emergency Management Agency and CNRA, 2012) – The APG can be used by RWMGs and others to incorporate climate change adaptation into existing local and regional planning processes. The APG is comprised of an overview document that provides a step-by-step process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategy development, and three companion documents that focus more in-depth on specific parts of the process.
- ◆ *Volume 3 of California Water Plan Update 2013* (DWR, 2013) – Volume 3 considers how RMS could be used to adapt to various effects of climate change. A synopsis of this work, along with an analysis of the linkages between water and energy, is presented in *California Climate Science and Data for Water Resources Management* (DWR, 2015).
- ◆ *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (CARB, 2014) – CARB discusses different business sectors including water management and recommends specific strategies that could help reduce GHG emissions.
- ◆ *California Water Action Plan* (CalEPA, CNRA, and CDFG, 2014) – Provides a 5-year roadmap for the state's journey toward sustainable water management in the face of climate change and other challenges.
- ◆ *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk* (CNRA, 2014) – CNRA discusses Statewide and sector-specific vulnerability assessments. Related Implementation Action Plans are currently being finalized.

Additional resources that will further help RWMGs with their climate change analyses include the following:

- ◆ DWR's Climate Change website provides other resources and tools not identified already. The Local and Regional Resources tab was specifically created for IRWM planning. Additional tabs include information on the Water-Energy Nexus and DWR publications.
- ◆ The State has its own Climate Change portal with further information on taking action in preparing for climate change.
- ◆ Cal-Adapt is the State's on-line tool designed to provide access to data and information produced by the scientific and research community in California. The data available on this site offer a view of how climate change might affect California at the local level. RWMGs can use visualization tools, access data, and participate in sharing information.
- ◆ The State guidance on adapting to SLR provides assistance on how to incorporate SLR projections into planning and decision-making for projects in California.
- ◆ CNRA amendments to the CEQA Guidelines for GHG.

- ◆ The Climate Registry is a private non-profit organization that serves as a voluntary GHG emissions registry for North America. Participation in these voluntary GHG registries allows access to tools and consistent reporting formats that may aid RWMGs in understanding their GHG emissions and ways to promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions.
- ◆ For project-level GHG emissions assessments, a useful emissions reporting protocol has been developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in cooperation with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. WRI protocol was used as the basis for the Climate Registry; both emissions reporting protocols establish the guidelines for voluntary accounting of GHG emissions and provide a peer reviewed and widely accepted methodology for calculating GHG emissions. WRI has also published several calculation tools to simplify and document the procedure. In general, the protocols outline how to estimate emissions from mobile combustion sources, electricity consumption, and industrial processes.

IV. PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

Purpose and Use

The Plan Review Process (PRP) is used by DWR to evaluate IRWM plans against the above-listed IRWM plan standards. One of the grant eligibility requirements for the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant funding is adoption of an IRWM Plan that is consistent with the IRWM Plan Standards contained in the 2016 IRWM Program Guidelines. The PRP provides a standardized means to review IRWM Plans for consistency. The PRP is composed of four major elements – when to submit, what to submit, how to submit, and DWR’s review efforts.

Please note that future grant eligibility, associated with the IRWM Plan Standards, may need to be reevaluated if the plan content or eligibility criteria are altered through future legislative actions, such as the appropriations process.

There are several reasons or combinations of reasons that a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) may decide to submit an IRWM Plan to the PRP. The RWMG submitting the IRWM Plan must be clear on reasons for submitting their plans. Potential reasons for submitting a plan for review include eligibility for future funding and general IRWM plan review.

When to Submit

DWR will generally review plans as they are received. For RWMGs seeking IRWM Plan review prior to a future Implementation Grant solicitation, DWR recommends that the IRWM Plan be submitted as early as possible prior to the application deadline. This will afford RWMG’s time to address any deficiencies identified by DWR prior to any funding considerations or constraints. To ensure that IRWM Plan reviews can be completed in time, DWR will set a plan submittal deadline of 60 calendar days prior to the application due date for the Proposition 1 Implementation grant solicitation. RWMGs, and respective project proponents, are encouraged to adopt their updated IRWM Plan after completing the relevant plan updates, so as to have proof of adoption of the most up-to-date IRWM Plan for eligibility purposes of upcoming grant solicitations.

What to Submit

The submittal package consists of three items, a transmittal letter, an electronic copy of the plan, and an optional “road map” that refers reviewers to specific pages for required plan elements.

- 1. Transmittal Letter/Email (Required).** The transmittal letter or email must include the following items:
 - ◆ Name of the IRWM region and name of the organization submitting the IRWM Plan
 - ◆ Name and contact information (email address, mailing address, and phone number) of one specific individual acting as contact for the plan. This individual will receive correspondence regarding results of the plan review.
 - ◆ Status of the IRWM Plan at the time of submittal (i.e., final and not adopted or adopted).
 - ◆ For non-adopted IRWM Plans, a list of any remaining steps that the RWMG must undertake prior to formal adoption by the RWMG and others, including the timeline to adoption.
- 2. IRWM Plan (Required).** The IRWM Plan must be complete, including all appendices. DWR will not review a plan in piecemeal fashion. The IRWM Plan must be at least a final non-adopted version.