



Introduction

The state has identified a range of statewide priorities in the IRWM Grant Program Guidelines (DWR, 2004). Table A-1 provides an assessment of how the IRWMP and the Region's priorities are consistent with statewide priorities.

Table A-1. Consistency with Statewide Priorities

Statewide Priorities	IRWMP Consistency
Reduce Conflict between Water Users or Resolve Water Rights Disputes, including Interregional Water Rights Issues	Although the preservation and protection of water rights will continue to be a concern, given the long period of urban and suburban development in the Region, most of the major water rights disputes were settled long ago, often via litigation or adjudication of groundwater basins. As the IRWMP will optimize use of local supplies and expand conservation, which will enhance water supply reliability, implementation of the plan will reduce the potential for conflicts during periods of extended drought.
Implementation of TMDLs that are Established or Under Development	Several TMDLs have been established in the Region, and many more remain to be developed. Efforts are underway to implement those that have been established, but considerable uncertainty exists regarding the total effect of multiple TMDLs in local watersheds. The IRWMP includes planning targets to capture an estimated volume of dry- and wet-weather runoff and expand use of recycled water and will identify the costs, benefits and impacts of alternative methods to treat and recycle the estimated volumes. This process will provide specific and quantifiable information for the development of implementation plans to comply with existing and pending TMDLs, and resolve a major conflict for many local jurisdictions which are struggling to identify a fund source for TMDL compliance
Implementation of Los Angeles RWQCB Watershed Management Initiative Policies	
Alternative methods to demonstrate water quality improvement. Tie water quality improvement to beneficial use improvement as a preferred way to demonstrate effectiveness of grant projects that are multi-use or habitat restoration in nature.	The IRWMP proposes a planning target to restore riparian habitat and associated buffer habitat, which would support the goal of restoration of steelhead populations in streams in the Santa Monica Mountains. Thus, the IRWMP will support the preservation and/or restoration of beneficial uses throughout the Region as an alternative measure of water quality, rather than simple reliance on numerical standards.
Addressing the regional salt management/salt imbalance issue which is becoming increasingly critical in the region. Also, balancing this issue with the need to promote the use of reclaimed water.	The Plan includes an objective to maintain quality of existing water sources, such as reservoirs and groundwater basins, and expand use of recycled water, and includes specific acknowledgement that the re-use of water increases salt content and that salt management issues must be recognized and addressed.
Development, adoption, and implementation of TMDLs is a high priority both regionally and statewide.	The Plan proposes quantifiable planning targets to reduce, capture, treat and/or infiltrate dry-weather urban runoff, and stormwater runoff, and recycle wastewater effluent.
Municipal stormwater/urban runoff. Advancing stormwater and urban runoff programs through a variety of efforts. Current priorities include trash control and new development/re-development issues.	The Plan proposes quantifiable planning targets to reduce, capture, treat and/or infiltrate dry-weather urban runoff and stormwater runoff.
Watershed monitoring and assessment. Coordination of existing resources and participation in the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). More use of bioassessment as a tool.	The Plan encourages the development of watershed plans for those areas not currently covered, which would include watershed assessments and appropriate monitoring of watershed resources. The Data Management element addresses issues of data consistency, including the inclusion of water quality monitoring data in the SWAMP.
Habitat loss/restoration. Even with strides in improving instream water quality, unless habitat is restored (riparian/wetlands, in particular), in many cases beneficial uses can not be fully restored.	The Plan includes an objective to protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats and identifies planning targets for restoration of riparian habitat and associated buffer, in support of the existing beneficial uses and restoration of steelhead fisheries where feasible.
Preservation of high quality habitats. Ensure maintenance of beneficial uses at these sites through support of low-impact development coupled with minimized/avoided hydromodification.	The Plan includes an objective to protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats and identifies planning targets for restoration of riparian and wetland habitats.

(Table A-1. Consistency with Statewide Priorities (Continued))

Statewide Priorities	IRWMP Consistency
<p>Priority NPS efforts. Several areas have been targeted for accelerated efforts including development of regional strategies to address agriculture, septic tanks, urban runoff, and marinas as contributors of NPS pollution.</p>	<p>The Plan recognizes the need to continue existing programs, such as NPDES permits, and expand implementation of programs and projects to address NPS pollution, consistent with the State’s NPS Program Strategy and Implementation Plan (1998–2013) which identifies actions to reduce nonpoint pollution, and the companion volume, the California Management Measures for Polluted Runoff.</p>
<p>Beach closures. Other impairments in the Region are the result of elevated coliform levels or beach closures. Monitoring the water quality of recreational areas along the coast, identifying land uses or drainages which generate pathogens, and reducing pollution within these areas is a targeted activity.</p>	<p>The Plan includes a planning target to capture an estimated volume of dry- and wet-weather runoff and recycle wastewater effluent and will identify the costs, benefits and impacts of alternative methods to treat the estimated volumes. This process will support development of implementation plans to comply with existing and pending TMDLs, including the dry and wet-weather bacteria TMDLs for Santa Monica Bay beaches, which should reduce potential beach closures associated with elevated bacteria levels.</p>
<p>Reduce, reuse, and recycle water. Maximize water conservation in the Region.</p>	<p>The Plan includes objectives to maintain and enhance the reliability of local water resources and planning targets to expand water conservation and increase the use of recycled water.</p>
<p>Implementation of Santa Ana RWQCB Watershed Management Initiative Policies</p>	
<p>The WMI identifies specific water quality concerns for the Coyote Creek Watershed (including nitrogen impairment, channel erosion and aquatic habitat degradation) and proposes development of a watershed management plan (in progress) to address these issues.</p>	<p>The Plan includes objectives to improve surface water quality, conserve and restore native habitat, including wetlands and riparian habitat, and acknowledges the ongoing development of the watershed management plan for Coyote Creek.</p>
<p>Implementation of the SWRCB’s Non Point Source Pollution Plan</p>	
<p>Manage NPS pollution, where feasible, at the watershed level...where local stewardship and site-specific management practices can be implemented through comprehensive watershed protection or restoration plans.</p>	<p>As noted above, the IRWMP recognizes the need to continue existing programs, such as NPDES permits, and expand implementation of programs and projects to address NPS pollution, consistent with the State’s NPS Program Strategy and Implementation Plan and the companion volume, the California Management Measures for Polluted Runoff. Existing watershed plans, which have been developed for most of the major tributary watersheds address these concepts at the watershed level. The Plan’s quantifiable planning targets for dry-weather urban runoff and wet-weather stormwater runoff may lead to the identification of alternative methods to address runoff quality, including measures to address NPS pollutants, and integrate those methods into regional solutions. As water quality problems can be effectively implemented at a watershed scale, the project integration associated with the IRWMP is likely to occur at the watershed scale.</p>
<p>Apply previous experiences to future decisions.</p>	<p>Existing efforts to develop and implement watershed plans and comply with NPDES and TMDL requirements are increasingly utilizing adaptive management techniques to learn from previous efforts and apply those lessons to future projects and programs. The Plan identifies a process for plan updates and proposes to incorporate information from watershed monitoring into future plan updates, so that the relative application of water management strategies, the list of projects that are proposed, and the relative priorities of those projects can be modified as appropriate.</p>

Table A-1. Consistency with Statewide Priorities (Continued)

Statewide Priorities	IRWMP Consistency
<p>Encourage innovative approaches to NPS pollution control and prevention through interagency, interdisciplinary, and volunteer activities.</p>	<p>As noted in Section 1, a variety of innovative approaches to surface water quality issues have been developed to date, which involve interagency collaboration, and often rely upon water quality monitoring programs which rely upon volunteer efforts to expand available information. The Plan identifies three alternative project concepts or regional planning tools which would achieve TMDL implementation and ultimate attainment of applicable water quality objectives, which will include programs and projects to address NPS pollution. Given the size of the Region and the pervasive effect of urbanization on surface water quality, collaborative efforts to address NPS pollution will likely require multi-agency efforts, which may take the form of projects with multiple sponsors to address surface water quality.</p>
<p>Ensure the protection and restoration of the State's water quality, existing and potential beneficial uses, critical coastal areas, and pristine areas by implementing management measures to prevent and control NPS pollution.</p>	<p>The Plan includes identification of programs and projects to achieve compliance with TMDLs and thus applicable water quality standards intended to preserve designated beneficial uses, including those in coastal and inland locations. The Plan acknowledges the presence of an Area of Biological Significance and associated Critical Coastal Area in the North Santa Monica Bay.</p>
<p>Promote the implementation of management measures and use of management practices for the NPS component of TMDLs or in Clean Water Act section 303(d) listed water bodies in order to improve water quality.</p>	<p>Existing TMDLs for trash and bacteria will require the extensive application of NPS pollution control techniques to achieve compliance. The Plan includes identification of three comprehensive approaches (or regional planning tools) that would improve surface water quality and achieve compliance with TMDLs for 303(d) listed water bodies, which are most of the Region's rivers and creeks.</p>
<p>Assist in Meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives</p>	<p>The Plan includes a planning target to sustain current local water resources production capacity and provide additional water supply and/or demand reduction. The Plan identifies options to meet that target, which include expansion of water conservation programs, expanded use of recycled water (to offset potable water demand), and the optimized use of local supplies, including improved management and cleanup of groundwater basins and the potential to capture, treat, infiltrate or directly reuse urban and stormwater runoff. The combined effect of these proposals will be to minimize demand on imported supplies. This will improve water supply reliability for the Region and could concurrently reduce demand on State Water Project supplies and enhance the potential for improved management of the Bay-Delta system in order to meet identified water quality objectives, including salinity.</p>
<p>Implement Recommendations of the Floodplain Management Task Force</p>	
<p>In planning new or upgraded floodwater management programs and projects, including structural projects, local and State agencies should, where appropriate, encourage nonstructural approaches and the conservation of the beneficial uses and functions of floodplains. It is recognized that some structural approaches provide needed flood protection and opportunities for agricultural conservation and ecosystem protection and restoration.</p>	<p>The Plan includes objectives to protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats and to increase watershed friendly recreational space for all communities, which have the potential to contribute to flood protection without specific structural enhancements. The Plan also includes a planning target to restore riparian and associated habitat buffer (e.g., floodplain), which would support the preservation and restoration of steelhead trout habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains, consistent with a designated use of those streams, while recognizing the need to include the associated buffer habitat as part of the overall system. The Plan's discussion of water management strategies includes a discussion of the potential for land use planning to be used as a tool for water quality (by reducing impervious surfaces) which would have a corollary benefit to flood protection.</p>

Table A-1. Consistency with Statewide Priorities (Continued)

Statewide Priorities	IRWMP Consistency
<p>Planning and development of ecosystem restoration projects should consider costs and impacts with respect to vector control and monitoring related to mosquito-transmitted diseases.</p>	<p>The Plan's discussion of ecosystem restoration as a water management strategy recognizes that the ability to restore ecosystems within a largely urbanized region requires consideration of public safety issues, including vector management and the appropriate interface between wildlands and developed areas.</p>
<p>The State should encourage multi-jurisdictional partnerships when floodplain management projects are planned and implemented. Jurisdiction-based projects provide localized solutions, when a greater benefit might be achieved if the project adopted a watershed-wide approach. Communities and jurisdictions should work together to develop, implement, and monitor watershed-wide floodplain management programs.</p>	<p>The Plan identifies options for multi-purpose project scenarios, which may include flood management benefits. Given the size of the Region and the number of local jurisdictions and agencies, collaborative efforts will be required, which may take the form of projects with multiple sponsors at the watershed scale.</p>
<p>Implement Recommendations of the Desalination Task Force</p>	
<p>Include desalination, where economically and environmentally appropriate, as an element of a balanced water supply portfolio, which also includes conservation and water recycling to the maximum extent practicable.</p>	<p>The IRWMP includes a discussion of water management strategies, which acknowledges that brackish groundwater desalination is ongoing in the Region and that three agencies are currently investigating ocean water desalination as part of their water supply portfolio. As discussed above, substantial expansion of water conservation and reuse of recycled water is also part of the regional solution to enhance local supplies and improve water supply reliability.</p>
<p>Identify ways to improve water quality by mixing desalinated water with other water supplies.</p>	<p>Ongoing efforts to desalinate brackish groundwater already rely upon mixing the desalinated water with other supplies to provide high quality water. Pending and future proposals for ocean water desalination will also include plans to mix desalinated water with other supplies.</p>
<p>Where feasible and appropriate, utilize wastewater outfalls for blending/discharging desalination brine/concentrate.</p>	<p>Two of the three proposed ocean water desalination facilities in the Region propose to utilize existing wastewater discharge outfalls for brine discharge, which would reduce adverse effects associated with reduced salinity in the areas around the existing outfalls.</p>
<p>Evaluate all new water supply strategies including desalination based upon adopted community General Plans, UWMPs, Local Coastal Plans, and other approved plans that integrate regional planning, growth and water supply/demand projections. Environmental reviews should ensure that growth related impacts of desalination projects are properly evaluated.</p>	<p>The IRWMP provides a comprehensive assessment of the Region's water supply needs based on urban water management plans and regional population projections. The Plan acknowledges the need for integration of water resource management planning with other regional plans and activities, and recognition of the need to understand the intersection between such regional plans and the actions and proposals of individual water agencies.</p>
<p>Implement Recommendations of the Recycled Water Task Force</p>	
<p>Engage the public in an active dialogue using a community value-based decision-making model in planning water recycling projects.</p>	<p>The IRWMP proposes expanded utilization of recycled water as part of the Region's future water supply portfolio and identifies an extensive stakeholder outreach process to discuss water resource management strategies for the Region. Individual proposals for new or expanded recycled water production or distribution systems will need to incorporate a stakeholder-involvement process in the identification and implementation of individual projects. One notable example of such a process is the City of Los Angeles' IRP, which utilized an extensive stakeholder process to identify alternative scenarios for wastewater, recycled water and stormwater that were subjected to CEQA analysis.</p>
<p>Develop a uniform method for analyzing projects and a consistent economic feasibility framework across funding agencies.</p>	<p>The Plan includes a benefit assessment framework for projects that can be applied to all projects, including recycled water projects, across funding agencies and project sponsors.</p>

Table A-1. Consistency with Statewide Priorities (Continued)

Statewide Priorities	IRWMP Consistency
State Species Recovery Plan	<p>The State of California does not have a single Species Recovery Plan, as most species recovery plans are developed and implemented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to their responsibilities under the federal Endangered Species Act. The California Department of Fish and Game cooperates in the development of such plans, however, state efforts towards species recovery are focused on the development of Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP, formerly known as Habitat Conservation Plans). Only one such plan has been developed in the Region (the Palos Verde Peninsula Sub-Regional Plan). No projects included in the Draft IRWMP are located within the boundaries of the Palos Verdes NCCP plan, and therefore no conflicts with the NCCP would occur. The County of Los Angeles also has implemented the Significant Ecological Areas program, which identify special habitats and proposes measures to protect such habitat.</p> <p>The Plan includes an objective to protect, restore, and enhance natural processes and habitats, which is consistent with state and federal programs related to species recovery. The Plan includes a planning target to restore 100 linear miles of riparian habitat and associated habitat buffer, which is consistent with regional plans to restore steelhead fisheries in Malibu Creek and other streams in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Plan also proposes to incorporate the following water management strategies in the IRWMP: Restore Ecosystems, Environmental & Habitat Protection & Improvement, Watershed Planning, and Wetlands Enhancement and Creation. These strategies are consistent with federal, state, and local species preservation plans, projects and programs.</p>
Address Environmental Justice Concerns	<p>Various cities, agencies, and organizations have been working for some time to address environmental justice issues in the region and improve the lives of communities that have traditionally received little attention or amenities that more affluent communities have enjoyed. The Plan includes objectives to: optimize local water resources to reduce the region's reliance on imported water; protect and improve groundwater and drinking water quality; increase watershed friendly recreational space for all communities; maintain and enhance flood protection; and maintain and enhance public infrastructure related to water resources and water quality</p> <p>The IRWMP is intended to address the substantive water supply and water quality issues in all communities, including Disadvantaged Communities. The planning target for recreational space specifically acknowledges the need to focus efforts to expand open space in under-served communities, which often fit the definition of Disadvantaged Communities identified in the Proposition 50 guidelines. One concept the Plan is likely to explore is the concept of river parkways, which could result in the creation of linear greenbelts along existing river and stream channels, which would provide opportunities for much-needed green space in densely urbanized communities along these channels, which are typically park poor.</p>
Assist in Achieving One or More Goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program	
Maximize use of available water supplies through conservation, water recycling, and water quality improvements.	<p>The Plan proposes to address future water resource needs through aggressive expansion of water conservation programs, expanded use of recycled water, optimized use of groundwater basins (which include measures to improve water quality) and improvements in surface water quality, which could make substantial local supplies available for recharge or other direct use.</p>

Table A-1. Consistency with Statewide Priorities (Continued)

Statewide Priorities	IRWMP Consistency
Increase the flexibility of water systems at the state, federal and local level through improvements in conveyance, storage and water project operations.	The Plan recognizes the need to increase flexibility of the Region’s water infrastructure, which may include expansion and extension of conveyance facilities, projects or programs to modify reservoir operations and increase local storage, and optimized operation of wells, pumps, and treatment facilities to enhance water supply and improve water supply reliability.
Develop groundwater and surface water storage projects to boost flexibility and provide additional supplies for agriculture, urban and environmental use.	The Plan proposes optimized use of groundwater basins to increase storage capacity, and may suggest projects or programs to modify reservoir operations and increase local storage. These measures would both provide additional supplies for agricultural, urban and environmental use.
Reduce water demand through “real water” conservation.	The Plan includes a planning target for future water supply, through the development of new supplies and demand reduction. It is anticipated that a substantial portion of this future target will be provided by aggressive expansion of water conservation and water recycling programs.
Promote collaboration and integration among community based watershed efforts.	The Plan suggests that watershed plans be completed for those local watersheds that do not currently have a plan (although many individual watersheds currently have such plans), and acknowledges that the IRWMP creates an over-arching framework for these local plans and support continued collaboration and integration between these efforts.