

GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PLAN UPDATE TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Technical Memorandum (Memo) is to describe the approach for update of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) document for Greater Los Angeles County.

1.2 Background

The Integrated Regional Water Management Act of 2002 (SB 1672, Costa) amended the California Water Code (CWC) to add §10530 to encourage local agencies to work cooperatively to manage local and imported water supplies to improve the quality, quantity, and reliability of those supplies. While this act provided for IRWM plans and gave some guidance on the contents of a plan, the act gave little guidance or incentive for IRWM planning or plan implementation.

In November 2002, California voters passed Proposition 50, the *Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002*, which provided \$500,000,000 (CWC §79560-79565) to fund competitive grants for projects consistent with an adopted IRWM plan. The grant program was run as a joint effort between the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Quality Control Board to provide both planning and implementation grants to IRWM efforts. In accord with this Act, the Leadership Committee of the Greater Los Angeles County Region prepared an IRWMP, which was adopted on December 13, 2006.

In November 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006* (Public Resources Code (PRC) §75001 – 75090) Proposition 84 provides \$1,000,000,000 (PRC §75026 (a)) for IRWM planning and implementation. To be consistent with the provisions of this Act, the current plan must be updated.

2. PLAN UPDATE REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Proposition 84 Requirements

The Act allocates:

75026. (a) The sum of one billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) shall be available to the department for grants for projects that assist local public agencies to meet the long term water needs of the state including the delivery of safe drinking water and the protection of water quality and the environment. Eligible projects must implement integrated regional water management plans that meet the requirements of this section. Integrated regional water management plans shall identify and address the major water related objectives and conflicts within the region, consider all of the resource management strategies identified in the California Water Plan, and use an integrated, multi-benefit approach to project selection and design. Plans shall include performance measures and monitoring to document progress toward meeting plan objectives.

The current IRWMP meets all of these requirements, with the exception of the provision regarding consideration of "...all of the resource management strategies identified in the California Water Plan..." Table 1 provides a comparison of the water management strategies used in the current IRWMP (per Proposition 50 guidelines) and the resource management strategies identified in the California Water Plan (Update 2005). (Although the Water Plan is currently being updated and the list of resource management

strategies may be modified, it is assumed that the current list in Update 2005 will meet the requirements of Proposition 84.)

Table 1. Comparison of Management Strategies	
Proposition 50 Water Management Strategies	California Water Plan (Update 2005) Resource Management Strategies*
Conjunctive Use	<i>Agricultural Lands Stewardship</i>
Desalination	<i>Agricultural Water Use Efficiency</i>
Ecosystem Restoration	Conjunctive Management & Groundwater Storage
Environmental & Habitat Protection & Improvement	<i>Conveyance</i>
Flood Management	Desalination
Groundwater Mgmt	<i>Drinking Water Treatment & Distribution</i>
Imported Water	<i>Economic Incentives</i>
Land Use Planning	Ecosystem Restoration
NPS Pollution Control	Floodplain Management
Recreation & Public Access	Groundwater / Aquifer Remediation
Stormwater Capture & Management	<i>Matching Water Quality to Use</i>
Surface Storage	Pollution Prevention
Water and Wastewater Treatment	<i>Precipitation Enhancement</i>
Water Conservation	<i>Recharge Areas Protection</i>
Water Quality Protection and Improvement	Recycled Municipal Water
Water Recycling	Surface Storage
Water Supply Reliability	<i>System Reoperation</i>
Water Transfers	Urban Land Use Management
Watershed Planning	Urban Runoff Management
Wetlands Enhancement & Creation	Urban Water Use Efficiency
	Water Transfers
	<i>Water-Dependent Recreation</i>
	Watershed Management

*Strategies that would need to be added to the current Plan are depicted in ***bold italics***. Some of the strategies in the current document will need to be adjusted to reflect a new name (e.g., "flood management" would become "floodplain management")

Proposition 84 also indicates:

Projects that may be funded pursuant to this section must be consistent with an adopted integrated regional water management plan or its functional equivalent as defined in the department's Integrated Regional Water Management Guidelines, must provide multiple benefits, and must include one or more of the following project elements:

- (1) Water supply reliability, water conservation and water use efficiency.*
- (2) Storm water capture, storage, clean-up, treatment, and management.*
- (3) Removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands.*
- (4) Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring.*
- (5) Groundwater recharge and management projects.*
- (6) Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting, and other treatment technologies and conveyance of reclaimed water for distribution to users.*

- (7) *Water banking, exchange, reclamation and improvement of water quality.*
- (8) *Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood management programs.*
- (9) *Watershed protection and management.*
- (10) *Drinking water treatment and distribution.*
- (11) *Ecosystem and fisheries restoration and protection.*

Although the specific projects that may be submitted for funding have yet to be identified, given the contents of the draft project evaluation criteria, it is likely that the projects that are submitted will provide multiple benefits and will include one or more of the identified project elements.

With respect to project funding, Proposition 84 further indicates:

- (b) *The Department of Water Resources shall give preference to proposals that satisfy the following criteria:*
 - (1) *Proposals that effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board region or subdivision or other region or sub-region specifically identified by the department.*
 - (2) *Proposals that effectively integrate water management with land use planning.*
 - (3) *Proposals that effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions.*
 - (4) *Proposals that contribute to the attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.¹*
 - (5) *Proposals that address statewide priorities.*
 - (6) *Proposals that address critical water supply or water quality needs for disadvantaged communities within the region.*

This language is generally consistent with the Proposition 50 guidelines, thus the current plan (and projects that are consistent with the current plan) would be expected to satisfy one or more of these criteria.

With respect to additional planning funds, Proposition 84 provides:

- (c) *Not more than 5% of the funds provided by this section may be used for grants or direct expenditures for the development, updating or improvement of integrated regional water management plans.*

Future updates or improvement of the current plan would be eligible for Proposition 84 planning funds.

As relates to the Proposition 50 IRWMP program:

- (d) *The department shall coordinate the provisions of this section with the program provided in Chapter 8 of Division 26.5 of the Water Code and may implement this section using existing Integrated Regional Water Management Guidelines.*

It is anticipated that the Proposition 50 guidelines will form the basis of the guidelines for the Proposition 84 IRWMP program.

¹ The CalFed program goals are: 1) Maximize use of available water supplies through conservation, water recycling, and water quality improvements; 2) Increase the flexibility of water systems at the state, federal and local level through improvements in conveyance, storage and water project operations; 3) Develop groundwater and surface water storage projects to boost flexibility and provide additional supplies for agriculture, urban and environmental use; 4) Reduce water demand through “real water” conservation; and 5) Promote collaboration and integration among community based watershed efforts.

Proposition 84 allocates project implementation funding as follows:

75027. (a) The funding provided in Section 75026 shall be allocated to each hydrologic region as identified in the California Water Plan and listed below. For the South Coast Region, the department shall establish three sub-regions that reflect the San Diego county watersheds, the Santa Ana River watershed, and the Los Angeles—Ventura County watersheds respectively, and allocate funds to those sub-regions. The North and South Labontan regions shall be treated as one region for the purpose of allocating funds, but the department may require separate regional plans. Funds provided in Section 75026 shall be allocated according to the following schedule:

- (1) North Coast \$37,000,000*
- (2) San Francisco Bay \$138,000,000*
- (3) Central Coast \$52,000,000*
- (4) Los Angeles sub-region \$215,000,000*
- (5) Santa Ana sub-region \$114,000,000*
- (6) San Diego sub-region \$91,000,000*
- (7) Sacramento River \$73,000,000*
- (8) San Joaquin River \$57,000,000*
- (9) Tulare/Kern (Tulare Lake) \$60,000,000*
- (10) North/South Labontan \$27,000,000*
- (11) Colorado River Basin \$36,000,000*
- (12) Inter-regional/Unallocated \$100,000,000*

(b) The interregional and unallocated funds provided in subdivision (a) may be expended directly or granted by the department to address multi-regional needs or issues of statewide significance.

Nothing in the current plan would affect the allocation of funding between regions.

Proposition 84 further specifies:

75028. (a) The department shall allocate grants on a competitive basis within each identified hydrologic region or sub-region pursuant to Section 75027. The department may establish standards and procedures for the development and approval of local project selection processes within hydrologic regions and sub-regions identified in Section 75027. The department shall defer to approved local project selection, and review projects only for consistency with the purposes of Section 75026.

Nothing in the current plan would affect the project submission standards (which would be contained in an implementation grant application). Note that this section, which indicates that DWR must defer to local project priorities, appears in conflict with Section 75026(b) above, which suggests that DWR give preference to certain types of projects.

Proposition 84 further specifies:

(b) If a hydrologic region or sub-region identified in Section 75027 does not have any adopted plan that meets the requirements of Section 75026 at the time of the department's grant selection process, the funds allocated to that hydrologic region or sub-region shall not be reallocated to another region but will remain unallocated until such time as an adopted plan from the hydrologic region or sub-region is submitted to the department.

Nothing in the current plan would affect the unallocated funding in other regions.

2.2 Other Potential Requirements

In January, 2007 DWR conducted scoping meetings on the upcoming Proposition 84 grant program. In that discussion, several concepts for inclusion in the grant program were identified:

- Focus first on adequate planning
 - More upfront scrutiny of IRWM Plan
 - Less review of individual projects
- Use Existing Standards
 - To extent possible
 - No “significant” alterations
- Raise IRWM Plan Minimum Standards
- Upfront Involvement with Regional Efforts

Since the current Greater LA County IRWMP was generally well received and cited in various contexts, it is possible that few substantive modifications will be needed to meet the minimum plan standards (except as noted above, to consider all 25 resource management strategies identified in the California Water Plan).

One additional concept was:

- Technical and Financial Assistance to engage DACs/SDACs the IRWM process

It is assumed that the current DAC outreach process in the Greater LA Region will be consistent with the intent of the proposed assistance to DACs.

During the scoping meeting it was suggested that the order of Proposition 84 grant programs would be:

- Planning Grant Program
- Implementation Grants (based on acceptable and adopted plans)

Thus, the implementation grant program will follow the planning grant program and an implementation grant will be conditioned on the inclusion of an “acceptable and adopted” plan as part of the submittal package. Therefore, the update of the Greater LA IRWMP must be completed, and the revised plan adopted, prior to the submission of an implementation grant.

In other meetings, DWR has also suggested several other potential issues that should be addressed or expanded in an IRWMP, including:

- Governance;
- Global Climate Change; and
- Flood Management

The pending completion of updates to the Memorandum of Understanding and the Operating Guidelines and the expansion of the Leadership and Steering Committees will address the first item. A discussion of Global Climate Change should address the issues identified in the DWR Technical Memorandum Report on Climate Change (*Progress Incorporating Climate Change into Management of California’s Water Resources*, July 2006). It is assumed that expansion of flood management issues in the Greater LA IRWMP would be included in a planning grant application, given DWR’s intent to make funds available to specifically address flood management in IRWMPs.

3. PROPOSED PLAN MODIFICATIONS

3.1 Preface

This section would receive minor edits to update current activities and plan status.

3.2 Introduction

This section would receive more substantive edits, to update the participants in the Leadership and Steering Committees, describe recent outreach efforts to disadvantaged communities, and update the discussion of stakeholder outcomes.

3.3 Regional Description

This section would receive minor edits, to update current the status of resource issues or cited statistics, as appropriate.

3.4 Objectives and Priorities

This section would receive minor edits, to reflect the outcome of discussions related to the water supply target.

3.5 Regional Water Management

This section would be substantially revised, to expand and modify the discussion of Resource Management Strategies (per the list in the California Water Plan) and the discussion of integration opportunities.

3.6 Integrated Regional Projects

This section would receive minor edits, to update the number of projects in the database and insert a discussion on project prioritization activities.

3.7 Benefits and Impacts

This section would receive minor edits, including a general discussion of the potential benefits to greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project concepts.

3.8 Implementation

This section would be updated to reflect current status of the plan elements, as appropriate. In addition, the “Next Steps” discussion would be updated to reflect the discussion of regional and subregional planning needs at the Leadership and Steering Committees and revise the schedule of pending activities.

3.9 Appendices

The list of projects in the IRWMP database (Appendix C) would be updated.

4. WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

4.1 Proposition 84 Schedule

Due to ongoing budget uncertainties, the schedule for release of planning guidelines and an implementation grant guideline is not currently clear, although it is anticipated that draft planning guidelines would be released in the Summer/Fall of 2008. At that point, it would be possible to evaluate whether the proposed revisions (described above) will be sufficient to meet the minimum plan standards (which would be a pre-condition to the submission of an implementation grant application. Thus, it is assumed that completion of the Plan should not occur prior to the Fall of 2008.

4.2 Proposed Update Schedule

The proposed schedule for update of the IRWMP is shown in Table 2. Each step in the process would include review and comment by the Steering Committees and Leadership Committee.

Table 2: Proposed IRWMP Update Schedule							
Task	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Tech Memo	■	■	■	■			
Draft Outline			■	■	■		
Final Outline				■	■		
First Draft					■	■	■
Final Update							■