

## 2 TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

2	Governance and Stakeholder Involvement .....	2-1
2.1	Plan Participants.....	2-1
2.1.1	Regional Water Management Group.....	2-1
2.1.2	RWMG Members.....	2-3
2.1.3	Lead Agency .....	2-4
2.1.4	Water Resources Advisory Committee.....	2-4
2.1.5	Implementation Affiliates.....	2-6
2.1.6	RWMG Working Group .....	2-7
2.1.7	Interested Stakeholders .....	2-8
2.1.8	Native American Tribes .....	2-8
2.2	IRWM Organization Structure.....	2-8
2.2.1	Governance Structure.....	2-8
2.2.2	Decision Making Process.....	2-10
2.3	Stakeholder Involvement and Public Outreach Process.....	2-11
2.3.1	Communications and Outreach Plan .....	2-12
2.3.2	Public Outreach for the 2019 IRWM Plan.....	2-13
2.3.3	Public Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).....	2-13
2.3.4	Native American Tribes Outreach.....	2-14
2.3.5	IRWM Plan Update Administration .....	2-15
2.3.6	Public Information.....	2-15
2.3.7	RWMG Meetings .....	2-16
2.4	Stakeholder and Resource Integration .....	2-16
2.5	Plan Implementation .....	2-17
2.5.1	Long-term Implementation.....	2-17
2.5.2	Updating the IRWM Plan .....	2-18

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

**Figure 2-1:** Organizational structure of the San Luis Obispo IRWM Program Participants ..... 2-9

## **LIST OF TABLES**

**Table 2-1:** San Luis Obispo County RWMG Membership ..... 2-2

**Table 2-2:** Water Resource Advisory Committee Membership ..... 2-6

## 2 GOVERNANCE AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

---

This section describes the regional governance and stakeholder involvement for the development and implementation of the *San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan*.

### 2.1 PLAN PARTICIPANTS

The development and implementation of the IRWM Plan is a collaborative effort by a variety of participants in the San Luis Obispo County IRWM region, including local agencies, organizations, Native American Tribes, and stakeholders.

Governance determines the processes and organization used to exercise power, make decisions, and hold the decision-makers accountable throughout the implementation and updating of the IRWM plan. Native American Tribe and stakeholder involvement as well as public outreach and participation are essential for successful governance.

#### 2.1.1 Regional Water Management Group

The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), as defined in Water Code §10539, is the group responsible for development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. The RWMG must consist of three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management. Local agencies may include cities, counties, special districts, joint power authorities, or other political subdivision of the state, public utilities, or mutual water companies. The RWMG may also include non-profit organizations and other persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan.

The **San Luis Obispo County RWMG** was established to ensure that the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan is developed, implemented, and updated while

- Engaging elected officials and water resource management leaders
- Representing public and stakeholder groups
- Resolving conflicts
- Building political support
- Planning for important water resources projects in a regionally unified way

The members of the RWMG participate by means of the *San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*, as provided in **Appendix A – Resolution of Adoption**.

The MOU formalizes the governance mechanism of the RWMG and describes the essential governance structure inclusions such as definitions of IRWM common terms, program participant roles and responsibilities, and decision-making processes.

The San Luis Obispo County RWMG consists of the local agencies and organizations who are signatories to the MOU and have adopted the Plan, as presented in **Table 2-1**. Entities that have

statutory authority (“SA”) over water supply or water management are indicated with a checkmark (“✓”) in the table.

**Table 2-1: San Luis Obispo County RWMG Membership**

<b>Agency/Organization/Group</b>	<b>Entity Type</b>	<b>SA</b>
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Special district	✓
County of San Luis Obispo	County	✓
Avila Beach Community Services District	Special district	✓
California Men’s Colony*	State political subdivision	✓
Cambria Community Services District	Special district	✓
Cayucos Sanitary District	Special district	✓
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement	Non-profit organization	
City of Arroyo Grande	City	✓
City of Grover Beach	City	✓
City of Morro Bay	City	✓
City of Paso Robles	City	✓
City of Pismo Beach	City	✓
City of San Luis Obispo	City	✓
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District	State political subdivision	
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	Special District	✓
Heritage Ranch Community Services District	Special district	✓
Los Osos Community Services District	Special district	✓
Morro Bay National Estuary Program	Non-profit organization	
Nipomo Community Services District	Special district	✓
Oceano Community Services District	Special district	✓
S&T Mutual Water Company	Mutual water company	✓
San Miguel Community Services District	Special district	✓
San Miguelito Mutual Water Company	Mutual water company	✓
San Simeon Community Services District	Special district	✓
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Special district	✓
South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District	Special district	✓
Templeton Community Services District	Special district	✓
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County	Non-profit organization	
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District	State political subdivision	

\*Note: The California Men’s Colony has signed the RWMG MOU (see appendix B), but did not adopt the 2014 IRWM Plan.

The general composition of the RWMG based on membership meets Water Code §10539 and is sufficient in breadth to develop and implement the IRWM Plan.

RWMG membership will continue to be open to local agencies, organizations, groups, and other persons necessary to develop and implement the IRWM Plan, including the following eligible grant applicants, as defined in Water Code §79712:

- Public agencies (as defined in Water Code §79702(s))

- Non-profit organizations (as defined in Water Code §79702(p))
- Public utilities (as defined in Public Utilities Code §216)
- Mutual water companies (as defined in Public Utilities Code §2725)
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes
- State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission’s Tribal Consultation list

The San Luis Obispo County IRWM Program Participants MOU is used as a method of clarifying the organizational structure and describes the ways that RWMG members, project proponents, stakeholders can participate in the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan.

The MOU defines the participants of the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan:

- RWMG Members
- RWMG Lead Agency
- Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)
- Implementation Affiliates
- RWMG Working Group
- Interested Stakeholders

To encourage broad participation across jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries, each local agency, organization, or stakeholder determines their level of participation in IRWM planning for addressing issues related to water resources in the region.

### **2.1.2 RWMG Members**

RWMG members have signed the MOU and the governing bodies of each agency have formally adopted the current IRWM Plan. Member agencies and organizations designate representatives to work collaboratively in providing the expertise and timely information in the review and development of the IRWM Plan.

New members can be incorporated into the RWMG by signing the MOU and formally adopting the current IRWM Plan.

The composition of RWMG members will continue to include municipalities, water purveyors, resource conservations districts, non-profit organizations with interest in natural resources, environmental and land use management, water districts, sanitation districts, and other entities that are involved with water management issues in the San Luis Obispo IRWM region.

RWMG members that have sufficient managerial, financial, and staffing capacity and meet eligibility requirements may pursue IRWM grant program funding opportunities for planning or implementation projects.

### 2.1.3 Lead Agency

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) serves as the RWMG's Lead Agency for IRWM Plan development and implementation. The District is ultimately responsible for the preparation, production, and presentation of the IRWM Plan, the submission of grant applications, the execution and administration of grant agreements with the State and local project sponsors, and the monitoring and reporting of plan and project performance.

Given its regional framework and geographic scope, the District was viewed as an appropriate agency to act as the Lead Agency of the RWMG. The California Legislature established the District in 1945 with the passage of the *San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act*. The District's boundaries are co-terminus with the County of San Luis Obispo. The County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors act as the District Board of Supervisors and County Public Works Department provides staffing support for the District.

The District is responsible for San Luis Obispo County's regional water planning and implementation of regional water management projects, which include the following primary services:

1. Management of flood and storm waters
2. Conserving waters for beneficial purposes
3. Protecting life and property
4. Preventing waste or diminution of the water supply
5. Obtaining, retaining, and reclaiming waters for beneficial use, including the purchase and sale of water within the district
6. Providing for incidental recreational activities

The District gathers data, identifies issues, coordinates stakeholder review, and recommends solutions. The general regional data gathering, planning, and coordination efforts are included in the District's budget that is funded from general property tax allocations.

Projects and programs relating to the primary services of the District that are identified for implementation are funded from revenues provided by participating agencies, organizations, and other parties benefiting from the services.

### 2.1.4 Water Resources Advisory Committee

The Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) is an advisory body made up of citizens and governmental representatives, including elected officials, appointed by the District's Board of Supervisors to advise the Board on water resource policies and programs in the Region.

The WRAC has thirty-seven (37) members representing county supervisorial districts, cities, community service districts, resource conservation districts, water management agencies, water purveyors, institutions, and at-large individuals and organizations for agricultural,

development, and environmental interests. The agencies, organizations, and groups including at-large members that constitute the WRAC are identified in **Table 2-2**.

Since 1952, WRAC meetings have been the primary means for the District's review of regional water resources issues. The purposes of the committee include developing recommendations for the District's Board of Supervisors on all policy decisions and programs (including financing) related to water resources.

The District collaborated with WRAC members to establish the RWMG and develop the initial IRWM Plan in 2005 and subsequent updates in 2007 and 2014. The WRAC offers an ongoing stakeholder forum to provide additional input and recommendations to the District Board of Supervisors during IRWM Plan development and implementation. The RWMG will continue to collaborate with the WRAC to receive broad perspectives from a wide number of stakeholders in the region as well as support for IRWM planning activities and implementation projects.

**Table 2-2: Water Resource Advisory Committee Membership**

<b>Agency/Organization/Group</b>	<b>Representing</b>
County Supervisorial District 1	County government
County Supervisorial District 2	County government
County Supervisorial District 3	County government
County Supervisorial District 4	County government
County Supervisorial District 5	County government
City of Arroyo Grande	Municipality
City of Atascadero	Municipality
City of Grover Beach	Municipality
City of Morro Bay	Municipality
City of Paso Robles	Municipality
City of Pismo Beach	Municipality
City of San Luis Obispo	Municipality
Avila Beach Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Cambria Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District	Water district
Heritage Ranch Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Los Osos Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Nipomo Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Oceano Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Templeton Community Services District	Water-serving agency
San Miguel Community Services District	Water-serving agency
San Simeon Community Services District	Water-serving agency
Shandon-San Juan Water District	Water district
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District	Resource conservation district
Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District	Resource conservation district
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Water purveyor
California's Men Colony	Institution
Camp San Luis Obispo	Institution
Cuesta Community College	Institution
Golden State Water Company	Water purveyor
San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau	Agriculture interests
Environmental At-Large (3 members)	Environmental interests
Agriculture At-Large (2 members)	Agriculture interests
Development At-Large (1 member)	Development interests

### 2.1.5 Implementation Affiliates

Implementation affiliates are local project proponents that have formally adopted the current IRWM Plan. This participant category allows agencies and organizations to submit projects as part of the plan implementation even if they choose not to participate as an RWMG member. Any Implementation affiliate that meets grant application eligibility requirements may pursue

IRWM grant program funding opportunities for planning and implementation projects. There are currently no Implementation Affiliates in the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Program.

### 2.1.6 RWMG Working Group

The RWMG Working Group consists of representatives designated by RWMG Members to develop information and recommendations for IRWM program planning and implementation, stakeholder outreach, and pursuit of funding opportunities. Ideally, the RWMG Working Group is constituted as

- One (1) Lead Agency representative
- Three (3) North Coast Sub-Region representatives
- Three (3) North County Sub-Region representatives
- Three (3) South County Sub-Region representatives

The RWMG Working Group coordinates technical resources, agency staff, and stakeholders for addressing specific topics or assignments and provides draft findings and recommendations to the RWMG.

RWMG Working Group activities may include:

- Participating and inviting others to participate in workshops, presentations, and other stakeholder/public meetings
- Defining the project review process and project selection criteria
- Reviewing and defining water resources management strategies

Workshops in each of the three IRWM Sub-Regions may be convened to engage community members who have relevant expertise and interests in water resources management.

Workshops serve as an outreach function to inform stakeholders and other organizations about the IRWM Plan, and may include the following activities:

- Soliciting input and feedback from community members and stakeholders
- Obtaining data and information relevant to IRWM
- Identifying issues and opportunities related to IRWM objectives, project review process, and other sections of the plan
- Reviewing draft findings on resource management strategies
- Reviewing draft findings on project review solicitation and prioritization
- Providing feedback and input to the RWMG

RWMG Working Group meetings and workshops will be held to review and update the IRWM project lists so that plan information is current and meets State guidelines and requirements.

## 2.1.7 Interested Stakeholders

Interested Stakeholders include local agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals who choose to participate in IRWM planning efforts. Interested Stakeholders may provide a letter of support or other forms of feedback and input for IRWM planning efforts to the RWMG. This participant category allows members of the public, stakeholders, and others to provide input to the RWMG without needing to be eligible for directly receiving state IRWM grant funds.

## 2.1.8 Native American Tribes

California Native American Tribes are all Indigenous Communities of California, which are on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission, including those that are federally non-recognized and federally recognized, and those with allotment lands, regardless of whether they own those lands.

Native American Tribes are sovereign nations and the RWMG will coordinate with Tribes on a government-to-government basis. The RWMG maintains an open policy to continually invite and encourage collaboration with Tribes. Letters to the local Native American Tribes have been sent to invite them of the various IRWM processes and encourage their participation during both plan development and implementation. See **Section 2.3.4** for additional information regarding outreach to Native American Tribal communities.

Native American Tribes are invited to participate as RWMG Members, Implementation Affiliates, or Interested Stakeholders (as described in the MOU) or on a consultation basis for plan development and implementation. Native American Tribes who meet DWR requirements as a project proponent are encouraged to submit projects, programs, and technical support to the RWMG or on a government-to-government basis with the Lead Agency.

San Luis Obispo County does not currently contain any tribal lands.

## 2.2 IRWM ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

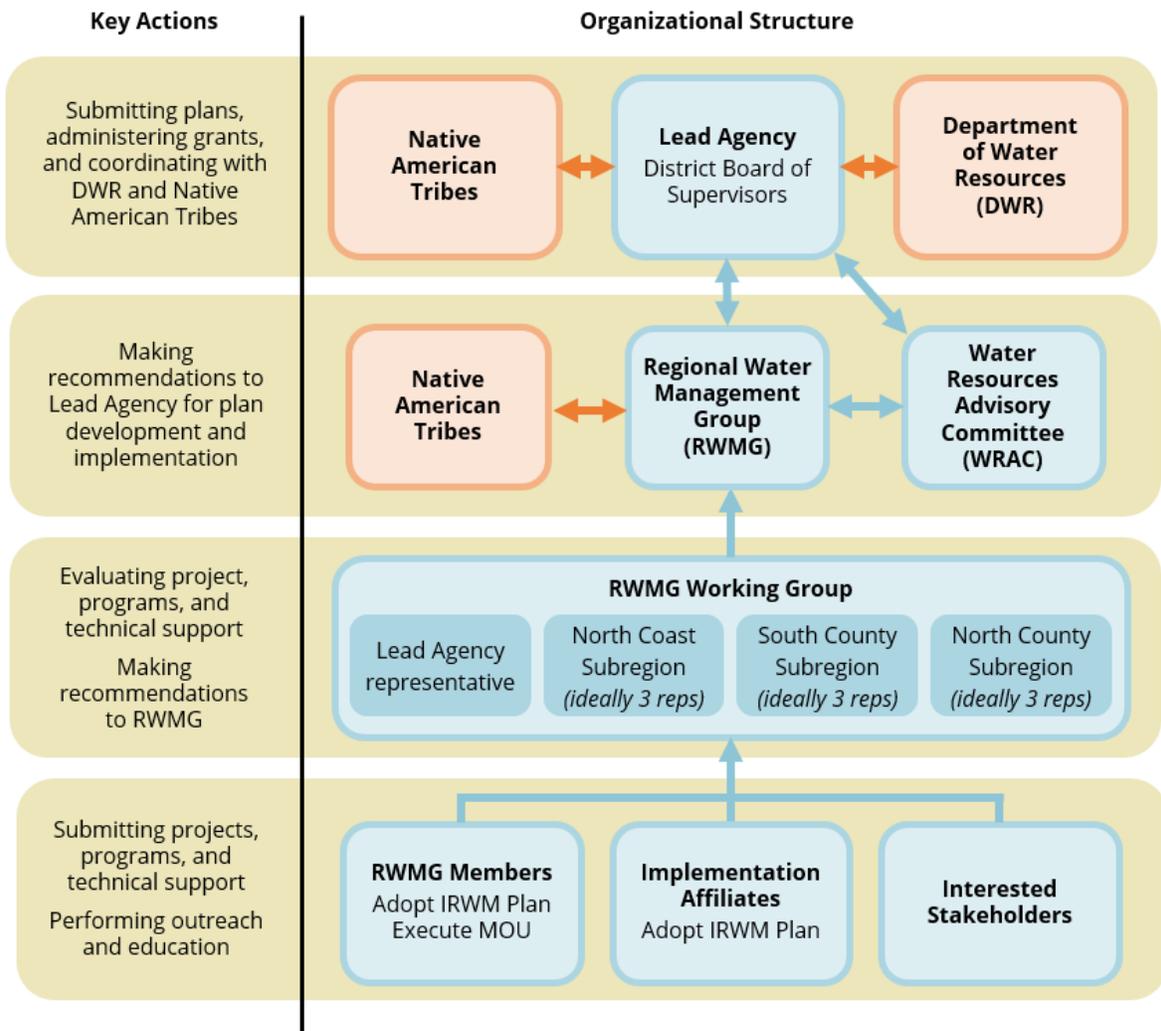
### 2.2.1 Governance Structure

The MOU defines the governance structure of the RWMG and includes the purpose for developing and implementing the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan, membership list of agencies and organizations, participant roles and responsibilities in program development and implementation, and the decision making process. The participants are organized in four areas characterized by these key actions:

- Submitting projects, programs, and technical support
- Evaluating projects, programs, and technical support
- Making recommendations for plan development and implementation

- Submitting plans, administering grants, and coordination with DWR & Native American tribes

**Figure 2-1** illustrates the organizational structure of the relationship between the program participants and their key actions.



**Figure 2-1:** Organizational structure of the San Luis Obispo IRWM Program Participants

Individual RWMG Members and Implementation Affiliates submit projects, programs, and technical support for plan development and along with Interested Stakeholders provide information and input to the RWMG Working Group.

The RWMG Working Group evaluates projects, programs, and technical support including stakeholder information and input to prepare recommendations throughout the plan development and implementation process to the RWMG.

The RWMG considers the recommendations provided by the RWMG Working Group and receives input from community members and other stakeholders via public forum. The RWMG

maintains the regional perspective during plan review and decision making for the IRWM program and seeks WRAC support of its recommendations at key decision points.

The WRAC can consider concurrence or modification of RWMG recommendations, review via WRAC sub-committee or other action either directly to the District Board of Supervisors or the RWMG.

Because of its broad stakeholder composition and direct link as advisors to the Lead Agency's Board of Supervisors, the WRAC provides review of content and at key decision points of the IRWM Plan. The RWMG will seek WRAC support of its recommendations at key decision points (e.g., for IRWM Plan approval and adoption by the District Board of Supervisors). Once the IRWM Plan is approved and adopted by the District Board of Supervisors (Board of the Lead Agency) and San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, other RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates will adopt the IRWM Plan. As a final step, the District will submit the IRWM Plan to DWR for approval.

The Communications and Outreach Plan ensures that all relevant communications are elevated from the RWMG Working Group and Sub-Region discussions to the RWMG for consideration. The RWMG members will consider all comments and concerns recorded from these discussions and weigh them during their review of the IRWM Plan. The Communications and Outreach Plan defines processes for interactions between participant tiers, which is further described in **Section 2.3.1**.

## 2.2.2 Decision Making Process

Decisions are made by simple majority vote at the RWMG meetings and then elevated to the Lead Agency Board of Supervisors as needed for final approval and coordination with DWR. Decision-making protocol defined in the MOU states:

*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 from the member representatives will be sought between the 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.*

Decisions are made by a simple majority vote of the RWMG member representatives present at a meeting. Of course, consensus is the goal and will be achieved whenever possible. Stakeholders are invited to attend and provide input at all RWMG meetings; however, decision making votes will only include RWMG member representatives.

If decisions cannot be made, the governance structure allows for a public hearing process to consider the differing perspectives, as stated in the MOU:

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.

## 2.3 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS

Public and stakeholder involvement have been integrated into the decision-making process in a manner that ensures education, awareness, balanced opportunity to participate, and clear communication conduits. One of the goals of the public and stakeholder involvement is to strengthen overall regional capacity to move forward toward the goals of IRWM over a longer term planning horizon.

It is the expressed aim to both fortify the core group of active and engaged regional and sub-regional representatives, i.e., the WRAC, who are motivated and equipped to meet the formidable challenges involved in planning for increased water reliability, water sustainability, flood management, water quality, water supply, environmental benefits, among others within the context of a rapidly changing climate, increased political pressure, and diminishing resources as well as stretch the membership and extend meaningful stakeholder participation.

Apart from building relationships and capacity, stakeholder involvement facilitates overall assimilation of information to achieve a more water-aware culture that moves beyond traditional alliances to a more comprehensive vision which is realistic in relation to the watersheds in which we live and the water resources we share. As of the most recent census, San Luis Obispo County had just over a quarter of a million people (just over 274,000), all of whom consume water and all of whom are stakeholders. While it unrealistic to reach every single person in the county, the IRWM Plan considers each and every person in its inclusive Planning process, particularly in recognition of the fact that the majority of water consumption is in rural areas.

It is important to recognize barriers to involvement, so effort can be made to overcome them. While the regular RWMG meetings are held centrally in the City of San Luis Obispo, for the more remote communities of San Simeon, San Miguel, Shandon, Nipomo, etc. even this location can be upwards of an hour drive away. Additionally, our region, like others, has communities with very limited staffing capacity. In some cases, there are no engineers or water specific staff on site; all are consultants or contracted employees. This presents an institutional disadvantage in participation. Even so, attendance to RWMG meetings is not a requirement for receiving grant funds. Additionally, District staff visit these agencies as needed in provide opportunity to participate and receive feedback. Most recently, this occurred for the Implementation List scoring efforts in 2018. See **Section 6 – Project Review Process** for more information.

The RWMG acknowledges four (4) critical success factors for effective stakeholder involvement, decision making and overall IRWM program:

- Meeting attendance.
- Compliance with information/data requests.
- Review of TMs, draft, and final drafts of plan according to schedule and workplan (based on Scope of Work).
- Agency participants have decision-making authority and communicate frequently with agency boards and councils to ensure information about the Plan is current and accurate.

### 2.3.1 Communications and Outreach Plan

The 2014 IRWM Plan developed communication processes as a simple guide on how communication will flow and be managed through the life of the IRWM Program. These processes continue for the 2019 IRWM Plan Update.

These processes are built upon the MOU (See **Appendix B**) and the identified IRWM Program Participants (RWMG, WRAC, RWMG Working Group, Implementation Affiliates and stakeholders – See **Section 2.1**) involved in the IRWM Plan Update. It also describes the planned and periodic communications to occur between the entities. It characterizes what types of communication are used and how communication proceeds to facilitate the overall goals of the IRWM Plan Update. These are not intended to limit, but rather to enhance the exchange of information. Open, ongoing communication among actively engaged stakeholders is critical to the success of the overall IRWM Program.

#### 2.3.1.1 Informal Communication

Informal communications consist of e-mail, conversations or phone calls and serve to supplement and enhance formal communications. Due to the varied types and ad-hoc nature of informal communications, which will occur among and between all the entities, they are not discussed in this plan.

#### 2.3.1.2 Formal Communication

San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan Update will engage in various types of formal communications. The types and purposes are described below:

- **Notice of Intent**– A formal “Notice of Intent” (NOI) to update the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan will be prepared and will be distributed to all entities. The NOI will also be publicly noticed in media publications throughout the County. The NOI will be posted on the SLO County website for public access.
- **Public Meeting Notices** – Adoption Hearings on the Plan and certain meetings will be publicly noticed to allow for public and stakeholder input. Meeting Notices will be posted on the SLO County website for public access.
- **RWMG Meeting Notices** – Will be generated and sent out by email to the RWMG one (1) week in advance of the actual meeting. The WRAC will be notified of RWMG meetings in

their meeting notices as well. Meeting notices and agendas will be posted on the SLO County website for public access.

- **WRAC** meeting notices have been generated and will continue to be generated and sent via email to all entities and individuals that request to be added to the email distribution list. Meeting Notices, Agendas and Meeting Minutes will be posted on the SLO County website for public access.
- **RWMG Working Group** meeting notices will be generated and sent out by email one (1) week in advance of the actual meeting. The RWMG will be copied on Working Group meeting notices to ensure that the RWMG is abreast of the progression on the Plan and the progress on issue areas. Interested Stakeholders will also be copied on RWMG Working Group meetings. Meeting notices and agendas will be posted on the SLO County website for public access.

### 2.3.2 Public Outreach for the 2019 IRWM Plan

Building off the successful public outreach efforts in creation of the 2014 IRWM Plan, District staff and RWMG members continued to provide opportunities to the public and potential stakeholders to learn more about and engage in the IRWM process. More recently, these outreach efforts also included the Stormwater Resources Plan (SRP), which is also lead by the District.

Outreach efforts for the plan update began in 2016 and included:

- 17 regular RWMG meetings\*
- 5 RWMG Working Group meetings
- 10 Agency meeting presentations throughout the County\*
- 1 Climate Change workshop\*
- 3 sub-regional workshops\*
- 1 Tribal Council Outreach meeting (see **Section 2.3.4**)

\*denotes meeting was open to the public. Information provided at these meetings can be found in **Appendix C – Public Meetings and Workshops**.

The highlight of these meetings is series of 8 IRWM Plan Update kick-off presentations that informed the public of the purpose of IRWM, solicited feedback on potential projects, as well as hear from the public on the water-related priorities for their communities.

### 2.3.3 Public Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

The IRWM Region has seven (7) identified DACs as follows:

Community of San Miguel

Community of Oceano

City of Grover Beach

Community of San Simeon

City of San Luis Obispo

Community of Shandon\*

## Community of Santa Margarita\*

All seven DACs are signatories to the MOU and are represented in the RWMG. The Cities of San Luis Obispo and Grover Beach are RWMG members. The Communities of Oceano, San Simeon and San Miguel are represented by their Community Services District (CSD). Lastly, The Communities of Santa Margarita and Shandon are represented by the County of San Luis Obispo. All public outreach and communication efforts include and support the involvement of the SLO IRWM Region's DACs. The abovementioned outreach efforts included specific meetings targeted at San Simeon, Oceano, San Luis Obispo and Grover Beach.

The Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Grant (DAC-Inv. Grant) was a key opportunity to engage with 5 DACs in our area and meet immediate needs. Each DAC was awarded funds to meet these critical needs. Shandon and Santa Margarita were identified as DACs after the awards were made for the DAC-Inv. Grant. The community of Shandon, represented by County Service Area (CSA) 23, completed an income survey in June 2019 that showed an MHI below the 80% average of the State<sup>1</sup>. The Community of Santa Margarita was identified as a DAC with the release of the 2012-2016 American Communities Survey (ACS) data in 2018.

In addition to the DAC-Inv. Grant, these communities are involved with and regularly attend the RWMG meetings. Specifically, San Simeon was represented in the RWMG Working Group that met 3 times in April 2018 to implement the updated Project Review Process for this IRWM Plan Update.

Lastly, outreach to and engage of DACs will continue beyond this Plan in development of the County-wide Needs Assessment. This Needs Assessment is looking at "communities" beyond the Census Designated Place boundaries to identify needs and capacities for portions of larger communities that are disadvantaged, underserved or underrepresented. Upon its completion, it will be added to this Plan as a reference and intended to be used in project development and selection for future grants opportunities. The Needs Assessment will include in depth review of these seven DACs as well as other potential DACs across the region.

### 2.3.4 Native American Tribes Outreach

While San Luis Obispo County does not contain any officially designated Tribal lands, local groups are active in education, events, and protecting their culture.

In the course of the 2019 Plan update, two focused outreaches were made to local Tribal groups.

---

<sup>1</sup> The income survey is available on the County's website.

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Public-Works/Committees-Programs/County-Service-Areas/CSA-16-Shandon.aspx>

Early on in the update process on March 10, 2016, all local Tribal groups were contacted via email. This email included information regarding IRWM, the 2014 IRWM Plan, Proposition 1 (2014) and an invitation to participate. This correspondence and responses are provided in **Appendix D – Native American Tribal Outreach**.

Prior to the final push of the update, in April 2018, local Native American Tribes and any tribes in surrounding counties that have members living in San Luis Obispo County were contacted via mail, email, and telephone. A copy of these materials is provided **Appendix D– Native American Tribal Outreach**.

These Native American Communities were asked to:

- Identify if and how they would like to participate in the RWMG
- Describe of the social and cultural makeup of their tribal community
- Describe of critical water issues for their tribal community
- Discuss any potential impacts or benefits to their community of implementing the IRWM Plan.

Many Tribal communities did not respond or indicated that they would not participate in IRWM in SLO County, citing not having any lands in the County to implement projects.

Responses regarding critical water issues were used in development of the project review process. See **Section 6 – Project Review Process** for additional information.

### 2.3.5 IRWM Plan Update Administration

The District, as the Lead Agency, provides consultant contract administration and program management, as well as overall grant contract administration. This includes issuing task orders to consultants, acting as liaison to the State, reviewing consultant's work, managing project budget and schedule, and coordinating with agencies, neighboring IRWM regions, and other stakeholders.

The District is the submitting agency for selected grant applications. Additionally, the District is acting as fiduciary agent during IRWM Plan development, as well as acting as the Project Proponent for the Proposition 1 Planning Grant awarded in 2017.

### 2.3.6 Public Information

The District staff coordinates and facilitates regional outreach and public relations functions. Through this process, presentations and briefing materials are developed for use by RWMG members at regularly scheduled stakeholder business meetings. The District periodically provides public notice in local newspapers inviting all members of the public to attend outreach meetings that are being held.

A variety of media is used for the public outreach efforts to publicize the IRWM process and encourage participation, including the development of the IRWM Plan website. The website<sup>2</sup> is maintained by the District and used to publish meeting announcements and notes, presentations, briefings, and draft and final technical work products, including the draft and final IRWM Plan. Contact information is posted on the website, so the public may contact with comments, questions, and concerns.

Brochures and documents used to raise awareness are prepared intermittently (e.g., to address frequently asked questions, to provide a status report). The RWMG members are encouraged to use their agencies' newsletters to publicize the IRWM activities and IRWM Plan development.

### **2.3.7 RWMG Meetings**

In an effort to provide opportunities for all stakeholders to give input to the IRWM Plan Update, all RWMG meetings and Sub-Region Workshops are open to the public. Interested members of the public have provided input throughout the IRWM Plan process at these public forums, and through written comments to District (acting as Lead Agency) staff and/or to the RWMG. Members of the public routinely attend RWMG meetings and ask questions to stay informed about the options and opportunities available to their communities.

All are welcome and encouraged to participate in IRWM in San Luis Obispo County.

## **2.4 STAKEHOLDER AND RESOURCE INTEGRATION**

As an integrated regional plan, the word "integrated" describes the IRWM Region Stakeholder's efficient use of local resources through collaborative and coordinated efforts and shared resources. As a "regional integrated" plan, as opposed to individual local efforts, many more strategic options become available to solve water resource management issues. Multi-agency regional projects can serve multiple communities more efficiently, at a lower cost (i.e. economies of scale) and can achieve broader public support than can be achieved through smaller, localized efforts. Access to technical support and sources of funding from federal and state agencies is more effective using a regional plan supported by a regional partnership of local agencies

The IRWMP process, and specifically the RWMG and WRAC, provides a forum for sharing experience, insights, and knowledge among agencies and for developing solutions that can be effectively implemented at a regional and inter-regional scale. Regional integrated planning is advantageous for issues that span the region and cross jurisdictional boundaries within and outside the IRWM planning region.

There are many issues in the watershed that can only be effectively addressed through a coordinated regional planning approach. For example, an effective flood management solution

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/irwm>

requires consideration of activities by multiple agencies in both the upper and lower portions of the river. Addressing water quality issues such as TMDLs involves concerted efforts to control point source and non-point source pollution by agencies, cities, and counties. Surface water reservoirs can be operated to achieve maximum benefit only by understanding the needs and considerations of all downstream users.

There are also many water management related contrasts that exist between different areas of the region. This presents opportunities for regional planning to integrate efforts and utilize the attributes of one area to address deficiencies existing in another. Finally, an integrated regional planning process allows agencies planning single purpose projects to work together and combine efforts to develop multi-objective solutions, or to examine projects for potential enhancements that can address additional issues simultaneously within one project.

Examples include tying two similar projects or programs together making larger, more robust projects or programs for the region, and gaining the needed recognition by county, state and federal agencies.

Thus far, the IRWMP process has identified high priority projects, considered them in the context of regional objectives, and assembled them into Project Elements that are representative of a synergistic approach. Relationships and connections between stakeholders that were not apparent previously, are enabled through the regional planning process by aligning the Project Elements and looking for similarities. From a coordination standpoint, the IRWMP process builds relationships and understandings that will be invaluable for working out future issues. These Project Elements are described and listed in **Section 5 – Resource Management Strategies**.

## 2.5 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

### 2.5.1 Long-term Implementation

As directed by the Board of Supervisors, the governing body of the District, the Lead Agency, District staff is to prioritize implementing IRWM. This functionally means staff are to prioritize facilitating this Plan, the RWMG, grant opportunities, maintaining eligibility and compliance with program guidelines, etc. The resolution from the Board of Supervisors prioritizing IRWM can be found on the County's website.<sup>3</sup>

Beyond the District, each member agency/organization, interested stakeholder, Native American Tribe, and member of the public carry a shared responsibility of implementing the plan. These activities include attending meetings, providing feedback at decision points, participating in RWMG Working Groups, submitting projects, etc.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://agenda.slocounty.ca.gov/IIIP/sanluisobispo/agendaitem/details/6595>

Detailed approaches to performance monitoring of this Plan can be found in **Section 8 – Plan Performance and Monitoring**.

Tasks to be undertaken during the implementation of the 2019 IRWM Plan include:

(note: \* denotes an activity that triggers a re-adoption)

- Modifying / Updating Goals, Objectives and/or Governance\*
- Evaluate updates to the State list of RMS for inclusion into the San Luis Obispo Region's IRWM Plan
- Update Supply and Demand projections and methodologies of the 2012 Master Water Report
- Maintain and update the Full Project List
- Explore stakeholder, project and resource integration opportunities
- Respond to DWR, SCRWB and other Funding Opportunities
- Maintain and update the impacts and benefits as individual projects are developed and implemented
- Produce an IRWM Monitoring Report
- Maintain database of local planning documents (i.e. 2020 UWMPs when required)
- Update Stakeholder involvement surveys
- Maintain the finance opportunities list for members and interested stakeholders
- Respond to update State guidelines for IRWM planning and implementation\*
- Conduct annual review of climate change prioritized vulnerabilities per Section 14.10

As denoted above, certain implementation activities may trigger a re-adoption of the plan by RWMG members. These activities are updating the plan in response to State guidelines and changing the IRWM Plan goals, objectives and/or Governance.

### 2.5.2 Updating the IRWM Plan

An adaptive management process creates a balance between a stable plan that guides action, and a flexible plan that allows for responding to changed circumstances. The approach to updating and amending the IRWM Plan is intended to ensure its effective implementation over time and to make the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan a living document.

Changes to regional and Sub-Region planning assumptions and priorities, to State and federal legislative and/or policy, or climate conditions could create a need to update the list of projects and programs. Areas of uncertainty that could drive a plan update include litigation, changes in on-farm water use practices, State and federal coastal plans, and major changes in land use that would have an effect on the Region's water use. The process for making changes to the IRWM Plan is intended to provide the flexibility to respond to changing conditions in the region.

Interim changes are defined as minor amendments to process, organization, or water management. These changes might occur with some frequency and don't require the update and re-adoption of the IRWM Plan, or resubmittal to DWR. Interim changes include, but may not

be limited to, updates to data and maintaining the Full Project List. See **Section 6.2** for more information about the Full Project List.

As described in **Section 1 – Introduction** and this section of the IRWM Plan, the RWMG is the lead decision making body with representation from each of the stakeholder interests and local agencies for the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. Once an agency/stakeholder adopts the IRWM Plan, it accepts responsibilities to participate in the implementation of the IRWM Plan. Thus, while, the IRWM Plan will be a living document that will change over time, an agency that adopts the IRWM Plan agrees to continue building common ground and collaborating to implement the IRWM Plan.

The update frequency of the IRWM Plan for re-adoption by the region’s stakeholders is planned to be every five years. The intervening time in between each update is spent on a myriad of tasks to ensure compliance with the IRWM Plan requirements, assuming a funding source is available to support this effort. Timing of the various events shown in the figure coincides with probable funding opportunities and to, more or less, even the workload and effort so as to be manageable by one to two full time equivalents at the Associate Engineer/Principal Technician Level by the District. Outreach efforts during the intervening years should strive to keep the IRWM Plan and related activities fresh in the minds of Sub-Region stakeholders (i.e., update Sub-Region Priorities), DACs, and project sponsors.