



## A13. IRWM Plan – Reduce Delta Water Dependence

---

### Background

The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region receives State Water Project water from the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta (Delta). The following information provides assurances that the region is dedicated to reducing dependence on the Delta.

The Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Plan 2007 was adopted by the lead agency for the Cooperating Partners (the IRWM Regional Water Management Group [RWMG]), Santa Barbara County, on June 19, 2007. It was adopted by all of the Cooperating Partners by July 30, 2007. This demonstrates broad-based support for the IRWM process and the goal of reducing dependence on the Delta. Attachment 2, pages A2-3 through A2-42 provide the list of Cooperating Partners who have adopted the current plan and the accompanying resolutions.

### Portions of IRWM Plan that demonstrate Reduced Dependence on the Delta

There are several sections in the existing IRWM Plan 2007 that demonstrate that the region is dedicated to assisting the State of California in reducing dependence on the Delta. Those sections include:

- Project Selection Process
- Compliance with Statewide Priorities, Benefits, and Impacts from IRWMP Implementation.

### Project Selection Process

The project selection process for the IRWM Plan 2007 included the following criteria: “one or more statewide priorities are addressed” (e.g., Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities, p. 13, IRWM Guidelines), which is listed in No. 5 in Figure 13-2.

FIGURE 13-1

Project Solicitation Criteria from IRWM Plan 2007, Section 8.2

## **8.2 Project Solicitation and Prioritization**

Projects required to address countywide issues were solicited from the Cooperating Partners, as well as other interested stakeholders within Santa Barbara County through the outreach efforts outlined in Section 6. All projects received were evaluated and prioritized according to the following criteria:

1. Readiness to proceed
  - a. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process has been initiated or completed
  - b. Costs have been adequately estimated
  - c. Schedule, including project timeframe and milestones, has been prepared
2. One or more regional objectives are addressed
3. One or more water management strategies are utilized
4. One or more regional priorities are addressed
5. One or more statewide priorities are addressed
6. The project is likely consistent with applicable general plan
7. The project will not cause long-term significant adverse impacts, including long-term adverse impacts to agriculture
8. The project serves a disadvantaged community (DAC)

Projects were evaluated in terms of their potential to assist in meeting statewide priorities established by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). IRWM Plan 2007, pages 8–11, demonstrates that the selection process sought to support reducing dependence on the Delta by incorporating the criteria to (a) assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives and (b) assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives include water quality, levees, water supply and ecosystem restoration. In addition:

- IRWM Plan 2007, Section 8, page 8-2, describes how the IRWM Plan was to strategically incorporate projects that both reduced dependence on the Delta and provided benefits for the region.

- The IRWM Plan 2007, Section 8, beginning on page 8-18, lists the “High Priority Projects” in the top half of the project list along with the project attributes. The table displays a project write up with reference to the Statewide Priority of “Help achieve CALFED Bay Delta program goals” at the bottom of the page. Many other projects referenced the Region’s dedication to assisting in achieving CALFED Bay-Delta program goals.

### Compliance with Statewide Priorities, Benefits, and Impacts from IRWMP Implementation

Chapter 9 (“Compliance with Statewide Priorities, Benefits, and Impacts from IRWMP Implementation”) of the IRWM Plan 2007 provides an example of how the IRWM planning process and regional projects can assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives. Specifically, Santa Barbara County actions or projects are listed that assist in achieving the goals of Decision 1641, an action by the SWRCB to establish water quality objectives for water uses in the Delta.

Section 9.1 (“Compliance with Statewide Priorities”) references the IRWM Plan 2007’s emphasis on assisting the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in achieving one or more of its goals (page 9-6).

#### FIGURE 13-2

IRWM Plan 2007 Emphasis on Assisting Achievement of One Or More CALFED Bay-Delta Program Goals

***Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program***  
The CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives focus on water quality, ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, and levee system integrity in the Bay-Delta area. The potential for actions within Santa Barbara County to assist in achieving these goals is through the increase in the reliability of local water supplies, as will result from a number of projects included in the IRWMP, thereby reducing the potential need for additional imported water supplies from the Bay-Delta region. Projects that will increase water supply reliability are described under “Assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.”

Section 9.2 references the overall benefits of the IRWM Plan 2007 are listed including 9.2.2 “Projects that are Consistent with State Program Preferences.”

## Assurances that IRWM Plan 2013 will Help Reduce Dependence on the Delta

The update to the Santa Barbara Countywide IRWM Plan 2007 will be the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan 2013. The IRWM Plan 2013 is scheduled to be completed by December 2013 and no drafts have been completed at this time. However, the IRWM Plan 2013 will place an equally strong emphasis on helping reduce dependence on the Delta. The Region finds that the goal of reducing dependence on the Delta is aligned with regional objectives.

The IRWM Plan 2013 has identified regional issues, objectives, and targets that provide assurance that the updated plan will emphasize reduced dependence on the Delta. Below (Table 13-1) is a list of the IRWM Plan 2013 Objectives aligned with water management strategies the Region has selected. These objectives and associated strategies provide assurance that the IRWM Plan 2013 shares the common goal of reducing dependence on the Delta.

The regional objective “protect, conserve, and augment water supplies” emphasizes regional self-reliance which will reduce the use of imported water during times of drought. The associated strategies include conservation, recycled water, indirect potable reuse, and stormwater capture and treatment. The objectives include “protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies” which increases regional self-reliance. The objectives include “protect and improve water quality” – similar to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program goal of “water quality.” The objective of “improve flood management” includes strategies such as “multi-purpose and multi-benefit flood and stormwater management” that utilizes stormwater capture and sediment management. The objective of “improve emergency preparedness” guides the Region to prepare for emergency situations including drought management through regional water supply self-reliance. The objective of “maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability” is a high priority for the Region and has led to many projects, including several in this grant application, that invest in updating obsolete infrastructure so that adequate local supply and water quality can be maintained. The “climate change” objective includes strategies that are being adopted by regions across the State to assist in reducing the dependence on the Delta.

Table 13.1 highlights the regional objectives mentioned in the above paragraph with examples of water management strategies from the updated Plan – IRWM Plan 2013 – that are aligned with the State goal from IRWM regions to reduce dependence on the Delta.

**FIGURE 13-3:** How IRWM Objectives (IRWM Plan 2013) Provide Assurance that IRWM Plan 2013 will Strive to Reduce Dependence on the Delta

Objective	Examples of Water Management Strategies Aligned with Reducing Dependence on the Delta
<b>Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural and Urban Water Use Efficiency</li> <li>• Conjunctive Management &amp; Groundwater Storage</li> <li>• Recycled Municipal Water</li> <li>• Sediment Management</li> <li>• Develop and Maintain a Diversified Mix of Water Resources</li> </ul>
<b>Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conjunctive Use and Groundwater Management</li> <li>• Efficiency and Conservation Measures</li> <li>• Groundwater Remediation/Aquifer Remediation</li> <li>• Prevention of Salt Water Intrusion</li> <li>• Recharge Area Protection</li> </ul>
<b>Protect and improve water quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater Remediation/Aquifer Remediation including Shallow</li> <li>• Capture and treatment of stormwater</li> <li>• Upgrade Wastewater Treatment to meet Current and Future State and Federal Water Quality Standards</li> </ul>
<b>Improve Emergency Preparedness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Back-Up Facilities, Interconnections, Redundant Power Sources, and Treatment Facilities</li> <li>• Plan for and Address the Impacts of Emergency Situations such as drought.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintain and Enhance Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Efficiency and Reliability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation and Replacement of Aging Water and Wastewater Delivery and Treatment Facilities</li> <li>• Renewable and Efficient Energy Facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Address Climate Change Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Use Reduction by Water and Wastewater Systems</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Generation and Use by Infrastructure</li> <li>• Recycled Municipal Water and Urban Water Use Efficiency</li> <li>• Protect Resources and Facilities by Constructing Seawalls or Levees</li> </ul>
<b>Improve Flood Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural Improvements to Flood Infrastructure to Decrease Flooding</li> <li>• Management of Creek and River Systems to Reduce Flood Flow</li> <li>• Multi-Purpose and Multi-Benefit Flood and Stormwater Management</li> <li>• Sediment Management</li> </ul>

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK