



## Authorizing Documentation

Attached (Att1\_IG2\_Eligible\_2of5) is the resolution adopted on February 26, 2013 by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors authorizing the County Executive Officer, or designee, to submit a Proposition 84 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant proposal to the California Department of Water Resources.

## Eligible Applicant Documentation

1. *Is the applicant a local public agency as defined in Appendix B of the 2012 Guidelines? Please explain.*

Yes. The County of Ventura (County) has been designated by the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) to serve as the applicant. The Guidelines define a local agency as “any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the State, a public utility as defined in Sections 216 of the Public Utilities Code, or a mutual water company as defined in Section 2725 of the Public Utilities Code (CWC §10535).” The applicant, the County, is a local agency under this definition.

2. *What is the statutory or other legal authority under which the applicant was formed and is authorized to operate?*

The California Constitution establishes the legal authority of a County. On March 22, 1872, the Legislature of the State of California acted to create Ventura County from a portion of Santa Barbara County. The Act was effective January 1, 1873.

3. *Does the applicant have legal authority to enter into a grant agreement with the State of California?*

Yes. The County of Ventura has the necessary legal authority to enter into a grant agreement with the State of California, as cited in the Resolution, which is attached. Previously, the County of Ventura has entered into grant

agreements for Proposition 50 IRWM Planning and Implementation grants, and Round 1 Proposition 84 IRWM Planning and Implementation grants.

4. *Describe any legal agreements among partner agencies and/or organizations that ensure performance of the Proposal and tracking of funds.*

As described in the Resolution, the County of Ventura will enter into an agreement to receive Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funds and will execute the agreement with the California Department of Water Resources. Local project proponents participating in the WCVC IRWM Plan have not yet, but will, enter into legal agreements with Ventura County for the purposes of grant administration. These agreements will be prepared upon award of the Proposition 84 funds to ensure performance of the proposal and the tracking of funds.

As such, the County of Ventura has committed to the proposed scope, budget, and schedule within this Proposal. This means that the County of Ventura will be solely responsible for providing all local match related to the grant, as well as for ensuring work is performed consistent with the grant agreement, and providing project management.

## Groundwater Compliance

The Proposal includes one project that will directly affect groundwater levels and quality, as described below.

The North Pleasant Valley Groundwater Desalter, which will be implemented by the City of Camarillo, is anticipated to directly affect groundwater levels and quality in the Pleasant Valley Groundwater Basin.

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) manages and protects several groundwater basins underlying the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, and Moorpark in the southern portion of Ventura County. The FCGMA Groundwater Management Plan is currently in the process of being revised to be in

compliance with CWC §10753.7, the update is anticipated by December 2013. This Groundwater Management Plan covers the Pleasant Valley Groundwater Basin, and the City of Camarillo consents to be subject to the plan. The current FCGMA Groundwater Management Plan is attached (Att1\_IG2\_Eligible\_3of5).

## **Progress on Meeting Current IRWM Plan Standards**

The current WCVV IRWM Plan was prepared in accordance with Proposition 50 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines and was adopted in 2006. The IRWM Plan is now in the process of being updated to meet 2012 IRWM Guidelines, and the update is anticipated to be completed no later than May 1, 2014. The following presents how the WCVV IRWM Region will adopt an IRWM Plan that meets the IRWM Plan Standards contained in Appendix C of the 2012 Guidelines, as outlined in Table 1 of the IRWM Grant Program Proposal Solicitation Package for Round 2.

### Governance

*Will the governance structure need to be altered in the Updated IRWM Plan in order to ensure that balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM effort is provided?*

No, the existing WCVV governance structure encourages balanced access and opportunity for participation through broad stakeholder involvement, and this will continue in the updated IRWM Plan.

The WCVV serves as the Regional Water Management Group for the IRWM Program. The WCVV adopted a governing Charter in 2009 to formalize its structure and create a steering committee. This charter helps define the roles of the various committees and describe how decisions are made.

The WCVV is comprised of three watershed committees: Calleguas Creek, Santa Clara River, and Ventura River. Stakeholder groups for each watershed meet approximately monthly. The Steering Committee is comprised of two appointed representatives from each of the three watershed committees. The stakeholder groups and entities represented in the watershed committees vary, though there is some overlap among watersheds.

The General Membership group consists of all of the interested stakeholders in the WCVV IRWM Region and provides a forum for integration of regional water management issues, projects, and concerns, and a platform for endorsing decisions recommended by the Steering Committee. Support to the General Membership and the Steering Committee is provided by the WCVV Chair and the IRWM Project Manager who attend all meetings.

Since its inception, the governance structure has led to a strong and sustainable IRWM program and a broad level of participation in the WCVV from various sectors of the community. Though there are prescribed procedures, it is also a somewhat informal and flexible process that allows stakeholders to participate at different levels depending on their time and interest. Participation in the WCVV is open to any organization or person with an interest in watershed management in the Ventura River, Santa Clara River, or Calleguas Creek Watersheds. There is no requirement to contribute financially in order to participate. New members are welcome to join the watershed committees or the general membership at any time.

### Region Description

*Has the regional description changed significantly from the current IRWM Plan?*

No, the overall regional description has not changed significantly from the current IRWM Plan. The region boundary for the WCVV IRWM Region is the County of Ventura boundary, which will be consistent in the updated IRWM Plan. The County is a logical Region for integrated regional water management due to the history of cooperative water management, the shared infrastructure and ongoing coordination among the Region's water management entities addressing critical water issues, and the topography and geography of the Region. These conditions and features have not changed.

While the Region description will not change significantly from the 2006 IRWM Plan, the water supply, water demand, and water quality sections will be updated to reflect new information and new projections.

## Objectives

*Will your objectives change from those in the current IRWM Plan? If so, how?*

No, the overall objectives in the IRWM Plan will remain the same though language will be added to address climate change. The existing WCVI IRWM Plan contains objectives that have guided the planning and implementation process in the Region since 2006. The only significant change will be the elimination of watershed-specific objectives. Each watershed, however, will have their own set of priorities and performance measures. The updated IRWM Plan will address monitoring and prioritization of objectives, which was not previously included.

## Resource Management Strategies

*Will the updated IRWM Plan consider the resource management strategies from the California Water Plan, Update 2009?*

Yes, the updated IRWM Plan will consider the range of resources management strategies in the California Water Plan, Update 2009 and discuss how they are being implemented within the Region.

## Integration

*Will the updated IRWM Plan allow, encourage, and actively pursue integration in both the planning process and project formulation and implementation?*

Yes, the updated IRWM Plan and associated project review and selection process will allow, encourage and actively pursue integration in the planning process and project formulation. The existing WCVI IRWM Plan contains a general discussion about how projects, programs, and strategies are integrated, and integration is considered in developing new projects that will address the Plan's objectives and meet needs within the Region. Furthermore, the updated IRWM Plan will be revised to include an assessment of how well the proposed projects are integrated within the WCVI Region and with adjacent IRWM Regions, as well as how the resource management strategies are integrated through implementation of Region-wide IRWM projects and programs.

Agencies and organizations within the WCVI IRWM Region have an extensive history of working together to effectively address water resource issues, dating back to the early 1970s. These efforts have continued and will continue to implement and integrate water resource management projects on a multi-regional, regional, and watershed level.

Through the collaborative efforts across the WCVI IRWM Region among local water districts, sanitation districts, special districts, environmental and public interest groups, and many other organizations, the Region continues to pursue comprehensive and integrated water resource management. Given the complexity of the issues being addressed and the diverse nature of the stakeholder groups, the planning process and implementation of projects and programs to manage water resources on a regional level will continue well into the future and will be documented in the updated IRWM Plan. The planning process has been an opportunity for local parties, and those in neighboring IRWM Regions, to take a greater role in addressing local water and related resource problems, balancing the needs of all stakeholders, resolving conflicts, and ensuring healthy and sustainable watersheds for future generations.

## Project Review Process

*Will the project review process consider climate change vulnerabilities and greenhouse gas emissions (for both construction and operation)?*

Yes, the project development and review process will consider climate change vulnerabilities and greenhouse gas emissions.

## Technical Analysis

*Have any data gaps been identified and how will the Updated IRWM Plan help fill the gaps?*

The existing WCVI IRWM Plan identifies data gaps in the Region, and stakeholders have been working toward filling those gaps with studies and monitoring efforts, some funded by Proposition 50 and 84 grants. The WCVI stakeholders are working together to determine potential new data gaps in the Region. These will be addressed in the IRWM Plan Update.

### Relation to Local Water Planning

*Will changes to the existing IRWM Plan be needed in order to improve coordination with local water use planning efforts?*

No. There is already a substantial level of coordination within the WCVV IRWM Region. The existing WCVV IRWM Plan contains information about this coordination and the local water planning efforts and documents. Minor revisions will be made to the IRWM Plan Update to include relevant new information and local water planning efforts including reference to the entities involved.

### Relation to Local Land Use Planning

*Will changes to the existing IRWM Plan be needed in order to improve coordination with local land use planning efforts?*

No. There is already a substantial level of coordination between the WCVV IRWM process and land use planning entities within the WCVV IRWM Region. The existing WCVV IRWM Plan contains information about this coordination and the local land use planning efforts and documents. Minor revisions will be made to the IRWM Plan Update to include relevant new information and local land use planning efforts and the entities involved. A few significant things have occurred in the Region that impact land use decision making; the adoption of the new Stormwater Permit (MS4) and a study conducted by the Local Government Commission addressing the links between water quality and land use policies within the County. These will be reflected in the IRWM Plan Update.

### Stakeholder Involvement

*Will changes or improvements to the stakeholder involvement process be needed to ensure effective stakeholder participation?*

No. Changes or improvements to the stakeholder involvement process will not be needed to ensure effective stakeholder participation because, since its inception, the WCVV IRWM Region planning process has been a stakeholder-driven and inclusive process that has brought diverse interests to the table. This process will continue with the IRWM Plan Update.

Interests represented in the WCVV Region have included landowners, growers, business organizations, non-governmental entities and

environmental groups, Federal and State agencies, local military bases, individual citizens, municipalities, watershed protection agencies, Native American tribes, land use planning agencies, and water and wastewater related agencies. This diverse regional involvement has been established through the local active watershed committees (Ventura River Watershed Council, the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee, and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee) as well as watershed-level outreach.

Stakeholders participate at different levels depending on their time and interest. There is no particular membership requirement, and the level of involvement of participants varies depending on their desired role in the process. Some participants follow activities of the group through email communications and the website, while others come to every meeting and are engaged in every aspect of the process of planning and implementing IRWM elements in the Region.

Special workshops and events provide opportunities for involvement by local stakeholders. Regular meetings are held with the WCVV general membership, the three watershed committees, and the WCVV Steering Committee. Through collaborative, stakeholder involvement in Region-wide issues, WCVV decisions are made with input provided at the watershed level.

Stakeholder groups have been expanded since the 2006 IRWM Plan process, primarily through expansion of watershed committees. Additionally, there is an increased level of coordination with representatives of underserved and Disadvantaged Communities within the Region to assure their participation and address their water-related needs. Regional and watershed level meetings have been used to identify climate change vulnerabilities and potential adaptation responses.

### Coordination

*Has the RWMG identified a need for changes/improvements to the ongoing coordination efforts?*

The current WCVV stakeholder process includes broad representation of a variety of interests within the IRWM Region as well as with neighboring regions. The WCVV IRWM Plan Update will address how coordination has

evolved since the WCVV IRWM Plan was adopted in 2006 and whether further efforts are needed with respect to coordination with State and Federal agencies to address regulatory requirements prior to project implementation.

### Climate Change

*Will the Updated IRWM Plan contain: (1) A climate change vulnerability assessment of the IRWM region that is at least equivalent to the qualitative check list assessment in the Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water planning? (2) A list of prioritized vulnerabilities derived from the vulnerability assessment and the IRWM's decision making process? (3) A plan, program, or methodology for further data gathering/analyzing of the prioritized vulnerabilities?*

The updated IRWM Plan will include a discussion of the potential effects of climate change on the Region, with an evaluation of the WCVV's vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change and potential adaptation responses to those vulnerabilities, and a process to disclose and consider GHG emissions when choosing between project alternatives. Vulnerabilities will be prioritized once the methodology for gathering and analyzing data, necessary for supporting decisions, is complete.

## **Project Consistency with an Adopted IRWM Plan**

Each project included in this Proposal is consistent with the WCVV IRWM Plan; all six projects have been added to the IRWM Plan after adoption but in accordance with the procedures in the adopted Plan and fully vetted by the Stakeholder group. Documentation from the Stakeholder group and RWVG supporting the inclusion of all six projects is provided as Att1\_IG2\_Eligible\_4of5.

Table 1-1 demonstrates that the projects in the Proposal meet multiple objectives established in the adopted WCVV IRWM Plan.

## **Project Proponent Adoption of Updated IRWM Plan**

All project proponents included in this Proposal intend to adopt the updated IRWM Plan once available. Adoption is anticipated in summer 2014. Letters from each project proponent stating their intent to adopt the updated IRWM Plan are attached (Att1\_IG2\_Eligible\_5of5).

**TABLE 1-1  
CONSISTENCY WITH THE WCVV IRWM ADOPTED PLAN**

IRWM Plan Objective	PROPOSAL PROJECTS					
	North Pleasant Valley Groundwater Desalter	West Simi Valley Water Recycling Project Phases 1 and 2	Moorpark Recycled Water Project Phase IV	South Oxnard Stormwater Flood Management and Community Enhancement Phase 2B	Invasive Plant Removal, Ecosystem Restoration, and Habitat Protection in the Santa Clara River	Ventura River Invasive Plant Removal and Ecosystem Restoration Project
Reduce dependence on imported water	●	●	●			
Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies	●	●	●		●	●
Protect and improve water quality	●	●	●	●	●	●
Protect people, property and the environment from adverse flooding impacts					●	●
Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds				●	●	●
Provide water-related recreational, public access and educational opportunities				●	●	●