

Attachment 6. Program Preferences

The current update of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) will meet several of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities. Each of the Program Preferences will be met by updating or revising the 2005 Functionally Equivalent Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (FEIRWMP), through the development of a new section, or through the development and implementation of integrated regional projects and programs. The Work Plan, presented in Attachment 3, will enhance the IRWMP Update by further emphasizing several of the Program Preferences.

A detailed description of each of the IRWM Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities is presented in the following sections. The description includes where the IRWM Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities were addressed in the FEIRWMP, how they will be addressed in the current IRWMP update, and how they could be enhanced by activities in the proposed Work Plan in Attachment 3.

1. DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF IRWM PROGRAM PREFERENCES AND STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

1.1. Include Regional Projects or Programs

1.1.1. FEIRWMP

The original FEIRWMP identified more than 30 regional water management projects and programs to meet a variety of needs.

1.1.2. IRWMP Update

The existing list of projects and programs will be updated and revised, and new projects will be added as part of the IRWMP Update. The process to update the list of projects includes stakeholder meetings, a call for projects, and revision of the project review/prioritization process.

1.1.3. Work Plan

The proposed Work Plan provides several opportunities to enhance and augment the list of regional projects and programs. Expanded Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) outreach (Task 1a) would allow the RWMG to reach new DAC stakeholders with the goal of identifying and developing new projects. An enhanced website (Task 1b) would allow stakeholders to more easily submit project information, and the public would be able to more easily access the project information. The increased regional collaboration (Task 1c) would assist other key partners of the East Contra Costa County IRWM Region (ECCC Region) to develop and provide their project information. Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) and the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) will lead to the identification and development of key implementation projects. Recycled water regional planning includes participation from all of the recycled water agencies in the region, and the Regional Capacity Study includes 3 cities and 2 water districts as project participants along with many other major stakeholders in the ECCC Region and beyond.

1.2. Effectively Integrate Water Management Programs and Projects

1.2.1. FEIRWMP

The original FEIRWMP identified more than 30 regional water management projects and programs that, when integrated, helped the ECCC Region to meet its identified objectives. The project prioritization process allowed the ECCC Region to prioritize its projects through an extensive list of criteria. Projects were scored higher if they were integrated with multiple benefits and/or provided synergies with other projects.

1.2.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update process will include an update of the objectives to meet a current water-related conflicts and challenges in the region. These objectives will be developed collaboratively, including a stakeholder workshop. Workshops will also be held to review the project prioritization process and to determine opportunities for project integration.

1.2.3. Work Plan

The proposed Work Plan provides additional opportunities for integration projects and programs. The expanded DAC outreach (Task 1a) allows the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) to interface with additional stakeholders, especially DACs, who would benefit and/or contribute to an integrated project. The enhanced website (Task 1b) would present a better graphical interface for which projects to be presented, thus increasing their visibility for more integration opportunities. Increasing regional collaboration (Task 1c) would provide more venues for communication, participation, and integration to all the members of the RWMG. Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) and the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would identify ways for the ECCC Region to improve its water supply reliability through more effective, integrated use of its resources (water supplies and facilities).

1.3. Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts Within or Between Regions

1.3.1. FEIRWMP

The 2005 FEIRWMP noted several cooperative projects as examples of reducing potential conflicts in the region. These projects included interties, a joint water treatment plant expansion, a multi-purpose pipeline, and other regional projects. Inclusion of these regional projects demonstrates a history of regional cooperation and a desire to continue.

1.3.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update includes various opportunities for agencies to interact and identify potential conflicts. The first workshop is for the agencies to identify potential conflicts and determine their objectives to solve those conflicts. By identifying the conflicts early on, the agencies will be able to develop and integrated projects to effectively resolve these conflicts. An early brainstorm of potential issues to be considered in the IRWMP Update identified the need for future projects that will foster regional cooperation, such as system interties and agreements for sharing water supplies in emergencies.

1.3.3. Work Plan

The proposed Work Plan provides additional opportunities to resolved water-related conflicts within the region. The expanded DAC outreach (Task 1a) would allow the RWMG to interface with additional stakeholders, especially DACs, to identify and address potential conflicts. The increased regional collaboration (Task 1c) would increase the communication with all the members of the RWMG to help identify and solve the region's conflicts.

Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) and the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would provide ways for the ECCC Region to improve its water supply reliability through more effective use of its resources and working cooperatively. These tasks will be instrumental in proactively addressing potential future water supply related conflicts related to climate change and increasing Delta constraints.

1.4. Contribute To Attainment of One or More Objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

1.4.1. FEIRWMP

Because the ECCC Region is located within the statutory Delta, which is also the primary source of their water supply, they are particularly sensitive to the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED). The FEIRWMP identified several types of projects that helped the State to attain its CALFED objectives including water supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem restoration, and levee system integrity.

1.4.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP update will also continue to contribute to the attainment of the CALFED objectives through the updates of its objectives on water supply reliability, water quality, flood management, and ecosystem restoration. These objectives will lead to projects and programs that will help the ECCC Region meet the CALFED objectives as well as its own.

1.4.3. Work Plan

Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) and the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would provide ways for the ECCC Region to improve its water supply reliability through more effective use of its resources. Use of an alternative supply such as recycled water and better use of the ECCC Region's existing supplies and facilities will reduce the region's reliance on water supplies from the Delta and potentially maximize water quality. Increasing recycled water use in the region would also reduce treated wastewater discharges into the Delta.

1.5. Address Critical Water Supply or Water Quality Needs of DACs within the IRWM Region

1.5.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified the DACs of the ECCC Region, specified ways in which outreach would be conducted to the DACs, and identified several projects that would provide direct or in direct benefit to the critical water supply and water quality needs of DACs.

1.5.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will continue to develop ways to address the critical water supply and water quality needs of DACs through identification, direct outreach, involvement from other environmental justice organization, and development of projects to provide direct benefits.

1.5.3. Work Plan

The proposed Work Plan provides additional opportunities to address the critical water supply and water quality needs of DACs. The expanded DAC outreach to Municipal Advisory Councils (Task 1a) would provide focused discussions through structured organizations to interface directly with specific portions of the ECCC Region that are disadvantaged and have not previously been represented in the IRWM planning process. An enhanced website (Task 1b) would provide a more accessible portal to submit and present projects, thus increasing their visibility for the general public, including DACs. Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) and

the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would provide ways for the ECCC Region to improve its water supply reliability through more effective use of its resources and working cooperatively; since the ECCC Region contains DACs in most of its developed areas, addressing the region's water supply reliability would help meet the critical water supply needs of DACs.

1.6. Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning

1.6.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP is an umbrella document that incorporates local planning efforts. Continued coordination was specified with land use entities to ensure that the umbrella document would continue to accurately reflect the local land use planning.

1.6.2. IRWMP Update

The ECCC Region recognized the importance of this preference and the need to expand the description in the IRWMP. Therefore, the RWMG will be developing a new separate section in the IRWMP Update to address how to effectively integrate water management with land use planning.

1.6.3. Work Plan

Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) and the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) of the proposed Work Plan would provide ways for the ECCC Region to improve its water supply reliability through more effective use of its resources. Effective integration with land use planning would allow for better planning of water-related facilities. Tasks 2 and 3 would help land use planners from Contra Costa County and the cities participating in Tasks 2 and 3 identify where water resources are more advantageous and thus inform their land use plans accordingly.

1.7. Include Actions Designed to Integrate the Stormwater Resource Plan Requirements

1.7.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified several objectives, water management strategies, and projects that would support stormwater management.

1.7.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will include measurable objectives and projects that would support stormwater management in the ECCC Region.

1.7.3. Work Plan

No enhancements would be expected for this Program Preference from the Work Plan.

1.8. Drought Preparedness

1.8.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified several objectives, water management strategies, and projects that would support the region's water supply reliability and thus its drought preparedness. The

strategies and projects included groundwater management, water conservation, infrastructure planning, conjunctive use, and water recycling.

1.8.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will include measurable objectives and projects that help the region with its water supply reliability and thus its drought preparedness.

1.8.3. Work Plan

Because it is a sustainable, drought-proof, reliable supply, regional recycled water planning (Task 2) would help the ECCC Region with its drought preparedness. The region's drought preparedness would also benefit through better use of its existing facilities and water supplies as a result of the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3).

1.9. Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

1.9.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified several objectives, water management strategies, and projects that would support water efficiency. The strategies and projects included water conservation and water recycling.

1.9.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will include measurable objectives and projects that help the ECCC Region with its water use and reuse efficiency.

1.9.3. Work Plan

Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) would help the ECCC Region with water reuse efficiency through the identification and implementation of additional water recycling projects throughout the region, while helping water purveyors to meet state water conservation goals. The Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would support the ECCC Region's water use efficiency by identifying ways to optimize its existing facilities and supplies through reduction in losses and increased efficiencies at the ECCC Region's water treatment plants.

1.10. Climate Change Response Actions

1.10.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP did not explicitly address climate change. However, the objectives, strategies, and projects that address water supply reliability and flood management would help the ECCC Region address future climatic variability.

1.10.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP update will address climate change through a new section. The information developed will include a climate change vulnerability assessment supported by a focused workshop, a prioritized list of vulnerabilities, and plan to collect more data about the vulnerabilities. Guidelines for the vulnerability assessment are from the *Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning* (Climate Change Handbook).

1.10.3. Work Plan

As stated in the Climate Change Handbook, there are many potential impacts from climate change. The anticipated impacts to water supply include a decrease in snowpack, shift in snowmelt runoff, reduction in precipitation, difficulties with meeting environmental flow restrictions, sea water intrusion, and increase of droughts. Also, according to the Endangered Species Coalition, the Bay-Delta, from where the ECCC Region gets most of its water supply, is one of the Top 10 habitats vulnerable to climate change.

Several adaptation strategies and mitigations are also suggested in the Climate Change Handbook to address potential impacts from climate change including improving operation efficiency through optimizing system operations and increasing recycled water use. These adaptation strategies and mitigations are fully aligned with Tasks 3 (Regional Capacity Study) and Task 2 (regional recycled water planning) of the proposed Work Plan.

An added goal of the regional capacity is energy efficiencies, which would help mitigate the effects of climate change due to the potential reduction in greenhouse gasses.

1.11. Expand Environmental Stewardship

1.11.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified several objectives, water management strategies, and projects that addressed the ECCC Region's environmental stewardship. These strategies and projects included ecosystem restoration, habitat protection, wetlands enhancement and creation, and pollution control.

1.11.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will include updated measureable objectives, resource management strategies, and projects that expand the region's environmental stewardship.

1.11.3. Work Plan

The ECCC Region would continue to demonstrate that they are good stewards of the environment through the expansion of regional recycled water use (Task 2) and optimized use of their existing facilities and water supplies (Task 3) as described in the Work Plan.

1.12. Practice Integrated Flood Management

1.12.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified several objectives, water management strategies, and projects that addressed the ECCC Region's flood management. These strategies and projects included creek restoration, levee improvements, and other integrated flood management projects.

1.12.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will include updated measureable objectives, resource management strategies, and projects that increase the practice of integrated flood management. The IRWMP planning process will bring together traditional flood managers with other water and environmental planners to develop more integrated projects.

1.12.3. Work Plan

No enhancements would be expected for this Program Preference from the Work Plan.

1.13. Protect Surface and Groundwater Quality

1.13.1. FEIRWMP

The FEIRWMP identified several objectives, water management strategies, and projects that addressed the ECCC Region's water quality projection and improvement and pollution prevention.

1.13.2. IRWMP Update

The IRWMP Update will include updated measureable objectives and projects that address water quality. Additionally, the IRWMP Update includes the development of a Groundwater Management Plan and a Salt Nutrient Management Program Summary for the Pittsburg Plain Basin, which will include projections for groundwater quality.

1.13.3. Work Plan

Regional recycled water planning (Task 2) described in the Work Plan would evaluate advanced treatment alternatives that could improve the quality of recycled water that is land-applied. Additionally, increased use of recycled water would result in decreased discharges of treated wastewater directly to the Delta. The Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would identify system improvements and operations that would maximize the benefits to Delta water quality.

1.14. Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources

There are no current tribal or ceremonial lands within the ECCC Region.

1.15. Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

The FEIRWMP brought together the planning of several agencies in the ECCC Region with the goal of developing project and programs that benefit the entire region. Outreach to involve other stakeholders, including DACs was documented.

1.15.1. IRWMP Update

It is the goal of the ECCC Region to have a fully compliant IRWMP Update that integrates, involves and benefits the entire region. Several workshops and outreach activities are planned to have greater participation and distribution of benefits, including to DACs.

1.15.2. Work Plan

The proposed Work Plan provides additional opportunities to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits through increased communication. This occurs with expanded DAC Outreach (Task 1a) to increase DAC involvement, an enhanced website (Task 1b) to increase accessibility to all stakeholders, and increased regional collaboration (Task 1c) to support the needs of all agencies in the RWMG. Additionally, regional water recycling planning (Task 2) and the Regional Capacity Study (Task 3) would benefit the entire region's water supply reliability.

2. SUMMARY

Table 1 provides a summary of the information from the previous sections. The table shows the following:

- Which specific section(s) in the FEIRWMP address the IRWM Program Preference or Statewide Priority
- Which specific task(s) in the current IRWMP Update address the IRWM Program Preference or Statewide Priority
- Which specific task(s) in the proposed Work Plan (Attachment 3) enhance the IRWMP Update with addressing the IRWM Program Preference or Statewide Priority

Table 1. IRWMP Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities

Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities	Addressed in 2005 FEIRWMP	Addressed in IRWMP Update (Round 1 Planning Grant)	Enhanced by Work Plan Tasks in Attachment 3
Address Program Preferences:			
Include regional projects or programs	Section 3.4 (Projects and Programs)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 1 (Additional Outreach and Collaboration), Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning), and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the RWQCB region or subdivision; or other region of sub-region specifically identified by DWR	Sections 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies) and 3.4 (Projects and Programs)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 1 (Additional Outreach and Collaboration), Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning), and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions	Sections 3.1 (Objectives) and 4.6 (Statewide Priorities)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 1 (Additional Outreach and Collaboration), Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning), and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program	Section 4.6 (Statewide Priorities)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region.	Section 4.2 (Impacts and Benefits), 4.6 (Statewide Priorities), and 4.8 (Stakeholder Involvement)	Tasks 2 (Pittsburg Plain GMP), 4 (Salinity and Nutrient Management Program), and 5 (Public Outreach)	Task 1 (Additional Outreach and Collaboration), Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning), and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)

Table 1. IRWMP Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities (contd.)

Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities	Addressed in 2005 FEIRWMP	Addressed in IRWMP Update	Enhanced by Work Plan Tasks in Attachment 3
Address Program Preferences (contd.):			
Effectively integrate water management with land use planning	Section 4.2 (Impacts and Benefits), 4.6 (Statewide Priorities), and 4.7 (Relation to Local Planning)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Include actions designed to integrate the Stormwater Resource Plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562 into an IRWM Plan	Sections 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies) and 3.4 (Projects and Programs)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	None anticipated
Address Statewide Priorities:			
Drought Preparedness	3.1 (Objectives), 3.2 (Water Management Strategies), and 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Use and reuse water more efficiently	3.1 (Objectives), 3.2 (Water Management Strategies), and 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Climate Change Response Actions	FEIRWMP 3.1 (Objectives), 3.2 (Water Management Strategies), and 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Expand environmental stewardship	FEIRWMP 3.1 (Objectives), 3.2 (Water Management Strategies), and 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP), 2 (Pittsburg Plain GMP), 3 (Tracy Subbasin Data Gap Analysis), and 4 (Salinity and Nutrient Management Program)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)

Table 1. IRWMP Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities (contd.)

Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities	Addressed in 2005 FEIRWMP	Addressed in IRWMP Update	Enhanced by Work Plan Tasks in Attachment 3
Address Statewide Priorities (contd.):			
Practice integrated flood management	FEIRWMP 3.1 (Objectives), 3.2 (Water Management Strategies), and 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies)	Task 1 (Update IRWMP)	None anticipated
Protect surface and groundwater quality	FEIRWMP 3.1 (Objectives), 3.2 (Water Management Strategies), and 3.3 (Integration of Water Management Strategies)	Round 1 Planning Grant Task 1 (Update IRWMP), 2 (Pittsburg Plain GMP), 3 (Tracy Subbasin Data Gap Analysis), and 4 (Salinity and Nutrient Management Program)	Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)
Improve tribal water and natural resources	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ensure equitable distribution of benefits	FEIRWMP Section 4.2 (Impacts and Benefits), 4.6 (Statewide Priorities), and 4.8 (Stakeholder Involvement)	Round 1 Planning Grant Tasks 1 (Update IRWMP), and 5 (Public Outreach)	Task 1 (Additional Outreach and Collaboration), Task 2 (Regional Recycled Water Planning) and Task 3 (Regional Capacity Study)

Key:

DWR = California Department of Water Resources
 FEIRWMP = Functionally Equivalent Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
 GMP = Groundwater Management Plan
 IRWMP = Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
 N/A = Not applicable
 RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board

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