

Att6_PG2_MBSF_Pref_1of1 Program Preferences

This section describes how the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan and planning process will address IRWM program preferences. The IRWM program preferences, as specified in PRC §75026(b) and CWC §10544, consist of the following:

- Include regional projects or programs
- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR
- Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
- Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program
- Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
- Include actions designed to integrate the stormwater resource plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562 into an IRWM Plan.
- Address statewide priorities, including:
 - Drought Preparedness
 - Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently
 - Climate Change Response Actions
 - Expand Environmental Stewardship
 - Practice Integrated Flood Management
 - Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality
 - Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources
 - Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

The following section will describe how the tasks specifically proposed in this Round 2 Planning Grant application will address IRWM program preferences. The subsequent section will describe how the final standards compliant IRWM Plan for the Greater Monterey County IRWM region (anticipated for completion in Fall 2012), with the support of Round 1 Planning Grant funds, will address each of the IRWM program preferences. Together, *all* of the IRWM program preferences, with the exception of those that do not apply in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region, will be addressed through the completed standards compliant IRWM Plan and the tasks proposed in this Planning Grant application.

How the Tasks Proposed in this Application will Address IRWM Program Preferences

Task 2. IRWM Plan Coordination

The IRWM Plan Coordination addresses all of the IRWM program preferences (except for those that do not apply in this region) by providing critical leadership and support for the ongoing IRWM planning process—keeping stakeholders engaged and interested in submitting projects for the IRWM Plan, promoting coordination with neighboring IRWM regions, and most importantly, motivating the RWMG's continued enthusiasm for proactive, collaborative, positive, and integrated water resource planning for the Greater Monterey County region. While it can be said that the IRWM Plan Coordination task touches on

all of the IRWM program preferences, the program preferences that are most directly addressed by the IRWM Plan Coordinator are those that refer to the “big picture” of IRWM planning in the Greater Monterey County region. Those include:

- Include regional projects or programs
- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region
- Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
- Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
- Statewide Preference: Practice Integrated Flood Management
- Statewide Preference: Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Task 3. Increased Assistance and Outreach to DACs

By providing increased technical assistance to DACs and promoting the development of DAC projects, this task addresses the following specific IRWM program preferences:

- Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region
- Statewide Preference: Drought Preparedness
- Statewide Preference: Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality
- Statewide Preference: Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Task 4. Co-Management of Food Safety and Water Quality

The Co-Management of Food Safety and Water Quality task will support continuing efforts in the Greater Monterey County region to promote and enable the implementation of agricultural best management practices that will protect both water quality and ecological resources, while also protecting food safety. Supporting the Co-Management forum and promoting projects through the IRWM Plan may help to resolve critical conflicts that exist within the region in terms of agricultural practices and water quality regulations. The Co-Management task will bring land use management practices into the forefront of RWMG’s ongoing discussion of integrated water resource management, and will effectively incorporate the existing region-wide Co-Management effort into the IRWM planning process. This task therefore has the potential to address all of the following IRWM program preferences:

- Include regional projects or programs
- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region
- Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
- Statewide Preference: Expand Environmental Stewardship
- Statewide Preference: Practice Integrated Flood Management
- Statewide Preference: Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

Task 5. Wildfire and Water Resource Management

This task will address an issue of critical importance in the Greater Monterey County region. The problem of wildfire and its effects on water resources, ecological resources, and water supply systems is anticipated to worsen as climate change increases over time, and therefore this is very much a climate change issue. Since the issue of wildfire is a regional issue, potential solutions will also likely be regional and multi-faceted in nature. This task will effectively integrate land use planning with water resource

management, and will effectively incorporate the FireScope Monterey planning effort into the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning effort. The task will therefore directly address the following IRWM program preferences:

- Include regional projects or programs
- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
- Statewide Preference: Drought Preparedness
- Statewide Preference: Climate Change Response Actions
- Statewide Preference: Expand Environmental Stewardship
- Statewide Preference: Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

Task 6. Assessing Environmental Water Needs

As described earlier in this proposal, there is a critical lack of data regarding environmental water needs in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. By analyzing these data gaps and charting a course forward, this task will eventually enable the RWMG to more effectively plan for future water needs and to offer greater protections for environmental resources. Since environmental water needs are expected to increase with increasing climate change, this is also a climate change issue. The following IRWM program preferences are addressed specifically by this task:

- Statewide Preference: Climate Change Response Actions
- Statewide Preference: Expand Environmental Stewardship
- Statewide Preference: Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

Task 7. Analysis of Potential Barriers to IRWM Plan Implementation

Rather than addressing specific IRWM program preferences, this task addresses all of the program preferences in a global sense. Since the goal of the “Barriers” task is to remove and/or reduce regulatory and other types of barriers to IRWM Plan and IRWM project implementation, the result of this task will be a more effective and successful IRWM Plan for the Greater Monterey County region. A more effective and successful IRWM Plan for the Greater Monterey County region will in turn enable the IRWM Plan to address all of the IRWM program preferences more effectively.

Task 8. Interregional Planning

The Interregional Planning task will by nature promote more regional projects and program and will increase the integration of projects and programs. By increasing communication, the task may also help resolve any water-related conflicts between regions. In addition, of the many issues shared between IRWM planning regions, several exhibit particularly good potential for interregional coordination, including drought preparedness, climate change response, and environmental stewardship. This task therefore has the potential to address the following IRWM program preferences:

- Include regional projects or programs
- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region
- Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
- Statewide Preference: Drought Preparedness
- Statewide Preference: Climate Change Response Actions
- Statewide Preference: Expand Environmental Stewardship

How the Completed IRWM Plan will Address IRWM Program Preferences

The work that will be completed through the Round 1 Planning Grant will result in an IRWM Plan that will address *all* of the IRWM program preferences, with the exception of preferences that are not applicable to the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. Each of the IRWM program preferences is listed below, followed by a description of how the IRWM Plan and planning process will address that preference, and taking into consideration the following elements, as applicable:

- IRWM Plan
- IRWM Plan projects
- IRWM planning elements supported through the Round 1 Planning Grant

Include regional projects or programs

One of the overarching goals of the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning process is to promote the development and implementation of regional projects and programs. The following aspects of the IRWM Plan and planning process address this program preference:

- **IRWM Plan:** One of the IRWM Plan goals, with five supporting objectives, is to “Promote regional communication, cooperation, and education regarding water resource management.” In addition, one of the “Guiding Principles” for the goals and objectives is to “Support collaboration of agencies, organizations, stakeholders, and willing landowners on the development of projects that provide water resource benefits.” This goal and guiding principle reflect the RWMG’s intention to encourage collaboration, partnerships, and ultimately, the development of regional projects and programs through the IRWM planning process.

An Integration chapter will be developed for the final IRWM Plan that describes how the IRWM planning process encourages regional projects and programs through RWMG and stakeholder partnerships, through collaboration on projects, and through other means. The purpose of integrating projects is not only to provide multiple benefits but to encourage broader geographic “reach” and to combine individual projects into regional programs where appropriate.

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** Most of the 27 implementation projects currently included in the IRWM Plan can be considered regional in nature. These include:
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
 - Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee: Interlake Tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
 - Marina Coast Water District: Recycled Water Element of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP)
 - RCD of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program

- RCD of Monterey County: Salinas River Watershed Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Restoration Program
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Flood Risk Reduction Project
- Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Project
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Coastal Dedicated Monitoring Well Drilling
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Test Well for Regional Desalination Project – Slant Well
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Ecosystem Condition Profile for the Lower Salinas River Watershed
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: Making Monitoring Count
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Fisheries Enhancement Project
- Save Our Shores: Watershed Protection Program - Annual Coastal Cleanup Day in Monterey County
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation: Greater Monterey Bay Disadvantaged Community Wastewater Management Pilot Program

In addition, note that “regionalism” is a factor in the project ranking process: A project can receive extra points if it demonstrates regional vs. local benefits, based on the size of the HUC area. Also, a project can receive extra points if it demonstrates multiple partnerships, based on diversity and number of partners.

- IRWM Planning Process: The IRWM planning process as a whole can be said to promote regional projects and programs, since the primary goals of the planning process include promoting regional partnerships, increased collaboration, and projects with multiple benefits.

Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region

- IRWM Plan: As noted above, the IRWM Plan contains a Regional Communication and Cooperation goal. The goal is intended to pave the way for effective integration of water management programs and projects within the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. Also, an Integration chapter will be developed for the IRWM Plan that describes how the IRWM planning process encourages integration through RWMG and stakeholder partnerships, through collaboration on projects, through the RWMG’s choice of diverse and multiple resource management strategies for the IRWM Plan, and other means.
- IRWM Plan Projects: The project ranking process includes four criteria related to integration: partnerships, regionalism, multiple benefits, and use of a diverse mix of resource management strategies. An example of projects in the current IRWM Plan that can be considered “well integrated” include:
 - California State Parks: Big Sur River Steelhead Enhancement Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough

- RCD of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program
- **IRWM Planning Process:** Much of the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning effort is geared toward achieving “integration.” The very constitution of the RWMG—including 20 agencies and organizations that include federal, state, and local governments, public water districts and private water purveyors, non-profit organizations, agricultural interest groups, university research groups, and DAC interest groups—reflects the RWMG’s paramount interest in “integration.” A concerted effort is also made to integrate IRWM Plan projects. An “Integration Committee” was convened during the 2010 Project Review Process specifically for that purpose. In addition, the RWMG has recently initiated an innovative “joint fact-finding” process with the support of Round 1 Planning Grant funds to resolve project-related conflicts in one of the sub-watersheds in the region. One intended outcome of the “Water Resource Project Coordination” process is enhanced integration of projects within that sub-watershed area.

Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions

- **IRWM Plan:** As noted above, the IRWM Plan contains a Regional Communication and Cooperation goal, which seeks to facilitate partnerships, dialogue, collaboration, and cooperation between entities within the region. One of the objectives in particular seeks to minimize water-related conflicts through the IRWM planning process: “Foster collaboration between regional entities to minimize and resolve potential conflicts and to obtain support for responsible water supply solutions and improved water quality.”
- **IRWM Plan Projects:** While none of the projects in the IRWM Plan have been developed with the specific goal of resolving water-related conflicts within or between regions, several of the projects include community-based engagement processes that are intended to directly address any conflicts or differences of opinion that may arise with project implementation. These projects include:
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough

In addition, one concept proposal included in the IRWM Plan focuses on “Community-Based Participatory Research” (CBPR). CBPR activities include public meetings, trainings of peer leaders to conduct community surveys, learning from and with university and professional researchers, and sharing data and information in all directions. As technical experts participate in the numerous interactions to learn from and with the public, they can also take the opportunity to educate the public on water-related issues. The CBPR approach engages diverse individuals and groups in future discussions of water supply, water quality, and other environmental issues, and potentially lends greater legitimacy to future plans and actions by ensuring community involvement.

- **IRWM Planning Process:** The RWMG requested and received \$150,000 through the Round 1 Planning Grant to initiate an innovative conflict resolution process for one of the sub-watershed areas of the region, where 35 out of the 65 projects included in the IRWM Plan (in 2010) were located. The Water Resource Project Coordination (WRPC) process, referenced above, is intended to create a forum for project coordination and reconciliation in an environment that is respectful, positive, and collaborative. The process, which is currently underway, is based on a joint fact-finding approach where the project proponents and stakeholders come together to discuss their projects, identify potential conflicts and potential areas for collaboration and expansion, identify where they agree and disagree, and negotiate an approach to seeking

additional information to fill gaps or to resolve areas of disagreement. The end product will be a revised and possibly expanded list of projects to include in the IRWM Plan—eliminating project conflicts while increasing integration. The WRPC process represents a pilot project that may serve as a model for other sub-watershed areas within the region and potentially for other IRWM regions in the State.

Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program:

This program preference is not applicable in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region.

Address critical water supply or water quality needs of DACs within the IRWM region

- **IRWM Plan:** The IRWM Plan includes a goal focused entirely on DACs: “Ensure the provision of high-quality, potable, affordable water and healthy conditions for disadvantaged communities.” Under this goal are five separate objectives:
 - Seek funding opportunities to ensure all communities have a water system with adequate, safe, high-quality drinking water.
 - Seek funding opportunities to ensure all communities have adequate wastewater treatment.
 - Ensure that disadvantaged communities are adequately protected from flooding and the impacts of poor surface and groundwater quality.
 - Provide support for the participation of disadvantaged communities in the development, implementation, monitoring, and long-term maintenance of water resource management projects.
 - Promote public education in disadvantaged communities about water resource protection, pollution prevention, conservation, water quality, and watershed health.

The Stakeholder Involvement chapter of the IRWM Plan includes a section that describes the process that the RWMG uses for actively engaging and involving DAC members in the IRWM planning effort. The section identifies DACs in the region (with maps) and provides a general discussion of environmental justice and DAC needs.

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The current IRWM Plan includes several projects that address critical water management needs of DACs in the region. Two of these projects (the first two listed below) have received funding through the Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant program and will soon begin implementation. DAC projects in the IRWM Plan include:
 - Castroville Community Services District: Castroville CSD Well 2B Treatment Project
 - San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.: San Jerardo Wastewater Project
 - Monterey County Redevelopment & Housing Office: Well Replacement and Pipeline - San Lucas Water District
 - Rural Community Assistance Corporation: Greater Monterey Bay Disadvantaged Community Wastewater Management Pilot Program

Note that the project ranking process gives preference to DAC projects by including several opportunities for those projects to earn extra points: they can earn extra points through the “IRWM Plan objectives” criteria (there are five objectives for DACs, with points earned for every objective addressed), by addressing IRWM program preferences (specifically, this program preference), and by demonstrating “special or urgent need” (this can account for a full 10% of possible points). In addition, all DAC projects are “flagged” in the IRWM Plan Project List to ensure that they receive special recognition.

- **IRWM Planning Process:** The RWMG applied for and received \$160,000 in Round 1 Planning Grant funds to provide support specifically for DAC participation in the IRWM planning process

and for the development of DAC projects. Specific tasks from the Round 1 Planning Grant (currently underway) include: identify DACs in the region and provide outreach; integrate DAC members and Native American Tribal members into the IRWM planning process; provide assistance in identifying potential water resource projects; and provide technical assistance for project preparation. The RWMG is requesting \$50,000 in funding support in this Planning Grant round to provide additional technical assistance to DACs for project development (e.g., feasibility studies, permitting) and training in operations and fiscal management. These funds will be critical to help DAC members develop their project proposals and to help them attain self-reliance in managing their projects and water systems.

Effectively integrate water management with land use planning

- **IRWM Plan**: The final IRWM Plan will include a chapter entitled, “Relation to Local Land Use Planning,” which describes the relationship between water resource managers and land use planners in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. The chapter provides specific recommendations for ways in which communication and coordination between water managers and land use jurisdictions can be improved.
- **IRWM Plan Projects**: Several projects included in the IRWM Plan naturally integrate water resource management with land use planning and management. These include:
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program
 - University of California, Davis (Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory): Evaluation of Potential for Storm water Toxicity Reduction by Low Impact Development (LID) Treatment Systems (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
- **IRWM Planning Process**: As noted above, the Relation to Local Land Use Planning chapter of the IRWM Plan includes recommendations for how to improve communication and coordination between water managers and land use planners. Recommendations include: possible monthly or quarterly joint planning meetings; an annual Land Use Planning/Water Resource Planning Forum; a one-time Collaboration Workshop; and the production of a “User’s Guide to the Water and Land Management Organizational Landscape.” Also included as one of the recommendations in the chapter is an analysis of potential barriers to IRWM Plan implementation, which explores the areas where water management meets land use regulation. The analysis of potential barriers to IRWM Plan implementation is included as Task 7 in this Planning Grant application. Over time, the RWMG will seek to implement several (or all) of these recommendations through the ongoing IRWM planning process.

Inclusion of actions designed to integrate the stormwater resource plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562 into an IRWM Plan.

- **IRWM Plan:** Three goal categories in the IRWM Plan address this priority: Water Supply, Water Quality, and Environment, with specific objectives including:
 - Increase groundwater recharge and protect groundwater recharge areas.
 - Capture and manage storm water runoff.
 - Promote practices necessary to meet, or where practicable, exceed all applicable water quality regulatory standards (for drinking water, surface and groundwater quality).
 - Incorporate or promote principles of low impact development where feasible, appropriate, and cost effective.
 - Protect surface waters and groundwater basins from contamination and the threat of contamination.
 - Promote programs and projects to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of urban and agricultural runoff and/or mitigate their effects in surface waters, groundwater, and the marine environment.
 - Support research and utilization of emerging technologies (enzymes, etc.) to develop effective water pollution prevention and mitigation measures, and source tracking.

Federal and State stormwater programs and local stormwater efforts are described in the Region Description chapter of the IRWM Plan, in a sub-section of the Water Quality section entitled, “Efforts to Improve Water Quality in the Greater Monterey County Region.”

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan does not include any projects whose stated purpose is to develop a stormwater resource plan. However, several projects contain project elements that support or are consistent with the stormwater resource plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562, though they are not actually part of stormwater resource plans. Project elements include: groundwater recharge or storage for beneficial reuse of stormwater; opportunities for source control for both pollution and stormwater runoff volume, onsite and local infiltration, and reuse of stormwater; projects to reestablish natural water drainage treatment and infiltration systems, or mimic natural system functions to the maximum extent feasible; opportunities to develop or enhance habitat and open space through stormwater management, including wetlands, riverside habitats, parkways, and parks; and design criteria and best management practices to prevent stormwater pollution. These projects include:
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough (Phase I has been funding through the Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - City of Salinas: Integrated Industrial Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment Facility Improvements
 - Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - University of California, Davis – Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory: Evaluation of Potential for Storm water Toxicity Reduction by Low Impact Development (LID) Treatment Systems (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)

- **IRWM Planning Process:** As noted previously, Task 8 in this Planning Grant application includes a proposal for Interregional Planning and Coordination with the Monterey Peninsula IRWM region that centers on stormwater management. The work would provide a good opportunity to collaboratively develop more effective stormwater management practices while integrating the stormwater resource plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562 into the respective IRWM Plans.

Address statewide priorities, including:

Statewide Priority: Drought Preparedness

- **IRWM Plan:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan includes the following Water Supply goal: “Improve water supply reliability and protect groundwater and surface water supplies.” Implicitly included within that statement is the goal of “drought preparedness.” The Water Supply goal category includes 11 objectives, all of which can be said to either directly or indirectly support drought preparedness (with the last objective most directly addressing this priority). The objectives are as follows:
 - Increase groundwater recharge and protect groundwater recharge areas.
 - Optimize the use of groundwater storage with infrastructure enhancements and improved operational techniques.
 - Increase and optimize water storage and conveyance capacity through construction, repair, replacement, and augmentation of infrastructure.
 - Diversify water supply sources, including but not limited to the use of recycled water.
 - Maximize water conservation programs.
 - Capture and manage storm water runoff.
 - Optimize conjunctive use where appropriate.
 - Support research and monitoring to better understand identified water supply needs.
 - Support the creation of water supply certainties for local production of agricultural products.
 - Promote public education about water supply issues and needs.
 - Promote planning efforts to provide emergency drinking water to communities in the region in the event of a disaster.

RWMG has chosen a mix of resource management strategies for the IRWM Plan to help achieve hydrologic balance in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and thereby help address the goal of drought preparedness. Most of the resource management strategies chosen by the RWMG either directly or indirectly address drought preparedness, and include specifically:

- Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
- Urban Water Use Efficiency
- Conveyance – Regional/Local
- System Re-operation
- Water Transfers
- Conjunctive Management and Groundwater Storage
- Desalination
- Precipitation Enhancement
- Recycled Municipal Water

- Surface Storage – Regional/Local
- Groundwater Remediation/Aquifer Remediation
- Matching Water Quality to Use
- Pollution Prevention
- Salt and Salinity Management
- Urban Runoff Management
- Agricultural Lands Stewardship
- Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, and Water Pricing)
- Forest Management
- Land Use Planning and Management
- Recharge Area Protection
- Storm Water Capture and Management
- Water and Wastewater Treatment (including recycling)
- Infrastructure Reliability
- Regional Cooperation
- Education and Outreach
- Watershed Management/Planning
- Dewvaporation or Atmospheric Pressure Desalination
- Fog Collection
- Rainfed Agriculture

In addition, the Region Description chapter of the IRWM Plan contains a section entitled “Achieving Hydrologic Balance in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.” The section describes a portfolio of water supply projects, called the Monterey Regional Water Supply Program, which has been formulated as part of a regional collaborative process to address pending regional water supply shortages and to develop a regionally supported solution. This portfolio contains ten water supply projects—spanning the Greater Monterey County and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions—that have potential to enhance the region’s water supplies.

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The IRWM Plan contains numerous projects that effectively address long-term drought preparedness by contributing to sustainable water supply and reliability during water shortages. These projects are intended to increase and improve water supply through such means as recycled water, desalination, new water supply infrastructure, establishing system interties, providing critically needed water supply treatment, promoting water conservation, improving landscape and agricultural irrigation efficiencies, and providing efficient groundwater basin management. The projects include:
 - Castroville Community Services District: Castroville CSD Well 2B Treatment Project (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - City of Soledad: Soledad Water Recycling/ Reclamation Project (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Delicato Vineyards: San Bernabe Lining Project
 - Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
 - Marina Coast Water District: Recycled Water Element of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP)

- Marina Coast Water District: Regional Desalination Project
- Monterey County Redevelopment & Housing Office: Well Replacement and Pipeline - San Lucas Water District
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Granite Ridge Regional Water Supply Project
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Coastal Dedicated Monitoring Well Drilling
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Test Well for Regional Desalination Project – Slant Well
- Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee: Interlake Tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program

Statewide Priority: Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

- IRWM Plan: As noted previously, the IRWM Plan Water Supply goal is to “Improve water supply reliability and protect groundwater and surface water supplies.” The objectives within this goal category that specifically address the priority to “use and reuse water more efficiently” are:
 - Optimize the use of groundwater storage with infrastructure enhancements and improved operational techniques.
 - Increase and optimize water storage and conveyance capacity through construction, repair, replacement, and augmentation of infrastructure.
 - Diversify water supply sources, including but not limited to the use of recycled water.
 - Maximize water conservation programs.
 - Capture and manage storm water runoff.
 - Optimize conjunctive use where appropriate.

The Water Supplier section of the Region Description chapter of the IRWM Plan describes how water managers in the Greater Monterey County region are “using and reusing water more efficiently,” including current water recycling and proposed desalination. In addition, the Resource Management Strategies chapter of the IRWM Plan includes several strategies that address this priority, including

- Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
- Urban Water Use Efficiency
- System Re-operation
- Desalination
- Precipitation Enhancement
- Recycled Municipal Water
- Matching Water Quality to Use
- Agricultural Lands Stewardship
- Storm Water Capture and Management
- Water and Wastewater Treatment (including recycling)
- Dewvaporation or Atmospheric Pressure Desalination
- Fog Collection
- Rainfed Agriculture

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan includes many projects that implement water use efficiency, water conservation, recycling and reuse to help meet future water demands, increase water supply reliability, and adapt to climate change. These include:
 - City of Soledad: Soledad Water Recycling/Reclamation Project (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
 - Marina Coast Water District: Recycled Water Element of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP)
 - Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee: Interlake Tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program
 - University of California, Davis – Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory: Evaluation of Potential for Storm water Toxicity Reduction by Low Impact Development (LID) Treatment Systems (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)

Statewide Priority: Climate Change Response Actions

- **IRWM Plan:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan includes a goal category dedicated specifically to Climate Change. The Climate Change goal is to: “Adapt the region’s water management approach to deal with impacts of climate change using science-based approaches, and minimize the regional causal effects.” The goal category includes seven supporting objectives:
 - Plan for potential impacts of future climate change.
 - Support increased monitoring and research to obtain greater understanding of long-term impacts of climate change in the Greater Monterey County region.
 - Support efforts to research alternative energy and to diversify energy sources appropriate for the region.
 - Seek long-term solutions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) producing energy use.
 - Seek long-term solutions to maintain and protect existing pristine natural resources from the impacts of climate change.
 - Support research and/or implementation of land-based efforts such as carbon-sequestration on working lands and wildlands in the Greater Monterey County region.
 - Promote public education about impacts of climate change, particularly as it relates to water resource management in the Greater Monterey County region.

A Climate Change chapter has been developed for inclusion in the IRWM Plan according to the Proposition 84/1E IRWM Program standards. The chapter includes an analysis and assessment of regional vulnerabilities to climate change, identification of adaptation strategies for the projected effects of climate change in the region, and identification of mitigation strategies for GHG emissions at regional and project-specific scales as available. A discussion of anticipated climate change impacts and response actions is included in several other chapters and sections of the IRWM Plan as well, including: IRWM Plan Goals and Objectives, Resource Management Strategies, Relation to Local Water Planning, Relation to Local Land Use Planning, Plan Performance and Monitoring, and Coordination.

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan contains numerous projects that will address adaptation to climate change effects in the region. These include projects that, for

example, advance and expand conjunctive management of multiple water supply sources, that use and reuse water more efficiently, and that provide ecological benefits which will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Projects include:

- California State Parks: Big Sur River Steelhead Enhancement Project
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough (Phase I has been funding through the Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
- City of Soledad: Soledad Water Recycling/Reclamation Project (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
- Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
- Marina Coast Water District: Recycled Water Element of the Regional Urban Water Augmentation Project (RUWAP)
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Fisheries Enhancement Project
- Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee: Interlake Tunnel between Lake Nacimiento and Lake San Antonio
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Salinas River Watershed Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Restoration Program

Note that the project ranking process gives preference for projects that help mitigate or adapt to climate change impacts by enabling extra points for addressing two different criteria: IRWM Plan Climate Change objectives, and Statewide priorities.

- IRWM Planning Process: The RWMG requested and received funds through the Round 1 Planning Grant to assist project proponents in assessing their own project's effects on GHG emissions at the project level, and to track that information cumulatively at the planning region level. A consultant will be hired to create a database of available information for project sponsors to conduct project-specific GHG emissions analysis and to produce GHG emissions data for their projects. The resulting information will be tracked and input into a simple database system for the IRWM Plan as a whole, thereby "tracking" both emissions outputs and emissions offsets created by IRWM Plan projects over the long term during the life of the Plan.

The IRWM planning process for the Greater Monterey County IRWM region will continue to incorporate new information and data about climate change as it becomes available, and the RWMG's response to climate change impacts will evolve to reflect that knowledge. One of the tasks in this Planning Grant proposal is to coordinate with other IRWM regions in the Central Coast area to better understand and monitor climate change impacts along the Central Coast, and

to consider the merits of developing a region-wide plan.

Statewide Priority: Expand Environmental Stewardship

- **IRWM Plan:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan contains a goal category dedicated to environmental stewardship: “Protect, enhance, and restore the region’s ecological resources while respecting the rights of private property owners.” Associated with this goal are ten supporting objectives, nine of which address the priority to “expand environmental stewardship”:
 - Support science-based projects to protect, improve, enhance, and/or restore the region’s ecological resources, while providing opportunities for public access and recreation where appropriate.
 - Protect and enhance state and federally listed species and their habitats.
 - Minimize adverse environmental impacts of water resource management projects.
 - Support applied research and monitoring to better understand environmental conditions, environmental water needs, and the impacts of water-related projects on environmental resources.
 - Implement fish-friendly stream and river corridor restoration projects.
 - Reduce adverse impacts of sedimentation into streams, particularly from roads and non-point sources.
 - Promote efforts to prevent, control, reduce, and/or eradicate high priority invasive species.
 - Promote native drought-tolerant plantings in municipal and residential landscaping.
 - Consider opportunities to purchase fee title or conservation easements on lands from willing sellers that provide integrated water resource management benefits. Ensure adequate funding and infrastructure to manage properties and/or monitor easements.

The Region Description chapter of the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan describes the natural resources of the region and the current efforts to protect them. The RWMG’s support for environmental stewardship is reflected in the resource management strategies chosen for inclusion in the IRWM Plan, which include:

- Agricultural Lands Stewardship
 - Ecosystem Restoration
 - Forest Management
 - Watershed Management/Planning
 - Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement
 - Wetlands Enhancement and Creation
- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan contains numerous projects that practice, promote, improve, and expand environmental stewardship. These include:
 - California State Parks: Big Sur River Steelhead Enhancement Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Ecosystem Condition Profile for the Lower Salinas River Watershed using the Level 1-2-3 Framework
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project

- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough (Phase I has been funding through the Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Project
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Fisheries Enhancement Project
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Salinas River Watershed Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Restoration Program
 - Save Our Shores: Watershed Protection Program - Annual Coastal Cleanup Day in Monterey County
- **IRWM Planning Process:** Seven out of the 20 RWMG entities—the Big Sur Land Trust, California Coastal Commission, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Garrapata Creek Watershed Council, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County—have missions to protect, conserve, restore, or otherwise enhance environmental resources. The ongoing IRWM planning process reflects this dedication on the part of the RWMG to protecting natural resources as a vital part of managing the region’s water system, and as an important end in itself.

Statewide Priority: Practice Integrated Flood Management

- **IRWM Plan:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan contains a Flood Protection and Floodplain Management goal that directly addresses this statewide priority: “Develop, fund, and implement integrated watershed approaches to flood management through collaborative and community supported processes.” Associated with this goal are seven objectives, two of which in particular encourage integrated flood management:
 - Implement flood management projects that provide multiple benefits such as public safety, habitat protection, recreation, agriculture, and economic development.
 - Develop and implement projects to protect, restore, and enhance the natural ecological and hydrological functions of rivers, creeks, streams, and their floodplains.

Flood management is considered to be an integral part of the collective water system in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. It is discussed in the Region Description chapter as one element of the water system, and is discussed separately in a stand-alone chapter to allow for a more in-depth review. The Flood Management chapter describes the current framework for flood management in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region and identifies the potential for integrated flood management. The chapter encourages the development of projects that provide multiple benefits including water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge.

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan contains several projects that will provide multiple flood management benefits, including improved flood protection,

stormwater capture and management, more sustainable flood and water management systems, enhanced floodplain ecosystems, and that promote LID techniques. These projects include:

- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough (Phase I has been funding through the Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Monterey County Public Works: Las Lomas Drive Storm Drain Improvements Project
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Flood Risk Reduction Project
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Salinas River Watershed Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Restoration Program
- **IRWM Planning Process:** One of the aims of the Greater Monterey County RWMG is to promote increased *integrated* flood management over time in the IRWM planning region. The RWMG has initiated an important effort, funded through the Round 1 Planning Grant and described earlier, called the “Water Resource Project Coordination” process. The WRPC process is a stakeholder outreach program that aims to bring together IRWM Plan project proponents and other stakeholders in one sub-watershed area of the region (the lower Gabilan/Reclamation Ditch watershed). The conflicts in this particular sub-watershed area center around several issues, prominent of which is flooding and flood management efforts. The RWMG hopes to encourage collaboration among the stakeholders in this sub-watershed area and to promote projects that will implement integrated flood management. If successful, the WRPC process will be applied to other watershed areas of the region.

Statewide Priority: Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

- **IRWM Plan:** The Water Supply goal in the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan directly addresses this statewide priority. The goal is: “Improve water supply reliability and protect groundwater and surface water supplies.” One of the Water Supply objectives also speaks to this priority directly: “Increase groundwater recharge and protect groundwater recharge areas.”

The Water Quality section of the Region Description chapter in the IRWM Plan describes current efforts by water managers in the Greater Monterey County region to protect surface water and groundwater quality. In addition, the Resource Management Strategies chapter of the IRWM Plan includes several strategies that directly or indirectly address this statewide priority, including:

- Pollution Prevention
- Urban Runoff Management
- Agricultural Lands Stewardship
- Forest Management
- Land Use Planning and Management
- Recharge Area Protection
- Watershed Management/Planning
- Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement

- Wetlands Enhancement and Creation
- IRWM Plan Projects: The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan contains numerous projects that will help protect surface water and groundwater quality in order to safeguard public and environmental health and secure water supplies for beneficial uses. These include:
 - California State Parks: Big Sur River Steelhead Enhancement Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough (Phase I has been funding through the Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Central Coast Wetlands Group: Study of Environmental Services from Nutrient Reducing BMPs
 - City of Salinas: Integrated Industrial Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment Facility Improvements
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
 - Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: Making Monitoring Count
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Project
 - Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Coastal Dedicated Monitoring Well Drilling
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program
 - Resource Conservation District of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program
 - Rural Community Assistance Corporation: Greater Monterey Bay Disadvantaged Community Wastewater Management Pilot Program
 - San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.: San Jerardo Wastewater Project (funded through Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant)
 - Save Our Shores: Watershed Protection Program - Annual Coastal Cleanup Day in Monterey County
- IRWM Planning Process: The RWMG's dedication to protecting surface water and groundwater quality as part of managing the region's water system is reflected in all aspects of the overall IRWM planning process.

Statewide Priority: Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources

(Note: This program preference is not applicable in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. While Native American tribes inhabit the area, there are no designated tribal lands or "communities" within the region.)

Statewide Priority: Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

- **IRWM Plan:** This statewide priority is addressed in the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan Goals and Objectives through the Disadvantaged Communities goal category. The DAC goal is to: “Ensure the provision of high-quality, potable, affordable water and healthy conditions for disadvantaged communities.” Five objectives support that goal:
 - Seek funding opportunities to ensure all communities have a water system with adequate, safe, high-quality drinking water.
 - Seek funding opportunities to ensure all communities have adequate wastewater treatment.
 - Ensure that disadvantaged communities are adequately protected from flooding and the impacts of poor surface and groundwater quality.
 - Provide support for the participation of disadvantaged communities in the development, implementation, monitoring, and long-term maintenance of water resource management projects.
 - Promote public education in disadvantaged communities about water resource protection, pollution prevention, conservation, water quality, and watershed health.

As noted previously, the Stakeholder Involvement chapter of the IRWM Plan includes a section that describes the process that the RWMG uses for actively engaging and involving DAC members in the IRWM planning effort. The section identifies DACs in the region (with maps) and provides a general discussion of environmental justice and DAC needs.

- **IRWM Plan Projects:** Projects that will ensure equitable distribution of benefits consist of projects that increase the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process, that provide multiple benefits with consideration of affected DACs and vulnerable populations, and that address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DACs. The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan includes four projects that directly address critical water resource needs in DACs, including:
 - San Jerardo Cooperative: San Jerardo Wastewater Project (currently being implemented through Round 1 of the IRWM Implementation Grant Program)
 - Castroville Community Services District: Well 2B Treatment Project (currently being implemented through Round 1 of the IRWM Implementation Grant Program)
 - Monterey County Redevelopment & Housing Office: Well Replacement and Pipeline - San Lucas Water District
 - Rural Community Assistance Corporation: Greater Monterey Bay Disadvantaged Community Wastewater Management Pilot Program

In addition, the IRWM Plan includes numerous projects that provide water resource management assistance (such as farm water quality assistance, rangeland and livestock facility water quality assistance, or Green Gardener training) to a broader geographic area that includes DACs, or alternatively, provides important water resource improvements or environmental enhancements to broader geographic regions that will also benefit DACs (for example, watershed restoration, wetlands restoration, or elimination of invasive non-native species in waterways). These include:

- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions (currently being implemented through Round 1 of the IRWM Implementation Grant Program)
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough (currently being implemented through Round 1 of the IRWM Implementation Grant Program)

- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Tembladero Restoration and Castroville Community Public Access – Phase I (currently being implemented through Round 1 of the IRWM Implementation Grant Program)
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Northern Gabilan Mountain Watershed Management Project
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Implementation of the Moro Cojo Slough Management and Enhancement Plan: Restoration of the Upper Slough
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Study of Environmental Services from Nutrient Reducing BMPs
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough Phase II
- RCD of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Water Quality Assistance Program
- Central Coast Wetlands Group: Coastal Wetland Erosion Control and Dune Restoration
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas River Flood Risk Reduction Project
- Ecology Action: Monterey Bay Green Gardener Training & Certification Program
- RCD of Monterey County: Livestock and Land: Rangeland and Livestock Facility Water Quality, Vegetation Management and Wildlife Enhancement Program
- RCD of Monterey County: Salinas River Watershed Invasive Non-native Plant Control and Restoration Program
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Ridgeline to Tideline: Water Resource Conservation in Elkhorn Slough
- Save Our Shores: Watershed Protection Program - Annual Coastal Cleanup Day in Monterey County

IRWM Planning Process: As noted previously, the RWMG applied for and received \$160,000 in Round 1 Planning Grant funds to provide support specifically for DAC participation in the IRWM planning process and for the development of DAC projects. Specific tasks from the Round 1 Planning Grant (currently underway) include: identify DACs in the region and provide outreach; integrate DAC members and Native American Tribal members into the IRWM planning process; provide assistance in identifying potential water resource projects; and provide technical assistance for project preparation. The RWMG is requesting \$50,000 in funding support in this Planning Grant round to provide additional technical assistance to DACs for project development (e.g., feasibility studies, permitting) and training in operations and fiscal management. These funds will be critical to help DAC members develop their project proposals and to help them attain self-reliance in managing their projects and water systems.