

No. 16 - Madera Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The Madera Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region is defined by Madera County jurisdictional boundaries. It is located in the San Joaquin Hydrologic Region on the east side of the San Joaquin River. The Madera IRWM Region includes Sierra watersheds and valley floor groundwater basins, and each have concerns requiring regional policy solutions that make the watershed/valley floor contact a logical boundary for these two regions. Concerns in these watersheds include surface water quality and supply, and valley floor groundwater basin overdraft.

Madera County led the development of and adopted an IRWM Plan, but governs alone with stakeholder input. Madera County also developed and adopted a Groundwater Management Plan for its valley floor area with input from stakeholders. The Central California (CenCal) IRWM Region proposes to develop an IRWM Plan for watersheds in Mariposa, Madera, and Merced Counties, which would encompass the Madera Region; similarly, the Southern Sierra IRWM Region covers the mountains and foothills in the area. There are also concurrent efforts to develop a Merced IRWM Plan which is adjacent to the Madera IRWM Region and would overlap a portion of the CenCal IRWM Region.

Interview Conclusions- Conditional Approval for SBXX1 Funds

DWR approves the Madera IRWM Region only for planning and implementation funding from Senate Bill XX1 (Perata, Stats. 2008, Ch. 1), California Water Code §83000-83002.7.

The Madera, CenCal, and Merced IRWM Regions must explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in the Tri-County area. DWR's intent is to facilitate future communication and cooperation between the CenCal, Merced, and Madera IRWM Regions, to develop an optimal region(s) that fosters integration and cooperation, and does not result in overlapping and competing planning efforts. This stated communication and cooperation, as well as optimal region(s) development, will be considered when determining future region approval and eligibility for subsequent funding rounds.