

No. 21 - North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

Watersheds in the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region drain to the Pacific Ocean, from the Oregon border in the north and Marin County in the south. The Region encompasses approximately 19,390 square miles, including 340 miles of coastline, with most of the total population of 664,000 concentrated along the coast and in the inland valleys, immediately north of the San Francisco Bay area. Many of the North Coast IRWM Region's streams and rivers are impaired by sediment and other constituents of concern. There are 21 Critical Coastal Areas and 12 Marine Protected Areas, environmentally sensitive areas in need of protection and improvement in this Region.

The North Coast Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is comprised of two water agencies and seven North Coast counties: Sonoma County Water Agency, Mendocino County Water Agency, Del Norte, Modoc, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, Sonoma, and Trinity and their IRWM Plan has been adopted. The RWMG operates by means of two committees: the advisory Technical Peer Review Committee and the Policy Review Panel (PRP), the decision-making body of the North Coast RWMG. Two representatives from each County's Board of Supervisors are assigned to the PRP. The PRP is supported with technical and scientific input from the Technical Peer Review Committee which consists of two representatives from each county that have experience in various technical areas.

The North Coast RWMG governance structure facilitates the development of a single, collaborative water management portfolio that is prioritized on this Region's goals and objectives: 1) restoring salmon populations, 2) enhancing the beneficial uses of water, 3) local autonomy and interregional cooperation, and 4) enhancing public health and economic vitality in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). This approach appears to be quite effective in terms of accountability, transparency, and inclusion of DACs and an impressive number of stakeholders and other interested parties.

The primary concerns discussed during the RAP interview include groundwater recharge and flood management planning, and improved efforts to address water supply, infrastructure, and water quality concerns in DACs within this Region. Although the history of flooding in the North Coast IRWM Region is not discussed, their RAP application shows an understanding of the flood protection components within

the Region and how they relate with other water resources concerns such as water supply and water quality. The RWMG representatives stated they will conduct further research to address groundwater recharge and flood management concerns in this Region in the future.

The North Coast RWMG representatives informed DWR that DACs are represented by members of the North Coast RWMG. Also, the RWMG is currently in the process of identifying and contacting all water supply and wastewater treatment facilities in the Region to actively address water management concerns.

Interview Conclusions- Approved

The North Coast IRWM Region is the sole IRWM planning effort in the North Coast Funding Area, and the Region spans the entire Funding Area.