

No. 31 – Santa Cruz County Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The Santa Cruz County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region boundary includes a large portion of Santa Cruz County. The Region is in the Central Coast Funding Area and borders the Pajaro and San Francisco Bay Area (SFBA) IRWM Regions. The Santa Cruz County IRWM and Pajaro IRWM Regions overlap in the Watsonville Sloughs. The watershed restoration effort is coordinated by the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County through its Integrated Watershed Restoration Program. The Santa Cruz County IRWM RAP submittal reports that the overlap is acknowledged by both Regions. The Santa Cruz County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) will address water quality protection and habitat restoration while the Pajaro RWMG will address groundwater management and flooding through implementation of their respective IRWM Plans.

A gap also exists between the Santa Cruz County and SFBA IRWM regions. The gap includes the Garza Creek and other watersheds, which are within San Mateo County. Since there appears to be no Stakeholder interest to participate in an IRWM effort, DWR will not require either Region to include the Garza Creek watershed, San Mateo County, in its Region at this time.

The Santa Cruz County RWMG consists of three steering committee members appointed by the partner agencies which are County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Sanitation District, Soquel Creek Water District, Scotts Valley Water District, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County, Davenport Sanitation District, City of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, and Watsonville Wetlands Watch. All RWMG partner agencies signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Implementation of the IRWM Plan in June 2006. A new MOA is anticipated in the year 2010. The Santa Cruz RWMG has adopted the IRWM Plan. Overall, the Santa Cruz County RWMG responded to all questions proposed in the interview, showing a consistent history of collaboration and corporation on water issues.

Interview Conclusions- Approved

No changes to the Santa Cruz County IRWM Region boundaries are suggested by DWR. DWR requested a letter of cooperation between the Pajaro and Santa Cruz County IRWM Regions that describes the coordination efforts for the management of the boundary overlap areas. DWR received this letter of cooperation, dated July 9, 2009, from the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County.