

No. 32 – South Orange County Watershed Management Area Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The South Orange County Watershed Management Area Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region, referred to as the South Orange County IRWM Region, is located in the southern portion of Orange County in the San Juan Hydrologic Unit (HU). The Region is bordered by the Upper Santa Margarita IRWM Region to the east, San Diego IRWM Region to the southeast, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the crest of the Laguna Mountains to the north. Much of the San Juan HU is occupied by the South Orange County IRWM Region, but the use of the Orange County line for the northeast and southwest boundaries has subdivided the San Juan Creek, San Mateo Creek, and San Clemente Coastal Streams watersheds. These watersheds are split with the adjacent San Diego IRWM and Upper Santa Margarita IRWM Regions.

The South Orange County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of three members including the County of Orange, which has statutory authority over flood management; the Municipal Water District of Orange County, which has statutory authority over water supply; the South Orange County Wastewater Authority, which has statutory authority over wastewater. This RWMG has been managing their Region through an IRWM Plan that was established in 2005. In addition, the South Orange County RWMG collaborates with the San Diego and Upper Santa Margarita IRWM Regions through a Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee that was established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies. The committee formed by the MOU maximizes the opportunities for integrated water management activities in the watersheds shared by these three IRWM Regions.

Interview Conclusions- Approved

No changes to the South Orange County IRWM Region boundaries are suggested by DWR. DWR requires the South Orange County RWMG to continue to engage the San Diego and Upper Santa Margarita IRWM Regions through their Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee. To be eligible for Proposition 84 funding, the South Orange County RWMG may need to expand their RWMG to include entities necessary to develop and implement the IRWM Plan (California Water Code §10539).