

No. 35 – Tule River Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The Tule River Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region is in the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The Tule River IRWM Region covers the lower Tule River and Deer Creek watersheds. This Region uses the geographic line that separates foothills and mountain areas from the valley lands as its east boundary, and uses the Tulare/Kings county line as the Region's west boundary, except the extension area of the Angiola Water District to Kings County. The Tule River IRWM Region's northern boundary and southern boundary border the Kaweah River Basin and Poso Creek IRWM Regions, respectively.

The Tule River Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of eight irrigation/water supply districts, Tulare County, and the City of Porterville. All are local public agencies that have statutory authority over water supply or water management. An IRWM Plan has not been developed for the Tule River IRWM Region. However, the RWMG has been working with the Kaweah River Basin IRWM Region to ensure coordinated planning.

Interview Conclusions- Conditional Approval for SBXX1 Planning Funds Only

DWR will allow this Region to apply for only SBxx1 planning grant funds. This region is not yet qualified to apply for implementation grant funds.

However, for subsequent funding rounds, the Tule River and Kaweah River Basin IRWM Regions must explore options on how best to structure the regional boundaries in this area. DWR's intent is to facilitate future communication and cooperation between the Tule River and Kaweah River Basin IRWM Regions, to develop a single IRWM Region that fosters integration and cooperation, and does not result in overlapping and competing planning efforts. Nearby "gap" areas, not covered by the Kern County, Poso Creek, Tule River, Kaweah River, or Southern Sierra IRWM Regions should also be considered for inclusion in the IRWM planning effort.

The stated communication and cooperation, region boundary structure, as well as inclusion of "gap" areas, will be considered when determining future region approval and eligibility for subsequent funding rounds.