

## Region Acceptance Process Summary

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### **General Description of Region**

The East Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region occupies the center area of the San Joaquin River funding area, and encompasses the portion of Stanislaus County south of the Stanislaus River, east of the San Joaquin River and Merced County north of the Merced River. Contiguous IRWM regions are the Eastern San Joaquin to the north, the Tuolumne-Stanislaus and Yosemite-Mariposa regions to the east, the Merced to the south and the Westside San Joaquin to the west. There is a small overlap area with the Merced IRWM region comprising the Merced River Watershed that both regions are agreeable to. A triangular void area north of the Stanislaus River remains, but discussions are planned with the neighboring IRWM regions to identify the best option for inclusion of this area into an IRWM region. Consolidation with another IRWM was considered, but due to differences in water management issues, the formation of a new IRWM region was favored.

Four water management entities will initially comprise the East Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Partnership (ESIRWMP)—the Cities of Modesto, Ceres, Turlock, and Hughson. The four signatories' involvement will be formalized by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), expected to be signed in June 2011. Other water management entities, including the Cities of Oakdale and Riverbank; the Counties of Stanislaus and Merced; and the Modesto, Turlock, and Oakdale Irrigation Districts, have expressed interest in joining the ESIRWMP.

Some of the water management issues for the region involve water supply reliability for urban and agricultural use, localized flooding and storm water discharge, groundwater overdraft, and groundwater quality. Reuse of recycled wastewater and improved conjunctive use are seen as means to better management of existing water supplies.

### **Interview Conclusions - Approved**

The applicant and RAP materials presented a clear rationale for the boundaries of the proposed region; therefore, the region is approved. The Region is encouraged to continue to seek cooperation and coordination with neighboring IRWM regions to ensure that IRWM planning and implementations efforts progress in a complementary and coordinated manner and to address the possible inclusion of the remaining void area.