

Section 10: Coordination

As described in previous sections of this Plan, management of water and other related resources within this Region is complex and has many interdependencies. Furthermore, the authorities and responsibilities for managing water and related resources within the Region are spread across many different agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders. This complexity and the distributed network of shared responsibilities create the need for robust and effective coordination. This section describes how the Westside Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) plans to coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders to improve integrated water management throughout the Region and neighboring areas.

Coordination is one of the most essential components of integrated regional water management, and coordination related to the Westside Region is described in several sections of this Plan. For example, Section 1, "Introduction," discusses the coordination, public outreach activities, and outreach to tribal entities and disadvantaged communities (DACs) that were conducted during the development of the Plan. Section 11, "Implementation Framework," describes the specific responsibilities of the RWMG, the Coordinating Committee, and others during Plan implementation. A central focus of the specific responsibilities of the RWMG and the Coordinating Committee is coordination.

10.1 Balanced Access and Opportunity for Participation

10.1.1 Coordination by RWMG and Coordinating Committee

One of the critical ingredients for improving water resources management is to provide multiple opportunities for water managers, community stakeholders, and other organizations with interests related to water resources to be informed about and participate in the IRWM program. A structured approach to coordination helps prevent conflicts and can help provide more effective and efficient

management of resources. The Westside RWMG has committed to fostering improved coordination within the Region through the following activities (see Section 11 for more details):

- The Westside RWMG Coordinating Committee (CC) will conduct outreach, create meeting agendas and content, facilitate CC/stakeholder input meetings, organize and charter topic-specific workgroups, and help track and communicate progress toward Plan implementation. During the stakeholder input meetings all people who are interested will be invited to participate in a cooperative approach to help meet Plan objectives.
- The CC will continue to foster dialog with Tribes and representatives of the DACs within the Region to help meet Plan objectives. The CC will post meeting materials and other relevant information to the website and invite review and comment from any interested person or organization.
- The CC will conduct stakeholder input meetings as needed, meeting quarterly at a minimum. The meetings will be announced and open to any stakeholder. CC members will meet and coordinate with those active in neighboring IRWM planning efforts and other local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish the Plan objectives.
- The CC will continue to use the IRWM website, www.westsideirwm.com, to provide current information related to Plan implementation. This will include posting the status of proposed projects and providing notice of stakeholder meetings. As described in Section 8, as projects move into the implementation phase, the CC will encourage local agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to communicate and meet to address potential conflicts related to project implementation early on, assess opportunities for combining projects, and reduce redundant efforts.

10.1.2 Coordination among Local Agencies and Organizations

A collaborative approach to water management is essential to meeting regional goals for water supply and demand, conservation, and resource protection. Many of the local water management agencies within the Westside Region (including those agencies in the

Westside RWMG) have developed cooperative relationships and processes for coordination. Some of those relationships have been strengthened during the collaborative development of this Plan. These strong working relationships and processes serve as a framework for local water managers to continue to collaborate in the future. Also, agencies with multiple responsibilities related to water (such as water quality, water supply, and flood risk management) have a built in incentive to coordinate across these different water management objectives. Some examples of existing coordination efforts among local agencies and organizations include:

- **Water Resources Association of Yolo County** – a consortium of 10 entities including cities, districts, and others that provides a regional forum to coordinate and facilitate solutions to water issues in Yolo County
- **Clear Lake Advisory Committee** – a committee of up to 23 members from local/state government, tribes, and other organizations appointed by the Lake County Board of Supervisors to provide recommendations on matters related to Clear Lake.
- **Lake County Watershed Protection District and Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District** – coordinate in the management of Clear Lake’s water level by operation of the Cache Creek Dam in accordance with the Gopcevic, Bemmerly, and Solano Decrees.
- **Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee** – brings together water agencies, city councils, Yolo and Solano Counties as well as other water and environmental interests to manage the Lower Putah Creek ecosystem through water flows, restoration, and other environmentally beneficial activities.
- **The Climate Registry** – a nonprofit organization that sets standards for reporting greenhouse gas emissions. Agencies in the Region who are members of The Climate Registry include the University of California, Davis, the Cities of Davis, Woodland, and Winters, and Yolo County.

Also, the RWMG is considering ways to foster improvement in the relationships between land use planners and water managers. To begin with, the RWMG encourages land use planners to explicitly consider the link between water resources planning and land use planning and to consider and evaluate

water supply goals when carrying out the goals and policies of a general plan.

10.2 Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

Coordination among the RWMG and state and federal agencies has occurred during Plan preparation and will occur on an as-needed basis for implementation of specific projects and during future Plan updates. The following state and federal organizations received emails and notifications related to Westside Stakeholder meetings and opportunities to review and comment on IRWM Plan sections:

Federal

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Congressional representatives
- Department of Agriculture
 - Forest Service - Mendocino National Forest
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service

State

- Department of Water Resources (DWR)
 - Environmental Sciences
 - FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and Statewide Resources Office (FESSRO)
 - Integrated Regional Water Management
 - North Central District
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- CalFire
- Caltrans
- Corrections – Solano
- Fish and Wildlife
- Public Health
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- UC Davis

While the majority of projects included in the Westside Plan were submitted by local entities, several projects were submitted by the Mendocino National Forest, a federal agency.

Much of the RWMG’s future interaction with state and federal agencies will occur during project planning and implementation, when consultation will occur during environmental document preparation and permitting prior to construction as well as the preparation of funding applications.

In addition, coordination with state and federal agencies will be conducted to satisfy Plan Objective 16, which states:

“16. Monitor planning of state and federal water-related projects and programs in the Delta and estimate potential local impacts throughout the planning period.”

This medium-importance, high-urgency objective will be measured, in part, by the Region’s “active participation and engagement in identified state and federal water resources planning and projects.”

10.3 Interregional Coordination

Beyond the need for internal coordination, the Westside Region also has interconnections with several other IRWM planning regions. The RWMG has identified a process for coordinating projects and activities with adjacent regions. Appropriate coordination among regions and agencies can help leverage shared activities, identify opportunities for cooperative projects, and reduce potential conflicts among IRWM projects. Members of the CC will continue to engage with neighboring IRWM regional water management groups and communicate with DWR on statewide IRWM issues that involve or could impact Plan objectives. Section 1.2.4 provides an overview of the IRWM Regions adjacent to the Westside Region and identifies the CC members assigned to coordinate with each region.

Three funding areas align with watershed areas in or near the Westside Region: the Bay Area IRWM Region, to the west, and the North Coast IRWM Region, to the north, both of which are their own Funding Areas, and the Sacramento Valley Funding Area. The Westside Region is one of eight IRWM groups within the Sacramento Valley Funding Area (Figure 10-1). Funding areas were established by

DWR as the organizing IRWM regions and as the basis for distribution of both regional and interregional IRWM funds from Proposition 84. Within this latter funding area, the North Sacramento Valley and American River Basin IRWM Regions are immediately adjacent to the Westside IRWM Region. Discussions occurred with these Regions during Plan preparation to consider opportunities to collaborate on Plan elements and specific projects and to improve IRWM implementation efficiency. The key ongoing IRWM interregional coordination activities both within and outside the Sacramento Valley Funding Area are summarized in the sections that follow. It is anticipated that collaboration among these Regions will be enhanced over time, especially the North Sacramento Valley and American River IRWM regions, which share the Sacramento River watershed and Funding Area with the Westside Region.

10.3.1 Coordination within the Sacramento River Funding Area

10.3.1.1 Relationship with the North Sacramento Valley IRWM Region

The Westside Region is bounded to the north by the North Sacramento Valley (NSV) IRWM Region, which consists of the Sacramento River watershed downstream of Shasta Dam and within Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, and Tehama Counties. The NSV and Westside Regions share portions of the Yolo County and Lake County lines as common boundaries. Both regions also use water supplies provided by the Sacramento River and associated conveyance infrastructure such as the Tehama-Colusa Canal.

The majority of Colusa County is located within the NSV Region, while the Bear Creek portion of Colusa County is included in the Westside Region; this is because Bear Creek is a tributary watershed to Cache Creek, which is one of the defining watersheds of the Westside Region. Colusa County, the Westside RWMG, and the NSV RWMG agreed early on that interregional coordination of projects within this overlapping area is appropriate and that it should occur through the participation of the Colusa County Resources Conservation District in both IRWM groups.

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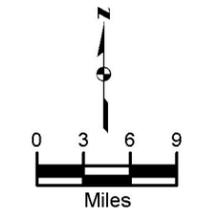
Legend

- Cities
- County Boundaries
- Planning Areas
- ▭ Westside Region
- ~ Streams
- Projected Flow Pathway
- ☪ Water Bodies
- ▭ Funding Areas

Neighboring Regions

- ☐ Yuba County
- ☐ San Francisco Bay Area
- ☐ San Joaquin
- ☐ Northern Sacramento Valley
- ☐ North Coast
- ☐ East Stanislaus
- ☐ Eastern San Joaquin
- ☐ East Contra Costa County
- ☐ Cosumnes American Bear Yuba
- ☐ American River Basin

Source: DWR's IRWM Grant Programs 2012.



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Neighboring IRWM Regions and Funding Areas

Other agency jurisdictions and organization membership across the Yolo County line provide opportunities for coordination with NSV. The Westside RWMG includes the Water Resources Association (WRA) of Yolo County and its 11 members, including the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which also participates in the NSV IRWM planning process.

Flood risk management related to the Sacramento River is a shared challenge within both the NSV and Westside Regions. The Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP) was developed in the early 1900s to control flooding along the Sacramento River. Of the six SRFCP weirs that allow flood flows in excess of the downstream channel capacity to escape into a bypass channel or basin, the Moulton, Colusa, and Tisdale Weirs are located within the NSV IRWM planning area while the Fremont, Sacramento, and Cache Creek Weirs are located in and critical to management of the Sacramento River flood flows within the Westside Region.

Both the NSV and Westside Regions are part of the *Upper/Mid-Sacramento Region Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP)* process led by a group of agencies including Butte, Colusa, Lake, Sutter, and Yolo Counties, who also participate in their respective IRWM efforts. This effort, started in February 2013, is part of an overall approach to implementing the state's *Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP)*. DWR has provided local funding and support for development of the RFMP. When completed in mid-2015, the RFMP will identify a list of high-priority regional flood projects, which will then be incorporated into DWR's *Sacramento River Basin-wide Feasibility Study*, as well as the NSV and Westside IRWM planning processes. Efforts to increase NSV-Westside IRWM collaboration in flood management have been initiated and are expected to continue.

10.3.1.2 Relationship with the American River Basin IRWM Region

On the east, the Westside Region shares a common boundary (the Sacramento River) with the American River Basin (ARB) IRWM Region. As for the NSV, the Sacramento River is both a flood management challenge and a source of water for the ARB. Some coordination between agencies within the Westside and ARB Regions already occurs through local agency participation in the Regional Water Authority (RWA). The RWA is a joint powers agency which has

22 members, including the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA). The WDCWA is a Joint Powers authority whose agencies include the City of Woodland and City Davis. The City of Woodland and the City of Davis are also members of the Water Resources Association (WRA) of Yolo County and therefore part of the Westside RWMG. The cities of Davis and Woodland have independently participated in RWA-led water efficiency programs in the past.

The focus of the WDCWA is to implement and oversee a regional **surface water supply** project that will serve more than two-thirds of the urban population of Yolo County, including UC Davis. The primary WDCWA goals are providing a new water supply to help meet existing and future needs, improving drinking water quality, and improving the quality of treated wastewater. The goal to improve the quality of treated wastewater is of particular interest to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) located with the ARB Region. The SRCSD also serves the City of West Sacramento located within the Westside Region. SRCSD discharges treated wastewater effluent to the Sacramento River and this discharge is increasingly regulated. Improvements to the quality of treated wastewater effluent for the City of Woodland and the City of Davis will benefit agencies within the Westside and ARB Regions, as well as users downstream of these two regions.

As noted above, **flood risk management** is a common challenge on both sides of the Sacramento River. Agencies from the ARB and Westside Regions are participating in the Lower Sacramento/Delta North Region RFMP process, being funded and supported by DWR, and led by the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA). When completed, the RFMP will identify a list of high-priority regional flood projects, which will then be incorporated, with NSV projects, into DWR's *Sacramento River Basin-wide Feasibility Study* as well as the ARB and Westside planning processes. In addition, DWR initiated a public engagement process for the *Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Basin-wide Feasibility Study and Conservation Strategy* that began in March 2013. WSAFCA, and its counterpart, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, and other flood-related agencies have been coordinating actively through these and other flood planning efforts.

While collaboration is sought, the ARB and the Westside regions may have different goals for flood management efforts. Under the CVFPP, the Yolo Bypass is planned to be expanded west into current agricultural land in Yolo County, while discussion regarding changes to agricultural lands has created some tension in the Westside Region. Also, higher water stages in the Yolo Bypass could increase flood risk for lands adjoining the bypass. For the ARB region, however, expansion of the Yolo Bypass creates benefits by allowing for more efficient conveyance of flood waters away from Sacramento's urban areas.

Other multi-regional efforts have occurred during the past 10 years with the completion of numerous Sacramento River Basin **watershed assessments and watershed management plans**. Both ARB and Westside are incorporating watershed restoration projects into their IRWM Plans, particularly projects that can affect conditions on the ground, that is, that can implement actions to protect or improve watershed resources and overall watershed conditions. Watershed improvement work is being done by locally directed non-governmental management groups, local, state, and federal agencies, and other public and private entities. Planned projects are intended to benefit water quality, stream flow and aquatic habitat, fish passage, fire and fuels management, habitat for wildlife and waterfowl, eradication of invasive plant species, flood management, and watershed stewardship education. Support for this work has come from a broad spectrum of public and private sources.

In addition to sharing projects and institutional arrangements, Westside and ARB share stakeholders from the environmental, agricultural, and business sectors as well as DAC representatives. Organizations like the Resource Conservation Districts which are state-authorized organizations whose purpose is addressing local soil and water resources needs, have provided leadership in both sharing projects and providing institutional support.

10.3.2 Adjacent Funding Area Coordination

10.3.2.1 Bay Area IRWM Region Coordination

Several IRWM planning efforts involving the San Francisco Bay Area that were initiated in 2005 were ultimately found to overlap. The original Napa

County IRWM Plan (2005) focused on the Napa River which flows to Suisun Bay while the Napa Berryessa Area, which includes upper Cache Creek did not have an IRWM Plan. The Solano Agencies IRWM Plan (2005) included areas that drain towards both Suisun Bay and the Sacramento River. The Napa River portion of Napa County and the southwest portion of the Solano Agencies IRWM Plan Region were included in the Bay Area IRWM Region, while the Upper Cache Creek portion of Napa County and the Vacaville portion of the Solano Agencies IRWM Plan were included in the Westside IRWM Region (located within the Sacramento River Funding Area).

These IRWM boundaries were reconfigured as a result of direct communication between the leaders of the other involved regions, through email, phone conversations, and invitations to participate in CC meetings. The approach taken to reconfigure the planning region boundaries was for the local agencies to determine for themselves if partnering and integrating with the Bay Area IRWM planning effort was beneficial to them. Each reached their decision independently after participating in CC meetings and discussing the proposed mergers with their organizing committees.

Similarly, during development of the revised IRWM planning boundaries, representatives of the Bay Area IRWM Region contacted and coordinated with SCWA to establish the shared regional boundaries. Representatives from SCWA and Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District participate in both the Bay Area and Westside RWMGs, providing direct opportunities to share information between the two planning groups as well as the potential for developing interregional projects. Both agencies are targeted reviewers for the Bay Area IRWM plan and, as such, receive each draft chapter prior to public release for review and input. Both agencies are also members of the Westside IRWM CC

10.3.2.2 Relationship with the North Coast IRWM Region

The Westside Region is bounded to the northwest by the North Coast IRWM Region and Funding Area. The North Coast Region is made up of watersheds that drain to the Pacific Ocean, from Marin County in the south to the Oregon border in the north, and includes the counties of Modoc, Siskiyou, Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma. The Lake Pillsbury watershed in Lake County, which takes

up less than 10% of the North Coast Region area, drains to the Eel River.

The major challenges in the North Coast Region are primarily related to timber harvesting, management and enhancement of anadromous fisheries, protection of wild and scenic rivers, and meeting the needs of DACs. The Lake County Watershed Protection District participates in both the Westside and North Coast Region IRWM processes and therefore offers an opportunity to coordinate and collaborate directly between the two regions. The most obvious challenge that could benefit from direct collaboration is the prevention of infestation by invasive aquatic invertebrate species.

