

Integrated Regional Water Management Accomplishments

Over the last several years, DWR has focused on an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) approach to managing California's water. IRWM is a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region that integrates all facets of water supply, water quality, waste water treatment, flood and floodplain management, and storm water management.

IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries; involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups; and attempts to address the issues and differing perspectives of all the entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions.

IRWM projects include:

- Water supply reliability programs
- Water quality, including source control
- Water conservation, including water use efficiency and desalination
- Environmental restoration and watershed management
- Floodplain management and flood control

www.water.ca.gov/irwm

State Investments in IRWM:

California voters authorized \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds to support IRWM activities in California. In 2002, Proposition 50 authorized a total \$500 million in IRWM funding, which was jointly administered by DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board. In 2006, Proposition 84 authorized an additional \$1 billion in IRWM funding, which is administered by DWR.

DWR actions to improve IRWM:

- DWR established and staffed a network of Regional Coordinators who provide valuable assistance to the public by providing information about DWR programs and activities, increasing awareness of DWR services, and facilitating access to helpful resources.
- Since 2008, DWR has administered approximately \$8 million in facilitation and technical support to local agency partnerships for the advancement of IRWM and conjunctive water management objectives.
- In 2008, DWR launched the Integrated Water Resources Information System (IWRIS), a web based, one-stop shop that allows public users to access, query, and visualize multiple sets of statewide water resources data using GIS.
- Between January 2006 and June 2008, DWR awarded \$250 million in Proposition 50 IRWM funds in support of IRWM planning and implementation grants and related activities. Approximately \$12.6 million was awarded to 24 IRWM planning efforts, and approximately \$184.2 million was awarded to 10 IRWM Regions for implementation of over 100 individual projects.
- In August 2010, DWR issued Final Program Guidelines for the Proposition 84 IRWM Program. The 2010 Program Guidelines contain updated IRWM Plan standards that have been revised to address new requirements contained in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2008. The updated plan standards include a requirement that IRWM Plans address climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- In 2005, DWR incorporated IRWM as a key initiative in the California Water Plan Update for the first time. California Water Plan Update 2009 builds on the 2005 Update to further promote IRWM as a key initiative to enable regions to implement strategies appropriate for their own needs and help them become more self-sufficient.
- In the 2008 report, "Managing an Uncertain Future: Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California's Water," IRWM was identified as a key strategy in adapting to the impacts of climate change on California's water resources.
- In 2009, 46 regions were approved (or conditionally approved) under the Regional Acceptance Program and recognized as IRWM regions eligible to participate in State IRWM grant programs. IRWM planning regions now cover approximately 82% of the State's geographical area, an increase of 28% in five years. Planning regions include approximately 98% of the population in California, an increase of 4% in five years.