



ABOUT THE PLAN

This 2014 WCVI Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Update is the product of an intensive stakeholder process conducted under the direction of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVI). The 2014 IRWM Plan reflects the unique needs of a diverse region in Ventura County, which encompasses three major watersheds, ten cities, portions of the Los Padres National Forest, a thriving agricultural economy, and is home to more than 823,000 people.

The Plan was prepared with funds provided by local participating agencies and a Proposition 84 Round One Planning Grant. A number of individuals have contributed to the development of the Plan (see Acknowledgements), including consultants, representatives of local agencies, and County staff. Development of the 2014 IRWM Plan has been a true collaborative effort.

The 2014 IRWM Plan is a comprehensive document that primarily addresses Region-wide water management and related issues. The Plan complies with the State Guidelines and IRWM Plan Standards and provides for integration of project and program implementation strategies which best address the needs and objectives of the Region.

The Plan supports the development and implementation of individual watershed management plans for each of the three major watersheds in the Region (Calleguas Creek, Santa Clara River, Ventura River), which focus more directly on monitoring and implementing projects that are watershed-specific. Watershed-specific plans allow for more localized stakeholder review reflecting input that is more difficult to achieve on the larger scale of the regional IRWM Plan. As such, three watershed-specific sub-sections that contain more detail about each watershed are included in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

Appendix H of this Plan also includes the final results of two focused studies funded by the Round One Planning Grant; the Biodigester Feasibility Study for the Ventura River Watershed and Phase I of an update to the Regional Groundwater Flow Model in the Santa Clara River.

How to Read This Document

The 2014 WCVI IRWM Plan has been formatted to address the State Guidelines and Plan Standards for IRWM Plans and to meet local needs. Each section contains required IRWM Plan elements, work plan components of the Proposition 84 IRWM Planning Grant, as well as information that serves local needs for data collection and management and future planning.

For purposes of the 2014 WCVI IRWM Plan, and unless otherwise indicated, when the term "Santa Clara River Watershed" is used, the term applies to the Ventura County – or "lower" portion of the Santa Clara River Watershed.

There are a variety of terms used in this IRWM Plan which may have more than one meaning when used in other reports or for other purposes. The State Guidelines for IRWMP development do not in all cases clearly define the terms used here; therefore, for the purposes of this IRWM Plan, the terms listed below have been interpreted as follows by the WCVI:

Goal – an overarching or general statement regarding a desired outcome

Objective – a specific desired outcome



Strategy – one of the 20 water management strategies; a means by which to effectively manage water resources in the Region

Project or Program – a specific effort to carry out an objective

Integration – a combination of parts or objects that work together well; coordination of projects or programs in the IRWM Plan which provide multiple benefits and/or meet multiple objectives

Proposition 50 and 84 Implementation Grant Applications: For additional information regarding the projects proposed and submitted by the WCVV for IRWM Implementation Grant funding, please refer to the grant applications found on the WCVV website at www.watershedscoalition.org.

CEQA Review: Development and implementation of the IRWM Plan will provide a positive benefit to residents, businesses, irrigators and the environment through the resulting improvement to one of the most important resources in the Region – water. The County of Ventura has determined that the WCVV IRWMP is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and filed a Notice of Exemption for the Plan. This project consists of adoption of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the Region encompassing Ventura County. The IRWMP is a planning study which identifies potential projects, programs, and policies for possible future actions and is therefore statutorily exempt under the provisions of CEQA under Section 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies. Furthermore, the IRWMP consists of basic data and information and includes possible actions, subject to future adoption or approval, which would protect natural resources and the environment and are therefore categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA under Sections 15306, 15307, and 15308.

Future IRWMP Updates:

This Plan is a living and dynamic document that helps guide complex water management, land use, flood management, and other water-related decisions for the Region. The frequency with which the Plan will be updated will depend on changes in local conditions, changes in State and/or Federal requirements, development of watershed plans for each of the Region's major watersheds, continued public participation, and the availability of financial resources. The intent of the WCVV is to update the Plan as needed, at least every five years. As needed, administrative addendums will be prepared to include any new projects not included in this current Plan.