



SECTION 8.0 – IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

8.1 Overview

This section addresses the potential impacts and benefits associated with implementation of the IRWM Plan and includes a high level assessment of impacts and benefits of the types of projects that might be implemented as part of the WCVC IRWM Plan. The objectives of this chapter are to:

- Provide a preliminary evaluation of potential impacts and benefits that could result from IRWM Plan implementation.
- Communicate potential impacts and benefits to stakeholders.
- Facilitate IRWM Plan implementation.
- Provide a “benchmark” for future evaluations of Plan performance.
- Facilitate future impact and benefit evaluations to determine if benefits have been realized and if unanticipated impacts have occurred.

The potential impacts and benefits of future projects implemented as part of the IRWM Plan has been conducted at a “screening” level of review. This means that the types of impacts and benefits that are commonly associated with the construction and operation of water resource management projects are described. This type of evaluation is appropriate at this time because the specific projects to be developed as part of the IRWM Plan implementation process have not yet been identified. More detailed impact and benefit evaluations will be required after specific projects are identified and information such as the location and design of those projects is known. Additional impact and benefit evaluations will occur with subsequent IRWM updates, implementation grant applications, and to comply with the requirements of state (CEQA) and federal (NEPA) environmental review requirements for individual projects.

8.2 Benefits of IRWM Plan Implementation

The primary benefits of the IRWM Plan are to promote collaborative water resource management planning, and to facilitate the implementation of water resource management efforts throughout the Region that provide multiple and overlapping benefits. The Plan facilitates regional cooperation to achieve common water resource management objectives that will be achieved by implementing future projects that will reduce reliance on imported water, improve water supply reliability, promote water recycling and conservation, provide recreation and access opportunities, provide increased flood control, and that provide environmental enhancements and habitat protection. The IRWMP process also facilitates ongoing coordination and communication related to the implementation of projects and programs that meet the Plan’s goals and objectives.

An objective of the IRWM Plan is to foster and encourage cooperation among local entities and other interested parties and individuals. It is not an objective of the IRWMP to duplicate existing and ongoing plans, but to better integrate these efforts and utilize the results and findings of existing plans to put forward the projects needed to address local objectives.



Establishment of the WVCV itself provides substantial benefits, by bringing together the numerous disparate water interests within the Region into a single, unified group with a common purpose and direction. WVCV members have cooperated to prepare many of the parts of the Plan, identifying regional issues, priorities, and specific projects designed to address these problems. Implementation of projects and programs designed to improve local water supplies and management will be more successful as a result of this high level of cooperation among the agencies that must work together to implement them.

8.2.1 Benefits of Types of Projects

Benefits of this IRWM Plan include the implementation of resource management strategies, goals and objectives identified by stakeholders through the WVCV, and specific projects. The IRWM Plan goals will be achieved through the implementation of projects such as the types identified below.

Water Supply Enhancement. The IRWM Plan identifies a wide range of water supply enhancement projects that promote increased efficiency in the use of existing water sources and the development of new local supplies. The enhancement of groundwater resources is a major component of the overall water supply enhancement program and may include projects that increase groundwater storage capacity through replenishment; increase extraction and distribution efficiency; programs to monitor and manage supplies; and projects to protect and enhance groundwater quality. Increased use of non-potable water resources would enhance local water supplies by increasing the amount of recycled water available for use and by reducing the demand for potable water. Non-potable water enhancement projects may include programs to increase the production of recycled water, and that facilitate the use of non-potable ground and surface water for beneficial uses. Other potential water supply enhancement projects may include: stormwater capture and use, remediation of contaminated water sources, grey-water systems, and programs for water banking, exchanges and transfers. In general, the types of water supply enhancement projects that may be developed as part of the IRWM Plan implementation process would increase the long-term sustainability of ground and surface water supplies, decrease the need for imported water, and enhance water quality.

Water Quality Improvement. The implementation of water quality improvement projects will protect and enhance the use of existing water resources. These types of projects may consist of upgrading wastewater treatment facilities; improving wastewater collection and discharge systems; the reduction and removal of contaminants such as salt and other pollutants; the development and implementation of TMDLs; stormwater management; and programs to reduce point- and non-point pollution sources. These types of water quality improvement programs have a wide range of benefits, such as reducing environmental exposures to pollutants; habitat protection and restoration; and enhanced recreation opportunities.

Integrated Flood Management. IRWM Plan implementation projects related to integrated flood water management and the reduction of flooding-related hazards may include levee construction or maintenance; stream and river channel modifications; hazard removal; and acquisition of land for watercourse preservation, restoration or floodwater management and land use policies that minimize development in floodplains. These types of projects would minimize the risk of flooding-related hazards and impacts such as loss of life or injury, property damage, and adverse impacts to habitat and other downstream resources. Flood management programs may also enhance groundwater recharge and reduce downstream erosion and sedimentation impacts.



Ecosystem Protection and Restoration. IRWM Plan implementation projects to enhance habitats and other natural systems may include the removal of invasive species; habitat creation and restoration; creation of habitat linkages; and minimizing hydromodification-related effects on passage of species. These types of projects can provide multiple and inter-related benefits such as water quality improvement, habitat for sensitive species such as wetlands and other riparian areas, improved water quality, improved flood flow management, increased passive recreation/education opportunities, and the removal of highly flammable vegetation.

Recreation and Public Access. Recreation and public access projects that may be implemented as part of the IRWM implementation process may include the development of active and passive recreation facilities including trails, public education areas and facilities and enhanced access to water bodies and creeks/ivers. These types of projects can provide local as well as regional benefits.

Land Use Planning and Regulation. Land use planning and regulation programs (policies and ordinances) that may be facilitated by the IRWM Plan would generally be oriented towards the development and adoption of regional programs related to the management and protection of water supplies, sensitive habitat, flood protection, and the implementation of low impact development requirements and other development conditions. This can also include implementation of mitigation measures through the environmental review process (California Environmental Quality Act). The adoption and implementation of such land use programs and policies have the potential to promote resource conservation, habitat protection, and risk reduction throughout the IRWM Region.

Climate Change. Water resource management projects that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such projects that result in reductions in energy used to produce or convey water, may be implemented in conjunction with the implementation of the IRWM Plan. Projects that promote adaptation to the effects of climate change, such as decreased water supply, sea level rise, or more intense storms, may also be implemented.

A summary of the local and regional benefits that may be achieved through the implementation of projects consistent with the objectives of the IRWM Plan is provided on Table 8-1.

8.2.1 Benefits of Implementing Resource Management Strategies

This section addressed some of the specific benefits of implementing selected Resource Management Strategies.

Conjunctive Use and Management

The primary benefits of conjunctive use programs to Ventura County include: increased recharge to overdrafted basins and reversal of seawater intrusion, increased reliability of water supplies in droughts and in emergencies (e.g., earthquake cutting imported water supply pipeline), decreased reliability on imported water pumped from the Bay-Delta (which has significant environmental challenges), and possible reduced pumping costs to agricultural and municipal users when groundwater levels rise as a result of enhanced recharge with surplus water when available. Conjunctive use is the primary tool to manage the county's groundwater basins and maintain water quality.



Desalination

There are a number of benefits associated with implementation of brackish water or seawater desalination projects, including:

- Increase in water supply/new water supply
- Reclamation and beneficial use of waters of impaired quality
- Increased water supply reliability during drought periods
- Diversification of water supply sources
- Improved water quality
- Removal of salts from local watersheds through brine disposal
- Use of brines for salt-tolerant crops and wetlands habitat restoration
- Protection of public health
- Reducing groundwater overdraft
- Restoring use of polluted groundwater

Ecosystem Protection

Natural ecosystems provide people with food, fuel and timber. More fundamentally, ecosystem services involve the purification of air and water, detoxification and decomposition of wastes, regulation of climate, regeneration of soil fertility, and pollination of crops. Such processes have been estimated to be provide tremendous economic benefit.

Restoration can improve plant and animal life, increase diversity and connectivity of habitat, help endangered species, and improve watersheds. Restoration can rehabilitate natural processes to support native communities with minimal ongoing help. Restored habitats are likely to help sustain reproduction, foraging, shelter, and other needs of fish and wildlife species. By broadening restoration to the ecosystem level, rather than focusing on restoration for only a handful of species, we improve our chances for long-term success by incorporating species relationships, such as between predators and prey, physical processes, genetic variability, and other factors that we don't fully understand.

As understanding of the linkage between water management and the health of the natural infrastructure grows, the benefits of restoration to water supply reliability and water quality improvements are increasingly evident. As ecosystems such as wetlands and sloughs are restored, their natural pollutant filtering capabilities can improve water quality. As floodplains and seasonal lakes and ponds are restored, groundwater recharge can increase. The result will be a more reliable, higher quality water supply supported by a sustainable ecosystem.

The economic benefits that improved rivers, estuaries, wetlands, wildlife, beaches, and their surrounding habitats can have in the state may far exceed the investments for restoring ecosystems.

Integrated Flood Management

Integrated flood management provides many safety, ecosystem and economic benefits. By encouraging wise land use decisions along river corridors, flood management can save lives, improve ecosystems and reduce property and livestock losses. By making better land use decisions, more open space, such as agriculture and native habitats, could be maintained.



Controlling development within the floodplain, and even removing some property from the floodplain, can significantly reduce potential future flood risk to people and property and reduce operation and maintenance costs. Periodic flooding of the floodplain can provide rearing habitat that favors native fish over exotics. Reconnecting rivers to floodplains helps ecosystems and increases groundwater recharge, benefiting groundwater supplies.

Creative strategies for integrated flood management will also lead to reduced costs for repairing flooding damage, implementing environmental mitigation requirements, and reduced facility construction costs.

Groundwater Management

Groundwater is the largest single source of water used in Ventura County. It provides about 60 percent of the water utilized in Ventura County. Agricultural demand accounts for approximately 75 percent of the total demand for groundwater in Ventura County.

One of the major challenges in the County is the number of entities treating and delivering water to customers, as well as the number of individual well owners. There are more than 170 licensed water purveyors in Ventura County. This includes 6 city-owned and operated systems, 22 special water districts, 25 public water purveyors, 5 Public Utility Commission (PUC) regulated water companies, 63 mutual water companies and as many as 50 other privately owned systems of varying sizes. In addition to the 500 or so water wells owned or operated by the retail and wholesale water providers, it is estimated there are about 2,500 additional individual well owners within the County who obtain their own water directly from groundwater sources. Of the groundwater pumped in Ventura County, less than one-third is delivered by an organized water system. Individual well owners do most of the groundwater pumping in Ventura County and use it mostly for irrigation.

Given the importance of groundwater in the County, organized management and protection through improved metering, development of groundwater management plans, improved facilities for groundwater storage and recharge, are vital to the future of all users and essential to economic stability in the long-term.

Coordination with Land Use Planning

The primary benefit of coordinating land use and water supply planning as a strategy is to better manage and protect local water supplies. Appropriate polices, development conditions, ordinances and mitigation measures can result in decreasing water demand; improving water quality; reducing the impacts of flooding; restoring and improving habitats and ecosystems; and providing recreational, educational, and access opportunities to the public. In short, land use planning strategies can assist in achieving IRWM Plan goals and objectives.

Stormwater Capture and Management

Stormwater is an untapped resource - stormwater quality improvement projects can serve as a new water supply. In addition, stormwater capture and management projects would result in an increase in groundwater supplies as well as a reduction in flood and erosion impacts and pollutant loading.



Recreation and Public Access

Water-dependent recreation provides a wide range of health, social and economic benefits to California residents and visitors, while improving the quality of life. Such recreation encourages physical activity, such as swimming and paddling, as well as walking and bicycling along waterside trails, and can be a strong attraction for – and integrated with – educational programs regarding water-related resources. Water-dependent recreation positively influences tourism, business and communities. It increases expenditures in the community for travel, food and accommodations. Water-dependent recreation prompts long term investments while creating jobs in concessions, hotels, restaurants, and retail stores.

Surface Water Storage

Many of California's reservoirs were originally built for the primary purposes of hydropower, flood control, and consumptive water use. Although the allocation of benefits for proposed surface storage can affect the occurrence and magnitude of different types of benefits, they generally can include the following:

- Water quality management
- System operational flexibility
- Power generation
- Flood management
- Ecosystem management
- Sediment transport management
- Recreation
- Water supply augmentation
- Emergency water supply

The presence of new local surface storage could allow ecosystem and water managers the flexibility to take actions and make real-time decisions that would not be possible without the storage. Surface storage can improve the effectiveness of conjunctive water management strategies by more effectively capturing runoff that can ultimately be stored in groundwater basins. Surface water storage can facilitate the movement of water when needed to improve source water quality directly, facilitate blending of water from different sources to optimize system water quality, or be used to recharge groundwater basins.

New surface storage can also help reduce the risk associated with potential future climate change by mitigating the effects of a relatively smaller seasonal snow pack storage capacity as well as increased or more sustained peak flood flows.

Water Quality Protection and Improvement – Pollution Prevention

For the vast majority of contaminants, it is generally accepted that a pollution prevention approach to water quality is more cost-effective than end-of-the-pipe treatment of wastes or advanced domestic water treatment for drinking water. Pollution prevention measures are usually more cost-effective because they have lower initial capital costs, as well as less ongoing operations and maintenance costs, than traditional engineered treatment systems. However, because of the nature and sources of some contaminants, like bromide (introduced by seawater) and organic carbon

(natural runoff from the watershed), a pollution prevention approach may not be possible, cost-effective, or even desirable in some instances. Small water systems, which generally lack technical and financial capacities, may be more reliant upon pollution prevention measures than other options available to larger systems, such as advanced treatment. High-quality, near-shore coastal waters provide multiple benefits or uses by providing recreational opportunities, as well as serving as a water source for desalination plants and habitat for wildlife (2005 California Water Plan).

Pollution prevention can improve water quality for all beneficial uses by protecting water at its source, reducing the need and cost for end-of-pipe water management and treatment options. By preventing pollution throughout a watershed, water supplies can be used, and re-used, for a broader number and types of downstream water uses. Improving water quality by protecting source water is consistent with a watershed management approach to water resources problems. In addition, the legal doctrine of “public trust” demands that the State protect certain natural resources for the benefit of the public, including uses such as fishing, protection of fish and wildlife, and commerce, all of which are affected by pollution (2009 California Water Plan).

Recycled Municipal Wastewater

The primary benefit of water recycling is augmenting water supply. Using recycled water for irrigation can free-up high quality potable water for drinking, reducing the overall demand for treated potable water. As statewide policies and regulations change, developing recycled water projects has been less costly and more feasible.

For many communities, an investment in recycled water could also provide other benefits:

- Provide more reliable local sources of water, nutrients, and organic matter for agricultural soil conditioning and reduction in fertilizer use.
- Reduce the discharge of pollutants to water bodies, beyond levels prescribed by regulations, and allow more natural treatment by land application.
- Provide a more secure water supply during drought periods.
- Provide economic benefits resulting from a more reliable water supply.
- Improve groundwater and surface water quality and contribute to wetland and marsh enhancement.
- Provide energy savings; the use of recycled water as a local source offsets the need for energy-intensive imported water.
- Provide for the necessary aquatic habitat for numerous endangered species in the rivers and estuaries

Water Treatment and Distribution System Water Quality

The most important benefit of water treatment is protecting public health and giving customers confidence and in the quality of their drinking water. Since salt concentrations are elevated in many Ventura County groundwater sources, removing salts from the water makes the water taste better, makes it better for irrigation, and contributes to a healthier watershed. Removing organic material and algae from surface water decreases taste and odor issues and prevents the creation of carcinogenic DBPs. Adjusting pH for corrosion control, protects customers from lead and copper exposure. Regulating fertilizer runoff and converting septic tanks to sewer systems, reduces nitrates in local groundwater, which negates the need for more imported water for mixing and



provides effortless protection from “blue-baby” syndrome. Designing and operating distribution systems with water quality in mind, ensures that treated water remains safe, fresh, and aesthetically pleasing.

Water Use Efficiency Programs – Urban and Agricultural

The primary benefits of water use efficiency programs include: reduced need for development of more costly potable water supplies, reduced energy use associated with distribution and water heating, improved crop yield for growers, additional water supplies available for environmental uses, reduced costs to users, and reduced operation and maintenance costs. Efficient management of existing water supplies is a critical element of water management and a cost effective alternative to developing new supplies.

Watershed Planning

Healthy watersheds are a vital element of water resource management and protection. Increased flooding, diminishing water availability and quality, and the loss of critical habitat for fish and wildlife are challenges to the health of watersheds in Ventura County. The WCVV Region depends on its networks of rivers, streams and creeks for production of reliable supplies of clean water to support communities, habitat, restore resources and provide for agricultural production. Historic land-use practices has placed many downstream property owners at risk and created a tension between public safety and resource protection needs. In order to move forward on increasingly critical water issues, citizens, interest groups, and government agencies must develop more comprehensive, collaborative, and coordinated ways of solving problems.

The WCVV watershed-based approach toward comprehensive IRWM planning has created a framework that supports economic growth and promotes water availability and environmental quality. The WCVV provides a valuable forum for informed local decision-making, and developing a comprehensive approach to managing water resources. The combined watershed planning efforts provide the following benefits countywide:

- Improved regulatory permit processing.
- Greater understanding and advancement of local priorities.
- Improved decision-making at all levels of government.
- Increased predictability of water resource decisions.
- Increased access to Federal and State water resources funding programs.
- Improved resource management for endangered and threatened species.
- Economy of implementation of Federal and State water quality requirements.
- Enhanced watershed awareness that results in the incorporation of watershed thinking into everyday planning processes.

The WCVV effort is purposely non-prescriptive in terms of both procedural and substantive requirements. Within broad constraints, interested stakeholders participate in flexible watershed planning - determining the planning processes, and assessing watershed resources, needs and priorities for long-term protection and management strategies.



8.3 Beneficiaries of IRWM Plan Implementation

Development and implementation of the WCVC IRWM Plan provides benefits to all stakeholders in the Region, including residents and water users of all backgrounds and income levels, businesses, local, State and Federal agencies, water agencies, non-profit organizations, farmers, public agencies, and others as well as benefits to the environment. These beneficiaries are represented by the WCVC. Beneficiaries also include neighboring IRWM Regions that share watershed boundaries and water resources.

The IRWM Plan considers the needs of all local stakeholders, including those in Disadvantaged and Environmental Justice communities, and Native Americans. The WCVC has a diverse and inclusive stakeholder process and recognizes that the needs of all sectors of the communities in the Region are important.

8.4 Impacts of IRWM Plan Implementation

There are a number of potential impacts associated with implementation of the IRWM Plan. Many of these are positive impacts – or benefits - as discussed in the previous sections. More specific, project related impacts (positive and negative) are considered and evaluated through compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as described below.

Development of an IRWM Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Accordingly, the County of Ventura has filed a Notice of Exemption for the WCVC IRWMP. The reason for exemption (Section D of Notice of Exemption) is stated as follows: “This project consists of adoption of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the region encompassing Ventura County. The WCVC IRWM Plan is a planning study which identifies potential types of 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 collection 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.”

The future implementation of individual projects and projects that are consistent with the objectives of the IRWM Plan will include compliance with the environmental review requirements of CEQA, and if a federal permit or funding is required, compliance with the requirements of NEPA will be included. The CEQA/NEPA process would be initiated by the Lead Agency for each project, and would generally be implemented after project-specific location, design, and operation details have been identified. The implementation of CEQA/NEPA requirements will provide a comprehensive review of project-related environmental impacts and identify measures to reduce impacts to the extent possible. While a comprehensive review of project-related impacts will be required, a general review of the types of impacts that may result from the types of water resource management projects envisioned by the IRWM Plan is provided below.

Development projects have the potential to result in temporary, construction-related environmental impacts. Short-term impacts that could result from the construction of water resource management projects are generally described below.

- The use of heavy construction equipment can result in emissions of dust, fine particulates, diesel particulate matter, and other air pollutants. The implementation of dust control best management practices is often adequate to reduce dust-related impacts to a less than significant level. Emissions from the operation of heavy construction equipment typically do not result in significant air quality impacts, but project-specific evaluations may be required to assess temporary impacts.
- Construction operations can result in short-term increases in noise and traffic. These types of impacts generally have an increased potential to result in adverse effects when the project is located in an urban area.
- Ground disturbing activities and the removal of vegetation can result in short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts. The implementation of local, state and federal regulations, such as requirements for the implementation of appropriate erosion control best management practices, are often adequate to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.
- Construction activities have the potential to result in an accidental release of pollutants to water resources.
- Construction operations have the potential to result in disturbances of sensitive habitats and impacts to plant and animal species of concern. Construction-related effects can result in “direct” impacts, such as the removal of sensitive habitat; or “indirect” impacts such as an increase in noise- or sediment-related impacts.
- Ground disturbing activities have the potential to impact cultural resources.

Projects that are implemented to achieve the objectives of the IRWM Plan would generally have beneficial and often inter-related effects, such as enhancing existing water supplies and quality, minimizing flood-related hazards, restoring habitat, providing recreation opportunities, and promoting coordinated water resource management programs throughout the Region. It is possible, however, that the implementation of future IRWM Plan projects could result in adverse environmental impacts. For example, impacts to biological resources could result from the permanent removal or substantial changes to habitat that supports sensitive plant and animal species. These types of impacts could result from adverse hydrological changes, grading, and vegetation removal.

A summary of the impacts that may result from the implementation of the types of projects envisioned by the IRWM Plan is provided on Table 8-1.

**Table 8-1
Potential Impacts and Benefits from Plan Implementation**

Program or Project Type	Within IRWM Region		Inter-Regional	
	Potential Impacts	Potential Benefits	Potential Impacts	Potential Benefits
Water Supply Enhancement	<p>Short-term construction impacts</p> <p>Potential sediment management/disposal impacts</p> <p>No disproportionate impacts to DAC, tribal communities or environmental justice impacts anticipated</p>	<p>Increased local supplies</p> <p>Improved supply reliability</p> <p>Decreased need for imported water and associated energy use</p> <p>Reduced seawater intrusion</p> <p>Beneficial use of non-potable water</p> <p>Improved ground and surface water quality</p> <p>Increased knowledge regarding ground and surface water systems</p>	<p>Use of recycled water may increase nutrient- and salt-related impacts</p>	<p>Decreased need for imported water and associated energy use</p>
Water Quality Improvement	<p>Short-term construction impacts</p> <p>No disproportionate impacts to DAC, tribal communities or environmental justice impacts anticipated</p>	<p>Reduced human exposure to pollutants</p> <p>Protect/enhance habitat</p> <p>Protect/enhance beneficial uses</p> <p>Improve water/wastewater treatment</p> <p>Protect/enhance recreation opportunities</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>Reduced human exposure to pollutants</p> <p>Protect/enhance habitat</p> <p>Protect/enhance beneficial uses</p> <p>Improve water/wastewater treatment</p> <p>Protect/enhance recreation opportunities</p>
Flood Management	<p>Short-term construction impacts</p>	<p>Reduced risk of flooding and impacts to life and property</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>Improved downstream flood hazard risk reduction</p>

Program or Project Type	Within IRWM Region		Inter-Regional	
	Potential Impacts	Potential Benefits	Potential Impacts	Potential Benefits
	<p>Potential reduction in area for future urban land uses</p> <p>No disproportionate impacts to DAC, tribal communities or environmental justice impacts anticipated</p>	<p>Reduced erosion</p> <p>Improved groundwater recharge</p> <p>Habitat protection</p>		
Ecosystem Protection and Restoration	<p>Short-term construction impacts</p> <p>Potential reduction in area for future urban land uses</p> <p>No disproportionate impacts to DAC, tribal communities or environmental justice impacts anticipated</p>	<p>Reduced invasive species</p> <p>Increased/enhanced habitat corridors</p> <p>Increased/enhanced habitat for sensitive species</p> <p>Improved water quality</p> <p>Improved flood flow management</p> <p>Increased passive recreation/education opportunities</p> <p>Reduced fire risk</p>	None identified	<p>Increased/enhanced habitat for sensitive species</p> <p>Improved water quality</p> <p>Improved flood flow management</p> <p>Increased passive recreation/education opportunities</p>
Recreation and Public Access	<p>Short-term construction impacts</p> <p>No disproportionate impacts to DAC, tribal communities or environmental justice impacts anticipated</p>	<p>Increased recreation/education opportunities</p>	None identified	<p>Increased recreation/education opportunities</p>
Land Use Planning and Regulation	None identified	<p>Improved water quality</p> <p>Protect/enhance habitat</p> <p>Protect beneficial uses</p> <p>Reduced risk of flooding and impacts</p>	None identified	<p>Improved inter-regional planning consistency</p>

Program or Project Type	Within IRWM Region		Inter-Regional	
	Potential Impacts	Potential Benefits	Potential Impacts	Potential Benefits
		to life and property Increased/enhanced habitat for sensitive species		
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	None identified	Improved supply reliability Reduced risk of flooding and impacts to life and property Reduced GHG emissions	None identified	Improved supply reliability Reduced risk of flooding and impacts to life and property Reduced GHG emissions

8.4.1 Process for more detailed project level impact analysis

Detailed project level impact analysis is conducted by project proponents prior to construction of their projects. This analysis is sometimes done prior to inclusion in a grant application, or subsequently after being selected for implementation.

There are many positive impacts and benefits associated with the integration of strategies to manage water and environmental resources within watersheds. The primary benefit of plan development and implementation is the creation of an institutional structure for Integrated Regional Water Management Planning—the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC). The WCVC has already made significant progress by establishing a forum in the Region for water management planning, drafting regional goals and objectives, assembling a comprehensive list of potential types of implementation projects and programs, and overseeing the planning and implementation grant application process.

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. As such, it has been determined that the Plan is exempt from CEQA. The following provisions under CEQA apply: Statutory and categorical exemptions.

Statutory Exemption (15262 for Feasibility and Planning Studies)

Categorical Exemptions (15306-Information Collection, 15307-Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources, and 15308-Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment.)

It is important to note that these specific implementation projects conducted as a part of the IRWM process will be subject to separate CEQA review once funding is secured.