

SECTION 5.0 - IRWM PLAN GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

This section addresses the goals adopted by the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County. These goals and objectives were established as a means to assure that implementation of water management strategies are appropriately integrated and to provide guidance in the selection of projects for implementation throughout the Region. They reflect the critical priorities and needs in the WCVC Region and are designed to help reduce conflicts.

5.1 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Goals

5.1.1 Background

Providing a reliable, sustainable supply of water for the Region is one of the most important goals of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC), along with protection of water quality and ecosystems, integrated flood management, providing public access to water-related recreation, and preparing for climate change. These goals guide water-management decisions. Objectives were established to help carry out each goal as described in the Section 5.1.3 below.

5.1.2 Critical Water Management Challenges, Conflicts, and Needs in the Region

Like most areas of the state, the WCVC Region faces many challenges in managing and protecting local water and related environmental resources and assuring a sustainable, reliable water supply.

WCVC members identified specific water-related needs, challenges, and conflicts in the Region, which are listed below.

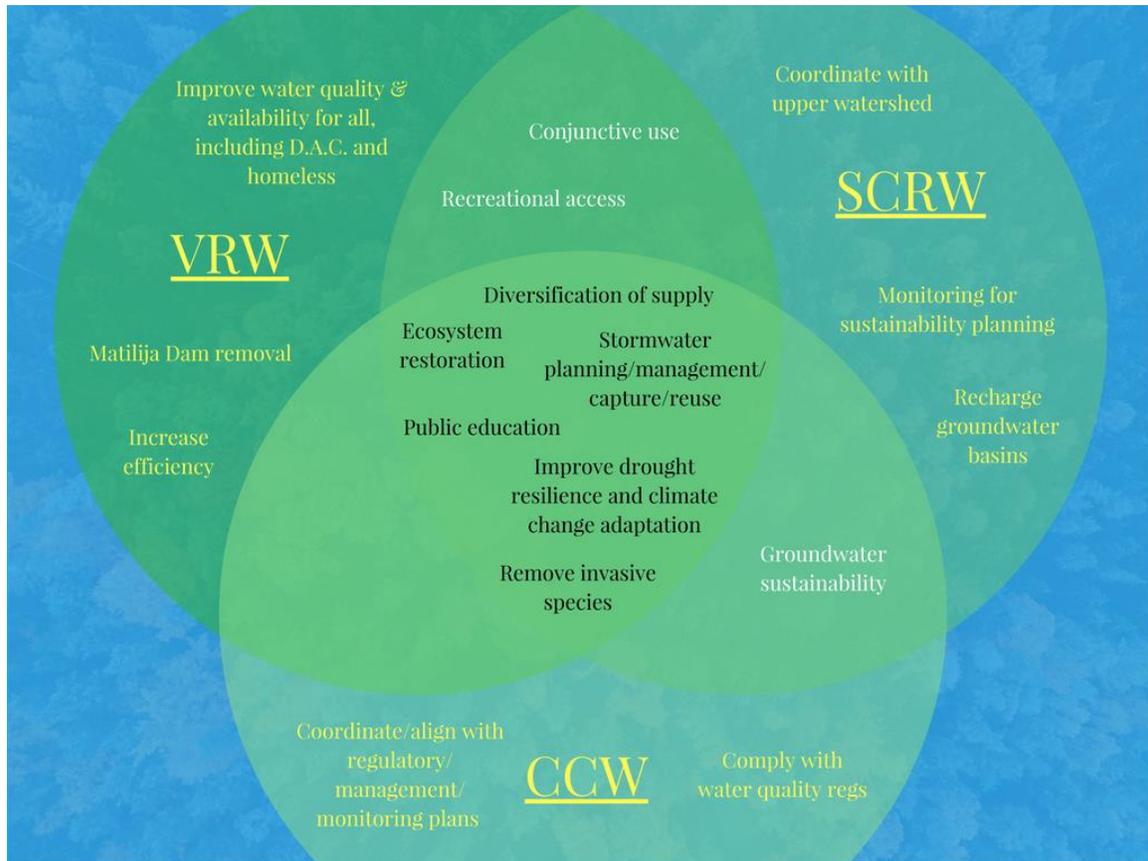
- The quantity of water available locally is not adequate to meet local water needs. The region depends on imported State Water, which is not always able to deliver contracted to amounts to its contractors.
- Drought and judicial decisions have reduced the amount of imported water available to Ventura County.
- Agricultural and urban runoff (point and nonpoint sources) have degraded some local water bodies and groundwater basins thereby reducing the potential uses of these water sources. Sources of degradation include septic tank leaching, runoff from agricultural areas, and stormwater runoff. These problems are most pronounced on the Oxnard Plain, but are also present in the Ojai Valley area of the Ventura River Watershed.
- Local groundwater is high in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and nitrates in some areas.
- Chlorides levels have increased to unacceptable levels in some areas of local watersheds.
- Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) has required increased monitoring and expensive process improvements by local publicly owned treatment works (POTWs).
- Installation of public facilities can conflict with environmental priorities.
- Groundwater aquifers underlying the Oxnard Plain are over-drafted.



- Urban growth is competing with agriculture for limited water resources.
- Seawater has intruded into critical aquifers beneath the Oxnard Plain.
- Periodic flooding events threaten or destroy property and habitats.
- Wetlands and habitats (including fisheries) have been lost or degraded due to reduced flows/pollution.
- Lack of comprehensive studies in some watershed areas – supply, demand, flows.
- Untapped opportunities to maximize use of treated effluent from local wastewater treatment plants (some of which runs into the ocean and is not captured for beneficial use).
- Water use-efficiency practices and statewide standardized best-management practices not being fully implemented.
- Changes in climate have led to rising sea levels, impacting coastal areas of the County.
- The climate is changing. We are seeing increased minimum and maximum temperatures and more variable precipitation patterns. In the future, climate change may also be responsible for increasing number and severity of wildfires, increases in evapotranspiration rates, water demand, water-quality degradation, habitat and ecosystem health, and the intensity of rainfall events leading to flood events.
- Disadvantaged and under-represented communities may be disproportionately impacted by the impacts of climate change and the high cost of adaptation and mitigation.

Updated Assessment of Needs and Priorities in the WVCV Region

In 2018 stakeholders in each of the three watersheds convened to review and update the previously identified needs and priorities that drive water-management decisions in the Region. The results of that discussion are captured in the graphic below, which illustrates the areas of overlap between watersheds. The items listed in the center of the diagram were common to all three watersheds.



VRW – Ventura River Watershed; CCW – Calleguas Creek Watershed; SCRW – Santa Clara River Watershed

5.1.3 WVCV Goals and Objectives

Overall Mission of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County:

To maintain a Countywide integrated regional water-management program which addresses all watersheds in Ventura County, and which is coordinated with adjacent IRWM regions.

The following six goals were originally adopted by the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) in 2013 and then revised in 2017. The goals, and related objectives, are designed to address water needs and challenges in the County. ***These goals and objectives have not been prioritized.*** WCVC members expressed the belief that they are equally important in managing local water resources. The overall intent of the goals is to produce multiple benefits and generate true integration. Given the diverse interest of the participants in the process, placing priority order on any one of the six goals might serve to reduce any one interest group's commitment to the process. WCVC members have successfully established and implemented projects and programs that collectively address the goals and objectives. In short, the overall common good of the region is maintained and enhanced when equal value is placed on all the goals and objectives.

Plan Goals and Objectives:

1. Protect, conserve, and augment local water-supply portfolio to increase local water resilience.
2. Protect and improve water quality.
3. Protect people, property, and the environment from adverse flooding impacts.
4. Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds.
5. Provide water-related recreational, public access, stewardship, engagement and educational opportunities.
6. Prepare for and adapt to climate change.

IRWM PLAN GOAL 1

Protect, Conserve, and Augment Local Water-Supply Portfolio to Increase Local Water Resilience

Objectives

- Implement projects and programs that increase and enhance the beneficial uses of local water supplies, including stormwater. Improve water supply reliability.
- Review potential results of sea-level rise on water-supply conditions and identify adaptation measures.
- Enhance understanding about local watersheds by supporting the collection and analysis of data and information regarding water supply (capacity, safe yield, flows) and water demand.
- Develop strategies to adapt to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge.
- Ensure secure water supplies by helping local water agencies address the impacts of future droughts and other water shortages.
- Document efforts being made by local water districts, environmental interest groups, and other agencies to improve the management of local water supplies and to identify ways to build on these efforts for greater future success.
- Protect groundwater supplies through development of groundwater sustainability plans, implementation of groundwater recharge projects, and protection of recharge areas.

- Develop watershed-management plans to enhance understanding of watershed characteristics and appropriate actions.
- Assure critical water supply needs of disadvantaged communities are met.

IRWM PLAN GOAL 2

Protect and Improve Water Quality

Objectives

- Implement projects and programs that improve and protect water quality.
- Meet State and Federal water-quality standards.
- Manage and remove salts in the watersheds and comply with TMDL requirements.
- Assure critical water-quality needs of disadvantaged communities are met.

IRWM PLAN GOAL 3

Protect People, Property, and the Environment from Adverse Flooding Impacts

Objectives

- Develop strategies to adapt to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge related to climate change.
- Explore use of incentives for avoiding construction of physical structures in the floodplain.
- Explore use of incentives for use of non-structural floodplain protection methods.
- Implement projects and programs which will result in reduced damage due to flooding in all areas of the County, including disadvantaged communities.
- Develop and implement land-use measures that will help mitigate the impacts of new development in floodplains.

IRWM PLAN GOAL 4

Protect and Restore Habitat and Ecosystems

Objectives

- Implement projects and programs to protect, improve, and restore habitats.
- Integrate and coordinate ecosystem restoration efforts.
- Research and implement projects to remove invasive species.
- Develop a master permit for removal of invasive plant species.
- Consider impacts of climate change to local ecosystems and habitats; develop and implement strategies to help these areas and species adapt.

IRWM PLAN GOAL 5

Provide Water-Related Recreational, Public Access, Stewardship, Engagement, and Educational Opportunities

Objectives

- Develop programs which enhance the public's knowledge and awareness of water issues and engage them in the integrated regional water management process and stewardship of the region and local watersheds. Includes outreach and education about the effects of climate change on the region.
- Improve public access and recreation opportunities when implementing new projects and programs.

IRWM PLAN GOAL 6

Prepare for and Adapt to Climate Change

Objectives

- Review projected future changes to the climate in the region.
- Assess vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change in the region.
- Develop strategies for adapting to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge.
- Review potential results of sea-level rise on water-supply conditions and identify adaptation measures.
- Consider options for carbon sequestration and use of renewable energy in projects and programs related to implementation of the IRWM Plan.
- Consider strategies adopted by the California Air Resources Board in its AB 32 Scoping Plan (amended in 2017).
- Reduce energy consumption in projects implemented through the IRWM Plan thereby reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
- Identify and implement projects and programs which help the region become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

5.1.4 Consistency with Statewide Priorities

IRWM Plan goals and objectives, resource-management strategies, statewide priorities, and the items required by CWC §10540(c) to be included in all IRWM Plans – are interrelated. The Statewide Priorities are based on the 2014 California Water Action Plan, issued by the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the California Environmental Protection Agency (January 2016) and are listed below:

Statewide Priorities:

- Make conservation a California way of life
- Increase regional self reliance and integrated water management aacross all levels of government
- Achieve the co-equal goals for the delta
- Protect and restore important ecosystems
- Manage and prepare for dry periods

- Expand water storage capacity and improve groundwater management
- Provide safe water for all communities
- Increase flood protection
- Increase operational and regulatory efficiency
- Identify sustainable and integrated financing opportunities

The six goals included in the WCVV IRWM Plan, local implementation of the Resource Management Strategies and related projects, are consistent with, and support, the Statewide Priorities. These priorities were considered in the development of the IRWM Plan.

5.1.5 Other Considerations in Establishing Goals and Objectives

As required by CWC §10540(c) all IRWM Plans must address seven key issues either through the goals and objectives or in other parts of the Plan. A brief overview of how these items are addressed in the WCVV IRWM Plan follows:

1. **Protection and Improvement of Water Supply Reliability, Including Identification of Feasible Agricultural and Urban Water Use Efficiency Strategies**

IRWM Goal #1 and related objectives addresses this requirement. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments and Section 6 (Resource-Management Strategies Selected) provide details regarding specific projects and programs addressing water supply reliability and water use efficiency. Section 7 (Implementation Projects and Programs) identifies the types of projects identified to address water supply reliability and water use efficiency).

2. **Identification and Consideration of the Drinking Water Quality of Communities Within the Area of the Plan**

IRWM Goal #2 and related objectives addresses this requirement. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments and Section 6 (Resource-Management Strategies Selected) provide details regarding specific projects and programs addressing water quality improvement. Section 7 (Implementation Projects and Programs) identifies the types of projects identified to address water quality needs).

3. **Protection and Improvement of Water Quality Within the Area of the Plan Consistent with Relevant Basin Plan**

IRWM Goal #2 and related objectives addresses this requirement. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments and Section 6 (Resource-Management Strategies Selected) provide details regarding specific projects and programs addressing water quality improvement. Section 7 (Implementation Projects and Programs) identifies the types of projects identified to address water quality needs).

4. **Identification of any Significant Threats to Groundwater Resources from Overdrafting**

Groundwater overdraft is an identified threat in the WCVV IRWM Region. IRWM Goal #1 and related objectives addresses this concern. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments and Section 6 (Resource-Management Strategies Selected) provide

details regarding specific projects and programs addressing reducing groundwater overdraft. Section 7 (Implementation Projects and Programs) identifies the types of projects identified to address water supply reliability and groundwater replenishment.

5. Protection, Restoration, and Improvement of Stewardship of Aquatic, Riparian, and Watershed Resources Within the Region

IRWM Goal #4 and related objectives addresses this requirement. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments and Section 6 (Resource-Management Strategies Selected) provide details regarding specific projects and programs addressing protection, restoration, and improvement of aquatic, riparian, and watershed resources. Section 7 (Implementation Projects and Programs) identifies the types of projects identified to address ecosystem restoration and protection.

6. Protection of Groundwater Resources from Contamination

IRWM Goal #2 and related objectives addresses this requirement. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments) and Section 6 (Resource-Management Strategies Selected) provide details regarding specific projects and programs designed to protect groundwater resources from contamination and treat saline groundwater. Section 7 (Implementation Projects and Programs) identifies the types of projects identified to address protection of basins from contamination).

7. Identification and Consideration of Water-Related Needs of Disadvantaged Communities in the Area Within the Boundaries of the Plan

IRWM Goals #1 and 2 and related objectives address this requirement. Section 3 (Region Description) highlights Disadvantaged Communities in the Region and how their critical water supply and water- quality needs are identified and addressed. Section 2 (Highlights of IRWM Plan Accomplishments) indicates those projects implemented which serve a DAC.

5.2 Collaborative Process Used to Develop Goals and Objectives

As described in Section 4, the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County uses a collaborative process and governance structure to address IRWM planning and implementation; a process which works primarily from the watershed level up to the general membership. This process is used to develop objectives and goals, identify projects, resolve conflicts, and implement resource-management strategies. The watershed committees deliberate to make decisions and recommendations consistent with their unique needs, followed by deliberation by the steering committee which considers the watershed level input and focuses on the needs of the region as a whole. As needed, the general membership ratifies decisions – such as project selection, regional goals, etc.

The WCVC is an inclusive and diverse Regional Water Management Group guiding IRWM planning and implementation efforts. The goals and objectives were discussed and finalized at numerous meetings, beginning with the watershed committees, followed by the Steering Committee and then final adoption by the general membership - which has the final authority on decisions affecting the entire Region.

5.3 Metrics for Measuring and Evaluating Success of Goals and Objectives

The adopted goals and objectives are all considered of equal importance as described in Section 5.1.2 and are therefore not prioritized. WVCV stakeholders also opted not to assign numeric targets to the goals and objectives. The methodology for monitoring whether a goal or objective is being met will include a mix of qualitative and quantitative assessment. Table 5-1 includes specific metrics which can be used to determine if the goals and objectives are being met. In general, this will include a combination of monitoring how many projects or programs were implemented, evaluating the reasonably available data to determine project/program effectiveness and results, and assessing the participation level of agencies, organizations and the public.

Table 5-1

Metrics to Evaluate Plan Success

Goals and Objectives	Metrics and Evaluation
GOAL 1: Protect, conserve, and augment local water supply portfolio to increase local water resilience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects and programs that increase and enhance the beneficial uses of local water supplies, including stormwater. Improve water supply reliability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of “new” water made available through local projects such as water recycling, water use efficiency, water treatment, and other means of supply enhancement. Number of stormwater capture and treatment projects implemented. Number of new sources of water developed to improve reliability and diversify the Region’s water portfolio.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review potential results of sea-level rise on water-supply conditions and identify adaptation measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies and research conducted to monitor sea-level rise. Evaluation of impact of sea-level rise on quality and quantity in groundwater basins and water-related infrastructure. Adaptation measures developed to address impacts of sea level rise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop watershed-management plans to enhance understanding of watershed characteristics and appropriate actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of watershed-management plans and related planning documents developed and adopted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance understanding about local watersheds by supporting the collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new sources of data and information developed.

Goals and Objectives	Metrics and Evaluation
<p>and analysis of data and information regarding water supply (capacity, safe yield, flows) and water demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of value of information to watershed planning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies to adapt to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality and variability of runoff and recharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of strategies developed, and projects implemented, to address changes in runoff and recharge due to climate change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure secure water supplies by helping local water agencies address the impacts of future droughts and other water shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of per-capita water use trends. Number of projects and best management practices implemented to reduce water demand, meet 20% by 2020 goals and address droughts and related water shortages. Evaluation of drought-response measures and drought-contingency plan effectiveness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document efforts being made by local water districts, environmental interest groups and other agencies to improve the management of local water supplies and to identify ways to build on these efforts for greater future success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of meetings held, public outreach efforts. Evaluation of effectiveness of programs and projects. Evaluation of participation by public and other entities in regional water management efforts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect groundwater supplies through development of groundwater-sustainability plans, groundwater recharge projects, and protection of recharge areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of groundwater-recharge projects implemented. Amount of water made available through groundwater recharge. Number of projects implemented to protect and enhance recharge areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure critical water supply needs of disadvantaged communities are met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects implemented to address DAC needs.
GOAL 2: Protect and improve water quality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects and programs that improve and protect water quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of water quality projects implemented. Water quality data evaluation.

Goals and Objectives	Metrics and Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet State and Federal water quality standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality data evaluation. TMDLs completed. Evaluation of compliance with standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and remove salts in the watersheds; comply with TMDL requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TMDLs completed. Number of salinity-management projects and studies completed, including Salt and Nutrient Management Plans and other studies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure critical water-quality needs of disadvantaged communities are met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects implemented to address DAC needs.
GOAL 3: Protect people, property, and the environment from adverse flooding impacts	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies to adapt to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge related to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of strategies developed, and projects implemented, to address changes in runoff and recharge due to climate change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore use of incentives for avoiding construction of physical structures in the floodplain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policies, requirements, and incentives established to minimize impact of development in floodplains.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore use of incentives for use of non-structural floodplain protection methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incentives established. Data and evaluation of effectiveness of non-structural measures implemented.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects and programs which will result in reduced damage due to flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects and programs implemented. Data regarding post-construction/implementation flood impacts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement land-use measures that will help mitigate the impacts of new development in floodplains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of land-use policies, development conditions, and other requirements implemented. Data regarding effectiveness of these measures.

Goals and Objectives	Metrics and Evaluation
GOAL 4: Protect and restore habitat and ecosystems	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects and programs to protect, improve, and restore habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects and programs implemented. Data regarding habitat health and number of acres restored.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate and coordinate ecosystem restoration efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of restoration efforts coordinated. Number of entities working together to coordinate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and implement projects to remove invasive species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of acres of invasive species removed. Number of studies completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a master permit for removal of invasive plant species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of master permit. Number of invasive species removal projects implemented under master permit. Number of state and federal entities accepting master permit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider impacts of climate change to local ecosystems and habitats; develop and implement strategies to help these areas and species adapt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and monitoring conducted to assess the impacts of climate change on local ecosystems/habitat areas. Number of strategies, programs, and projects developed and implemented to address these impacts.
GOAL 5: Provide water-related recreational, public access, stewardship, engagement, and educational opportunities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop programs which enhance the public's knowledge and awareness of water issues and engage them in the integrated regional water-management process and stewardship of the region and local watersheds. Includes outreach and education about the effects of climate change on the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of programs implemented. Evaluation of public awareness. Number of public outreach efforts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve public access and recreation opportunities when implementing new projects and programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new public access and/or recreation sites established.

Goals and Objectives	Metrics and Evaluation
GOAL 6: Prepare for and Adapt to Climate Change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review projected future changes to the climate in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research conducted to project and understand future changes to the local climate based on downscaled scientific models.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of assessment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement projects and programs which help the region adapt to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects implemented. Ongoing monitoring of climate change impacts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies for adapting to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of strategies developed and projects implemented to address changes in runoff and recharge due to climate change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review potential results of sea-level rise on water-supply conditions and identify adaptation measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies and research conducted to monitor sea-level rise. Evaluation of impact of sea-level rise on quality and quantity in groundwater basins and water-related infrastructure. Adaptation measures developed to address impacts of sea-level rise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider options for carbon sequestration and use of renewable energy in projects and programs related to implementation of the IRWM Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of carbon sequestration projects implemented. Amount of renewable energy being used in IRWM projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce energy consumption in projects implemented through the IRWM Plan thereby reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of projects implemented employing efficient-energy practices or technology and/or renewable energy sources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider strategies adopted by the California Air Resources Board in its AB 32 Scoping Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of strategies in CARB AB. 32 Scoping Plan implemented