



Section A

INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

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A. INTRODUCTION AND REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Section A Summary – The San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan) addresses a region that includes the portion of San Diego County that is tributary to coastal waters. The San Diego Region is entirely within the jurisdiction of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region. The IRWM Plan was prepared under the direction of a Regional Water Management Group that consists of the San Diego County Water Authority, the City of San Diego, and the County of San Diego. The IRWM Plan builds upon local water and resource management plans within the Region, and was developed with input from an array of water management stakeholders. The IRWM Plan will provide a mechanism for stakeholders to work together to overcome potential project implementation constraints and effectively implement water management projects that achieve designated regional water management objectives.

A.1 Plan Overview

Purpose of Plan. The IRWM Plan presents an integrated regional approach for addressing water management issues within the San Diego Region (hereinafter Region). Through a process that identifies and involves water management stakeholders from the region, the IRWM Plan:

- presents the vision and goals,
- establishes water management objectives and measurable targets for the Region,
- identifies water management challenges and issues,
- identifies and evaluates water management strategies applicable to the Region,
- assesses the ability of the water management strategies to meet the regional objectives,
- identifies opportunities for integrating proposed regional water supply, water quality, and watershed management strategies,
- establishes a system for prioritizing the strategies,
- presents a plan for implementing the water management strategies, and

- identifies the framework for overall integrated regional water management planning in the Region, including future updating of water management strategies and plan priorities.

Benefits of Regional Approach. The IRWM planning process provides a mechanism for stakeholders to work together to identify and address the challenges that potentially exist among multiple planning efforts. The IRWM planning process also provides means to develop and update water management objectives to address the Region's water resources management challenges, overcome potential water management constraints, and implement water management projects and programs that help attain the Plan objectives.

Existing Planning Environment. Groundwater, inland surface waters, and coastal waters within the Region support a wide variety of water supply uses, recreational uses, and important ecosystems and habitats. Like many urbanized areas in California and throughout the nation, the Region faces challenges in ensuring the long-term sustainability and enhancement of its water supply, water quality, and watershed resources.

Numerous agencies are involved in the regulation, protection, use, and management of these water resources. The Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board) is responsible for regulating activities that affect the quality of Region's ground and surface water resources. The Regional Board adopted the current version of the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region* (Basin Plan) in 1994. The Basin Plan:

- designates existing and potential beneficial uses of ground and surface water resources,
- establishes water quality concentration objectives for ground and surface waters to protect the beneficial uses, and
- establishes policies for implementing appropriate water quality controls.

In regulating water quality within the Region, the Regional Board also implements the *Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters* (Ocean Plan) and *Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan*, which respectively establish water quality standards for marine waters and enclosed bays and estuaries. (State Water Resources Control Board; 1991, 2005)

Governmental and non-governmental agencies within the Region have developed local water management plans within the framework of the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, and Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan. Existing local plans within the Region that evaluate or incorporate water management strategies include, in part:

- urban water management plans,
- reservoir management plans,
- watershed management plans,
- groundwater management plans,
- recycled water plans,
- water conservation plans,
- watershed urban runoff and stormwater management plans,
- land use plans,
- recreation plans,
- flood control plans, and
- habitat protection and Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) plans.

This IRWM Plan is an umbrella document that encompasses the above local water management plans, but addresses water management issues on a Regional level. This Plan incorporates water resources management findings and recommendations from many of the Region's major water-related planning efforts. In working toward implementing this Plan, however, additional efforts (as described in Section G) will be required to address short-term priorities and incorporate water resources management planning from all of the Region's pertinent watershed, recreation, habitat protection, flood control, land use, and conservation plans.

**Note on Terminology:
Local Plans**

The term "local plans" is used throughout this IRWM Plan to denote a regional or sub-regional plan that address the management of water resources within all or portions of the Region.

Regional Boundaries. Figure A-1 (following page) presents the area addressed by this IRWM Plan. The area addressed in this plan is entirely within the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Board (Region 9), and includes all portions of the County that are tributary to coastal waters.

California Water Plan Update. The *California Water Plan Update 2005* (California Department of Water Resources, 2005) identifies water management challenges within the state and provides a framework for meeting the challenges. Ensuring reliable water supplies is one of the key foundational actions established within the *California Water Plan Update 2005*. The *California Water Plan Update 2005* establishes the following two initiatives for ensuring reliable water supplies:

- Initiative 1 Promote and practice integrated regional water management
- Initiative 2 Maintain and improve statewide water management systems

Initiative 1, a strategic approach for communities and regions, includes the following elements:

- foster regional partnerships,
- develop and implement integrated regional water management plans, and
- diversify regional water portfolios.

Initiative 2 includes both physical facilities and statewide management programs. This initiative includes the following collaborative actions by federal, state, and local agencies:

- improve aging facilities,
- improve flood management,
- implement (and support) the CALFED program, and
- sustain the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

In accordance with Initiative 1 of the *California Water Plan Update 2005*, a regional approach is warranted for:

- integrating strategies proposed within local water management plans,
- forming regional partnerships and identifying regional water management objectives, and
- developing a region-wide plan for implementing projects that achieve the objectives.

This IRWM Plan implements the elements of Initiative 1 and incorporates the objectives of Initiative 2 of the *California Water Plan Update 2005*.

A.2 Regional Water Management Group

A Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) was formed in accordance with provisions of the California Water Code (§79570 *et seq.*) to manage development of the IRWM Plan. The RWMG consists of:

- the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority),
- the City of San Diego, and
- the County of San Diego (County).

In accordance with terms set forth in a Memorandum of Understanding (see Appendix 9), the three RWMG agencies are equal partners in the development of the IRWM Plan. The three agencies also share equally in the costs to develop the plan and other IRWM planning

Figure A-1
San Diego IRWM
Planning Region

Legend

- Major Rivers
- Freeways
- Watershed Boundaries
- Pacific Ocean
- Lakes
- County Boundary



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activities, such as stakeholder outreach. The RWMG recognizes that cooperation and input from stakeholders throughout the region is a necessary part of developing and implementing the IRWM Plan. As a result, the RWMG has assumed a lead role in identifying stakeholders and soliciting stakeholder input for IRWM Plan development and implementation.

Figure A-2 (follows page A-6) presents the jurisdictional boundaries of the three RWMG agencies. The combined jurisdiction of the three agencies comprises the entire Region, and water supply service areas of the Water Authority and City cover all urbanized portions of the Region. Table A-1 summarizes water management responsibilities of the three RWMG agencies. The three RWMG agencies have key involvement in water supply, wastewater treatment, watershed management, land use, and recreational aspects of water management within the region.

Table A-1
Summary of Water Management Responsibilities
Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)

Water Management Category	San Diego County Water Authority	City of San Diego	County of San Diego
Imported Water Delivery	●		
Water Supply Infrastructure	●	●	●
Water Supply Planning	●	●	○
Storing Raw Imported Water	●	●	
Capturing and Storing Local Runoff		●	
Groundwater Supply	○	●	●
Wastewater Treatment		●	●
Recycled Water Supply	○	●	●
Water and Recycled Water Regulation			●
Public Health Regulation			●
Municipal Stormwater NPDES Management		●	●
Flood Management and Control			●
Watershed Protection		●	●
Land Use Control and Management		●	●
Multiple Species Conservation Planning		●	●
Parks and Recreation		●	●

- Direct water management involvement
- Provides planning support

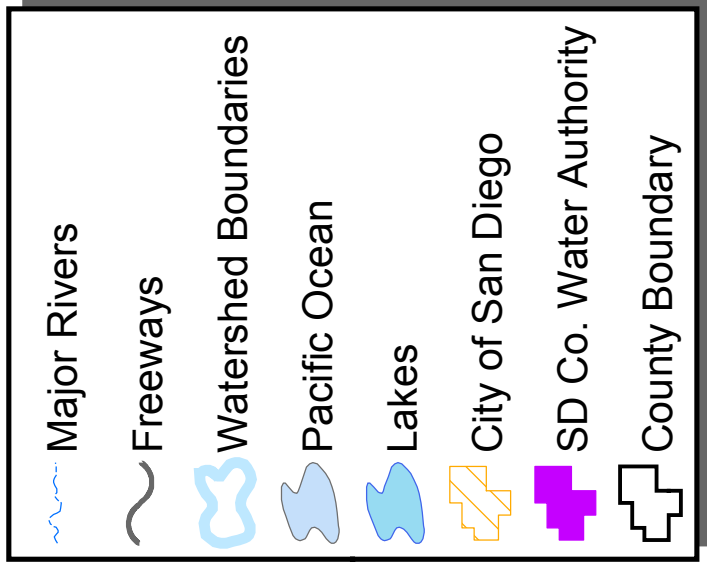
The Water Authority, City of San Diego, and County are appropriate agencies for managing development of the initial IRWM Plan. Each of the agencies serve multiple water management roles within the region and are involved in a number of region-wide water management coordination efforts. As documented in Section B, depending on regional hydrologic conditions, between 70 and 90 percent of the region's water supply is provided through the Water Authority. The City of San Diego is the Region's largest retail water agency, and is involved in water management within six of the Region's eleven hydrologic units. The County is involved in watershed planning efforts in all but one of the Region's hydrologic units. The City and County provide wastewater service to a sizable majority of population within the region. Additionally, the City and County are the key copermittees in the regional urban runoff management program (stormwater program). The City and County are also responsible for land use planning and regulation within the majority of the region's lands.

San Diego County Water Authority. The Water Authority is the regional water wholesale agency within the County. The Water Authority's mission is to provide a safe and reliable supply of water to its 24 member agencies. The Water Authority's member agencies serve a combined population of nearly three million (approximately 97 percent of the County's population) and support an annual economy of over \$160 billion. (San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce Economic Research Bureau and County of San Diego, 2007)

The Water Authority's boundaries comprise the western third of San Diego County with a total area of 1,468 square miles. The urbanized parts of the Region are entirely within the Water Authority's service area. Water Authority member agencies include six cities, five water districts, eight municipal water districts, three irrigation districts, a public utility district, and the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The City of San Diego is the largest member agency of the Water Authority in terms of land area and population. The City of San Diego is also the largest member agency in terms of representation. (In September 2007, the City comprised 40.73 percent of the vote within the Water Authority Board of Directors.) The County appoints a non-voting representative to the Water Authority Board.

The Water Authority is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and is the largest Metropolitan customer. The Water Authority also purchases conserved agricultural supplies through a water transfer agreement with the Imperial Irrigation District. Additionally, the Water Authority has been assigned rights to water conserved as part of lining the All-American Canal and Coachella Canal in Imperial County. The Water Authority conveys the water supplies to its member agencies via five

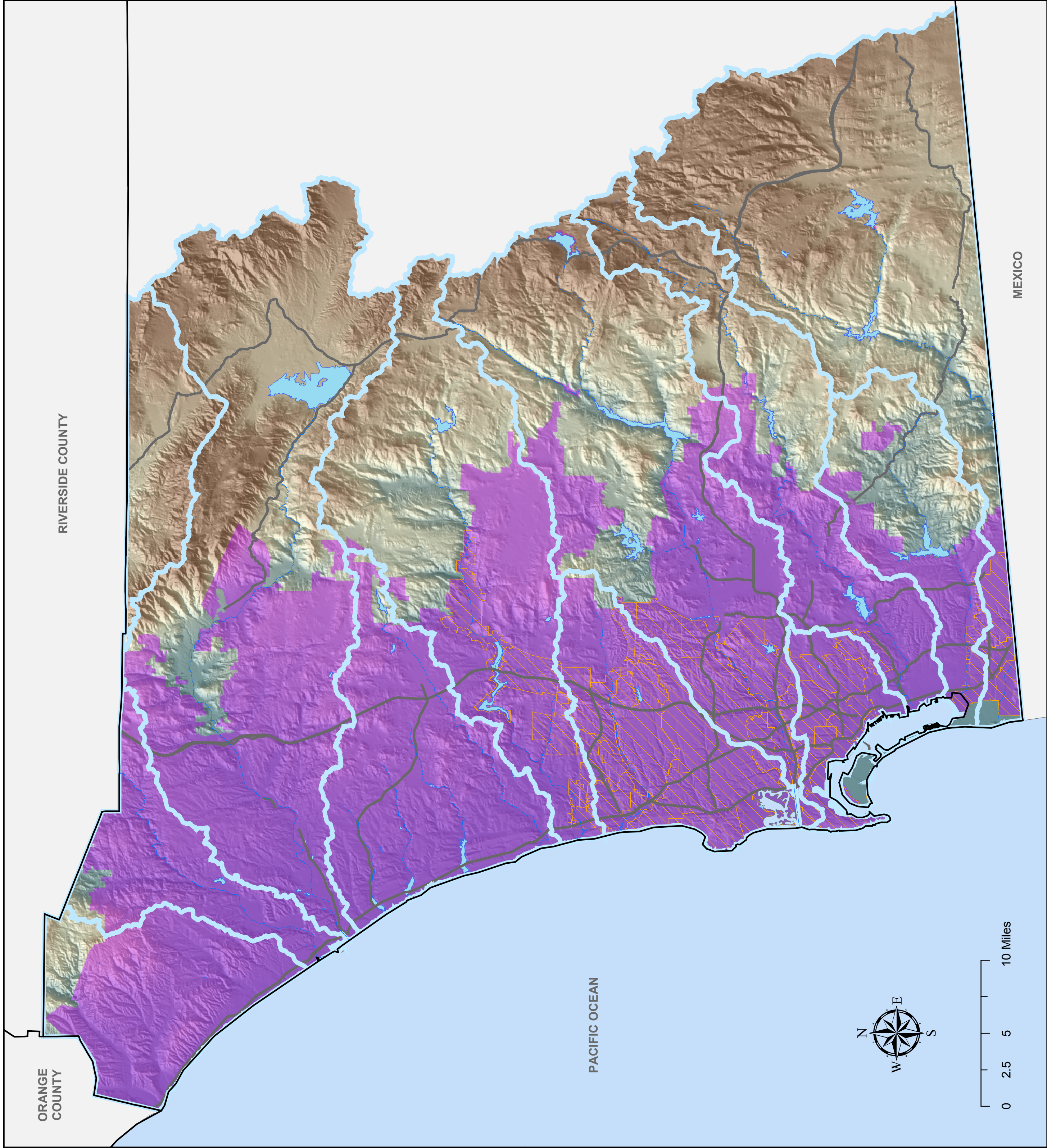
**Figure A-2
Regional Water
Management Group
Boundaries**



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parallel pipelines that comprise the First Aqueduct and Second Aqueduct. The Water Authority delivers the supplies to its member agencies through 88 service connections.

In coordination with its member agencies, the Water Authority has implemented an Emergency Storage Program (ESP) that enhances the Region's reservoir capacity and improves conveyance facilities. While the ESP is designed to make the regional water supply more reliable during an emergency that disrupts normal imported water deliveries, the new facilities will improve the Region's water system flexibility and reliability at all times.

As part of water supply diversity plans set forth in the Water Authority's *Updated 2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, the Water Authority is active in coordinating with its 24 member agencies to plan and pursue water conservation, recycled water use, development of local groundwater supplies, surface water storage and supplies, additional water transfers, seawater and groundwater desalination, and water quality protection projects.

City of San Diego. The City of San Diego exercises a range of water supply, wastewater, storm water, and watershed management responsibilities, and administers a number of programs that provide opportunities to pursue integrated approaches with other agencies and jurisdictions.

The City of San Diego Water Department operates an extensive water system that currently provides drinking water to approximately 1.3 million customers located within the Cities of San Diego, Del Mar, Coronado, and portions of National City, Chula Vista, and Imperial Beach. In addition to providing potable water supply to approximately half of the population of San Diego County, the City of San Diego Water Department also delivers raw water to three adjacent agencies. The City annually treats and delivers more than 200,000 acre-feet of water to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural customers within a 330-square-mile service area. The City's water system includes nine raw water storage reservoirs, three water treatment facilities, 32 treated water storage facilities, and 3,460 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines. (City of San Diego, 2005)

The City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department operates an extensive wastewater collection and treatment system that includes approximately 2,900 miles of sewer line servicing a 330-square mile area. The system includes a wastewater treatment plant that discharges to the ocean and two facilities that produce recycled water for beneficial reuse. The Metropolitan Wastewater Department is the operating agency for the San Diego Metropolitan Sewerage System (Metro System). The Metro System provides wastewater service to approximately 2.2 million residents of the City of San Diego and 15 other cities and

districts within a 450-square mile service area. (City of San Diego, 2007a) Approximately 75 percent of the County's population discharges its wastewater to the Metro System.

The City of San Diego maintains more than 39,000 storm drain structures and 900 miles of storm drain pipelines and channels within an urbanized area of approximately 237 square miles. (City of San Diego, 2007b) The City is one of the 21 Copermittees regulated by Regional Board Order No. R9-2007-0001 (NPDES CAS0108758), the San Diego County Urban Runoff from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permit (MS4 Permit).

The City of San Diego's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (Storm Water Division) is administered by the City's General Services Department. The program is responsible for reducing pollutants in urban runoff and storm water. In this capacity, the Storm Water Division is involved in public education, employee training, water quality monitoring, source identification, code enforcement, watershed management, Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) implementation, Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) implementation, and the development and implementation of Best Management Practices within the City of San Diego jurisdictional boundaries. Additionally, the Storm Water Division coordinates with the County (the Principal Permittee of the MS4 Permit) and the Regional Board in addressing regional urban runoff issues.

As part of this regional effort, the Storm Water Division coordinates with other regional agencies to implement the "Think Blue" program to educate the public on urban runoff issues. The Storm Water Division also provides technical expertise and guidance to all City departments to ensure implementation and compliance with the Permit. (City of San Diego, 2007b)



The City of San Diego is also active in regional watershed planning efforts. The City of San Diego Water Department is the lead agency for the San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan, and the City of San Diego Planning Department is the lead agency for the Peñasquitos Watershed Management Plan. Additionally, the City is a participant in three other watershed management planning initiatives within the County.: San Diego River Watershed Management Plan, the Tijuana River Binational Vision (Prop 13 Watershed Management Plan), and the Otay River Watershed Management Plan.

The City of San Diego Planning Department regulates land use within the metropolitan boundaries and is responsible for coordinating with other regional agencies in implementing the MSCP Plan.

County of San Diego. The County maintains a number of water and watershed-related program responsibilities within unincorporated portions of the Region. These responsibilities, in part include:

- water supply (outside Water Authority service area),
- wastewater treatment,
- land use and planning,
- public health,
- parks and recreation,
- flood management and control,
- municipal stormwater management
- ecosystem and habitat protection, and
- watershed planning.

Specific County departments provide services relating to land use and planning, parks and recreation, public works, and public health. The Department of Planning and Land Use is responsible for developing the County's General Plan and has led the effort in developing the San Diego River Watershed Management Plan, the Otay River Watershed Management Plan, the Otay Special Area Management Plan, the Tijuana River Binational Vision (Prop 13 Watershed Management Plan), and the Santa Margarita Watershed Management Plan.

The County's Department of Planning and Land Use also manages the MSCP South County Subarea Plan, the North County MSCP Plan, and the East County MSCP Plan. Additionally, the department manages the County's Farming Program, and participates in the development and implementation of Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plans within ten of the Region's eleven hydrologic units. The County Department of Public Works provides wastewater and drinking water services to unincorporated communities outside the imported water distribution service area. The Department of Public Works also provides the following services for the unincorporated portion of the County:

- stormwater conveyance service and maintenance through the Roads Division,
- erosion control and flood management services via the Flood Control District and Watershed Protection Program, and
- stormwater and watershed protection programs and services through the Watershed Protection Program.

The County Department of Environmental Health has regulatory authority for the beach recreational water use, site assessment and mitigation, on-site wastewater systems (septic),

recycled water use, small water systems and monitoring wells. The Department of Planning and Land Use has discretionary project approval authorities.

The County uses an inter-departmental approach for addressing county-wide issues such as habitat protection, watershed protection, and water quality improvement. The County implements its own municipal storm water management program in unincorporated areas. Additionally, the County acts as Principal Permittee for the MS4 Permit that regulates discharges from Municipal Separate Sewer Systems (MS4s) from the County of San Diego and 20 other copermittees, which includes the 18 municipalities of the County, the San Diego Unified Port District, and the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.

Since 2000, the County has developed and supported Project Clean Water, a broad-based forum for developing stakeholder-driven solutions to pressing water quality problems throughout the Region.

Through Project Clean Water's website www.projectcleanwater.org and stakeholder groups, the County has assumed the primary responsibility for coordinating stakeholder input into the development



project clean water

of the IRWM Plan and a regional implementation project list. As part of this process, the County organized a Clean Water Summit in July 2006 to focus on the development of the IRWM Plan. The County will continue to oversee and coordinate stakeholder participation in future phases of IRWM Plan development.

A.3 Addressing the Region's Water Management Challenges

As noted in Section A.1, numerous water management plans have been developed by individual or multiple agencies or groups within the Region to address water supply, water quality, ecosystem and habitat protection and enhancement, watershed protection, recreation, and land use controls. (See Section M.1 for a description of these plans.) Each of the local plans addresses portions of the Region, but many of the plans overlap in geography, scope, or agency jurisdiction. Challenges to addressing water management issues identified within these local plans include:

- competing or conflicting objectives among the local plans,
- conflicting means of achieving the objectives among the local plans,
- all portions of the Region are not equally represented in the local plans,
- jurisdictional conflicts,
- regulatory constraints,
- environmental issues and impacts, including cumulative impacts,

- public acceptability issues,
- environmental and social justice issues, and
- funding.

Table A-2 summarizes key challenges or constraints that the Region faces in addressing water management issues on a Regional scale. Table A-2 also identifies how the IRWM Plan will aid in solving those challenges.

Table A-2
Challenges to Water Management within the Region and
How the IRWM Plan Can Help Resolve the Challenges

Challenges	Solutions
Potential for Competing Plans: Resolving competing objectives and conflicts within water supply, watershed protection, storm water management, and land use plans.	The IRWM Plan institutional structure (currently the RWMG and Regional Advisory Committee, or RAC) provides a mechanism to consider individual plans in a regional, more comprehensive manner, to determine where plans can complement each other and move forward more effectively with complimentary projects.
Jurisdictional Issues: Resolving jurisdictional interests or conflicts that may constrain the evaluation and implementation of individual water management projects.	The IRWM Plan institutional structure (currently RAC and RWMG) brings jurisdictions together to resolve potential conflicts and prioritize projects for potential state funding.
Conflicts Between Government Agencies and Non-Government Organizations: Resolving conflicts or competing interests between government agencies and non-government organizations or groups.	The IRWM Plan institutional structure will help bring government agencies and non-government organizations together to address common issues, resolve potential conflicts, and prioritize projects for potential state funding.
Regulatory Constraints: Resolving regulatory conflicts or constraints associated with developing individual water management projects.	The IRWM Plan provides a unified regional approach for identifying and assessing regulatory compliance issues. Such a regional approach may provide greater opportunity for coordinating and resolving regulatory constraints than through implementation of individual projects.
Environmental Challenges: Resolving environmental conflicts or constraints associated with developing individual water management projects.	The IRWM Plan provides a unified regional approach for identifying and assessing environmental compliance challenges and environmental enhancement opportunities. A regional approach may provide greater opportunity for coordinating and resolving environmental issues than through implementation of individual projects.
Public Acceptance: Securing support from elected officials and public for development of water management projects.	The IRWM Plan allows for greater public understanding and acceptance of a proposed project in part because the project was considered in the context of the Region and other management strategies. Additionally, integration allows for the attainment of broad based objectives that benefit multiple aspects of water management planning.
Funding: Securing funding for developing water management projects and programs.	The IRWM Plan process will allow entities to identify opportunities for implementing a collaborative or regional funding approach. Projects included within the IRWM Plan may have an increased eligibility for some forms of state funding.

As shown in Table A-2, the IRWM Plan provides a process to address and resolve conflicts within local plans through a collaborative regional effort. Additionally, the IRWM Plan may prove useful in addressing environmental and regulatory issues on a regional basis.

In addition to providing the benefit of resolving existing water management conflicts and prioritizing and focusing regional water management efforts, the IRWM Plan may make water management projects and programs in the Region eligible for future state and federal funding. An approved IRWM Plan is necessary for eligibility to apply for State of California Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 funding that is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Further, it is likely that other forms of future state and federal funding may be tied into the IRWM Plan process.

A.4 IRWM Plan Development

Plan Organization. To facilitate plan review, this IRWM Plan is organized in accordance with IRWM Plan Standards established within Appendix A of the 2004 and 2007 versions of the following DWR and State Board IRWM Planning Guidelines:

- *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines, Proposition 50, Chapter 8* (DWR and State Board, 2004), and
- *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines, Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Project Solicitation Packages, Round 2* (DWR and State Board, 2007).

Table A-3 (page A-13) summarizes how the IRWM Plan sections correspond with required elements of the IRWM Program Guidelines. Figure A-3 (page A-13) presents a schematic depicting how the first seven sections (Sections A through G) of this IRWM Plan are organized to establish Plan goals and objectives, select water management strategies, establish regional priorities, and identify how the Plan is to be implemented. Remaining sections of this Plan (Sections H through O) respectively address conformance with state-mandated planning elements as set forth in the IRWM Program Guidelines.

Table A-3
Organization of IRWM Plan

IRWM Program Guidelines Requirement ¹	IRWM Plan Section that Addresses the Requirement
A. Regional Agency or Regional Water Management Group	A. Introduction and Regional Water Management Group
B. Region Description	B. Description of Region
C. Objectives	C. Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives
D. Water Management Strategies	D. Water Management Strategies
E. Integration	E. Integration of Strategies
F. Regional Priorities	F. Regional Priorities
G. Implementation	G. Implementation
H. Impacts and Benefits	H. Impacts and Benefits
I. Technical Analysis and Plan Performance	I. Evaluation of Plan Performance
J. Data Management	J. Data Management
K. Financing	K. Financing
L. Statewide Priorities	L. Statewide Priorities
M. Relation to Local Planning	M. Consistency with Local Plans
N. Stakeholder Involvement	N. Stakeholder Involvement
O. Coordination	O. Coordination

¹ From Appendix A (IRWM Plan Standards) presented in the 2004 and 2007 IRWM Program Guidelines (DWR and State Board, 2004 and 2007)

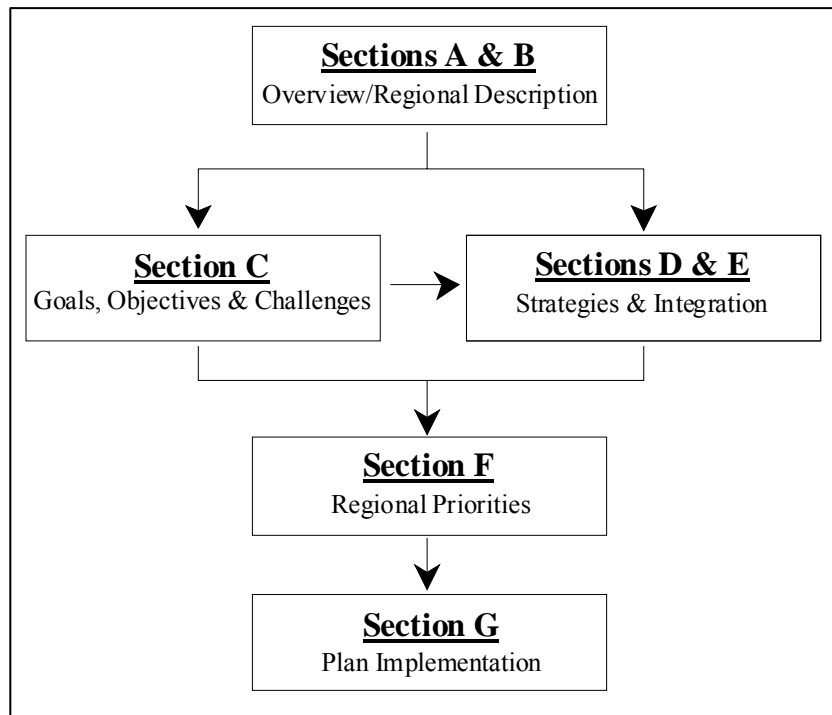


Figure A-3: IRWM Plan Framework – Sections A through G

Plan Preparation Team. The RWMG provided overall direction in the development and preparation of this IRWM Plan. The RWMG was assisted in preparing plan documents by a team of consultants that included:

- Michael R. Welch, Ph.D., P.E., Consulting Engineer,
- RMC Water and Environment,
- KTU+A, and
- Anchor Environmental.

Plan Development Process and Stakeholder Input. Development of the IRWM Plan involved a significant public input/stakeholder process (see Section N) that endeavored to identify as many stakeholders as possible and offer the stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the IRWM process. The RWMG and consultants coordinated with the following regional groups in organizing the stakeholder input process as well as organizing, preparing, and reviewing the IRWM Plan:

- *Regional Advisory Committee.* Policy-level input to the IRWM Plan was provided by a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) that included subject matter experts representing environmental groups, academic entities, local business, agricultural groups, water suppliers, wastewater agencies, water quality interests, and regulatory agencies. The RAC includes representatives of public agencies that serve disadvantaged communities. Additionally, disadvantaged community interests are addressed by several non-government organizations within the RAC. The RAC served as the primary organization that provided direction to the RWMG for plan preparation.
- *Water Authority Member Agency Technical Advisory Committee.* A Water Authority Member Agency Committee comprised of member agency general managers provided input relative to water supply issues.
- *Project Clean Water.* Initial stakeholder identification and program direction was provided through Project Clean Water. Project Clean Water was initiated by the County in 2000 as a mechanism for bringing together government agencies, non-government agencies, and interested parties throughout the region to collaboratively explore water quality issues of regional importance.
- *Project Clean Water Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee.* Technical guidance was provided through the Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee (Watershed Protection TAC) formed through Project Clean Water. The Watershed Protection TAC meets regularly to discuss a range of watershed planning

and implementation issues, and reaches a broad spectrum of watershed planning stakeholders.

- *Stormwater Copermittee Management Committee.* The Stormwater Copermittee Management Committee provided input relative to stormwater management.

Additional technical and stakeholder input was achieved through an outreach effort to existing planning groups, environmental organizations, watershed groups, municipalities, water and wastewater agencies, transportation agencies, flood control agencies, regulatory agencies, business groups, community groups including disadvantaged communities, local Tribal Nations, and general members of the public. This outreach effort included three dedicated public workshops held in 2006, a series of RAC meetings in 2007 that were open to public participation, and additional public workshops that were held in 2007. (See Section N for a detailed description of the IRWM Plan outreach effort.)

CEQA Exemption. This IRWM Plan consists of a data collection effort and planning study that will not result in the disturbance of environmental resources. Approval or adoption of this Plan does not entail any direct commitment of resources by the RWMG or any other agency. Preparation and adoption of this Plan are thus exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15262 and 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines, and programmatic analysis under CEQA is not required.

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