IRWM Regions in the San Diego Funding Area



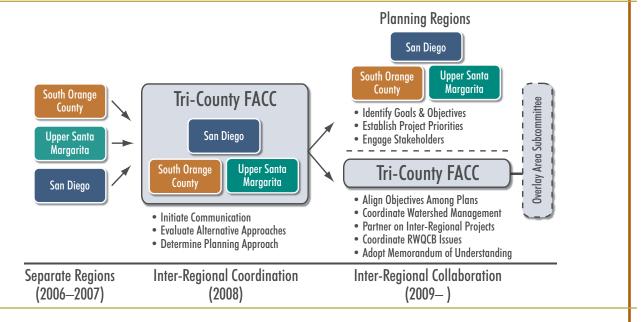
Proposed IRWM Planning Approach Strikes Appropriate Balance of Coordination and Independence

Three IRWMs — San Diego IRWM, Upper Santa Margarita IRWM, and South Orange County IRWM — were established to address water resources planning and management in the San Diego Funding Area. Per DWR's suggestion, the three RWMGs developed five planning region alternatives and evaluated 15 factors to determine the most appropriate and productive approach. The three IRWM regions were originally developed due to multiple regional differentiators:

- 1. Water Supply: Independent water supply agencies drawing from different water sources. Variable dependence on imported water supply across the planning regions.
- 2. Wastewater: Separate wastewater agencies, reclamation plant operators, water recycling programs, and disposal/export practices.
- 3. Groundwater: Different level of dependence on groundwater supply across the planning regions.
- 4. Land Use Planning: Different local and regional land use planning authorities and transportation programs.
- 5. Flood Protection: Independent flood control agencies and programs.
- 6. Runoff Water Quality: Separate NPDES Municipal Storm Water (MS4) permits, urban runoff management planning, and regional water quality outreach programs.
- 7. Environmental Resources: Different habitat conservation planning efforts and nature reserves.
- 8. Political Realities: Separate legal (both regulatory and legislative), taxing, and funding authorities.

Communication was initiated between the three RWMGs to address ongoing water resources challenges, including water supply and water quality issues associated with recycled water discharges to the Santa Margarita River watershed.

Establishment of an inter-regional body — Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (FACC) — will allow the three RWMGs to balance the necessary autonomy of each planning region to plan at the appropriate scale with the need to improve inter-regional cooperation and efficiency. To address DWR's concerns, the three planning regions are committed to identifying cross-boundary projects and common programs to address key challenges. This approach will capture the integration of water supply, wastewater, and watershed planning across regions in three coordinated IRWMs.



San Diego Funding Area Collaboration

Tri-County FACC Has Developed a Committed Inter-Regional Process

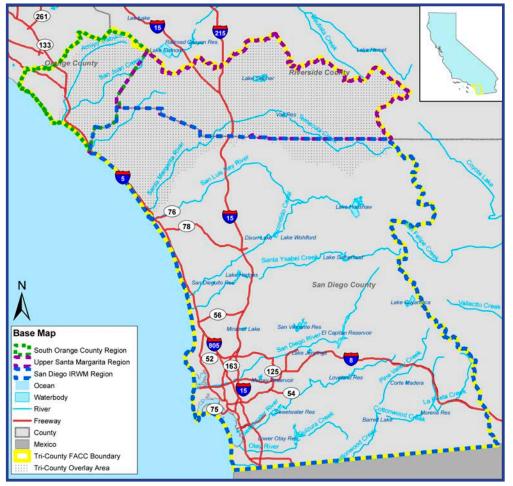
Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Tri-County FACC will ensure the close coordination of the three planning regions to improve the quality and reliability of water in the Funding Area. The three RWMGs will work together with their advisory groups to identify projects of value across planning areas and support project implementation.

The Tri-County FACC will build a foundation that ensures sustainable water resources planning within the Funding Area. The three RWMGs commit to coordinated planning within the Tri-County Overlay Area, which comprises watershed areas that cross planning region boundaries. A Tri-County subcommittee will be organized to consider issues and develop projects pertaining to the Overlay Area.

Water resources projects and programs that may benefit from Funding Area-wide coordination, administration, funding, or support will be identified by the Tri-County FACC. Projects within the Tri-County Overlay Area identified as valuable and benefiting from cross-boundary coordination will be recommended in the three IRWM project selection processes. All three IRWM Plans will contain references to the entire Funding Area, to the coordination that is occurring among planning regions, and to the MOU governing the Tri-County FACC. Each IRWM Plan will identify common goals and objectives, water management strategies, issues, and challenges being addressed via inter-regional collaboration.

Proposed IRWM Regions are Appropriate Planning Level Entities

The figure illustrates the boundaries of the three IRWM planning regions and the Tri-County FACC. These planning regions are of an appropriate scale to allow integrated planning by engaging water supply, wastewater, and watershed organizations under common authority. Because man-made water infrastructure systems are the key water management units in the Funding Area, the planning regions reflect this reality and cross-boundary watershed issues are addressed via a collaborate subcommittee process. The creation of larger planning regions would limit local involvement and reduce the value of the IRWM planning process to the regions, the Funding Area, and the State.



IRWM Planning Regions in the San Diego (Prop 84) Funding Area