



### What is the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan?

The Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP) is a multi-stakeholder, nine-county effort to coordinate a strategic approach to regional water resources management. The Plan will build on water resources needs and planning strategies identified throughout the Bay Area, and leverage regional cooperation to more effectively address the needs identified.

The Bay Area IRWMP will inform future water resource planning by creating a road map that will help to enhance water supply reliability, protect water quality, manage flood protection, maintain public health standards, improve habitat conditions, and enhance the overall health of San Francisco Bay.

The Bay Area IRWMP is important because it fosters regional planning and cooperation, which in turn creates more efficient and effective management of water resources and improves the region's competitiveness for funding.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE BAY AREA**

## BAY AREA IRWMP BACKGROUND

### Who is involved in the Bay Area IRWMP?

Development of the Bay Area IRWMP involves a diverse group of water supply, water quality, wastewater, stormwater, flood management, watershed and habitat agencies, local governments, environmental groups, business groups and other interested parties. Many of these agencies have collaborated on other regional efforts in the past, but the Bay Area IRWMP is the first effort of this magnitude.

### Why Do Integrated Water Management Planning in the Bay Area?

The Bay Area IRWMP defines the Bay Area region according to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Region 2) jurisdiction. This region includes all or major portions of the nine counties which surround the Bay.



The San Francisco Bay (Bay) is part of the largest estuary on California's west coast, home to diverse wildlife and over seven million people. The San Francisco Bay Area's quality of life and economy depend on a healthy and vibrant Bay watershed. As a natural resource, the Bay adds to the region's unique identity. Several features of the San Francisco Bay Area make it well suited to integrated regional water management:

- **Strong Regional Identity.** The Bay Area has a strong regional identity with international recognition due to its social/cultural values and leadership in economic development and environmental stewardship.
- **Defined Watershed Boundary.** The region has a hydrologic and ecologic connection defined by San Francisco Bay watershed – a sensitive ecosystem habitat that is part of the largest estuary on the west coast of the United States.
- **History of Regional Planning.** The Bay Area has a long history of regional planning relating to water resources management. Regional groups include Bay Area Water Agencies Coalition (BAWAC), Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), and Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA).

## You're Invited to Participate

Consider sponsoring a forum to discuss the Bay Area IRWMP. Distribute information about the Bay Area IRWMP to your constituencies or membership. Provide input and other information that might be valuable to the development of the Plan. Attend a public meeting and help build support for the concept of a regional approach as well as for adoption of the Plan. Visit the project website at [www.bayairewmp.net](http://www.bayairewmp.net) for contact information, planned public meetings, and other informational venues.

### Project Timeline for Stakeholder Workshops\*

There will be four public meetings, one at each key milestone of plan development, providing opportunities for information sharing and public comment.

#### 2006

WORKSHOP #1 FEB 27  
Objectives

WORKSHOP #2 APR 24  
Project Prioritization

**WORKSHOP #3 JUN 26**  
**Implementation**

WORKSHOP #4 OCT 23  
Public Draft Bay Area IRWMP

#### 2007

Final Adoption JAN 1

\* Tentative dates

## What Major Factors Influence Water Resources Management in the Bay Region?

Multiple factors in the Bay Area's regional setting influence water resources management:

### Water Supplies & Demand.

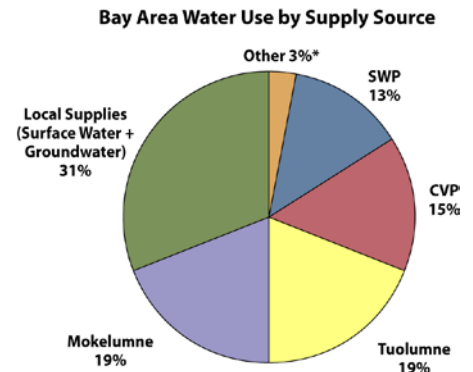
Although the Bay Area water agencies are all within the same hydrologic region, water supply and demand characteristics for the Bay Area vary greatly and are unique to each agency based on: source of supply; climate variations; population density and type of users served.

Bay Area water agencies manage a diverse portfolio of water supplies, consisting of local supplies (groundwater, local surface water); Sierra Nevada supplies (Tuolumne, Mokelumne); Delta supplies (State Water Project, Central Valley Project, among others); and other sources (recycled water, desalination, transfers).

Bay Area agencies are faced with the challenge of ensuring high quality, reliable supplies for the region – especially during periods of drought.

**Hydrology and Geomorphology.** The hydrologic functioning of Bay Area watersheds has been greatly affected through surface land cover and land practice alterations. Today, a broad band of urbanization rings the Bay, covering much of the gently sloping bay plain terrain. Increased stream flows resulting from Bay Area urbanization have been associated with increased bed/bank erosion, flooding hazards in downstream areas, and potential for sediment transport and deposition.

**Ecological Resources.** The Bay Area is home to 105 threatened or endangered wildlife species. Bay Area rivers and streams provide suitable habitat for several state or federally listed species, including California red-legged frog, giant garter snake, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. Integrated regional water management and planning can coordinate resources management activities and capital program improvements on a regional scale to mitigate impacts resulting from urbanization.



\*Other sources include water transfers, recycled water, etc.

## Participating Agencies

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Alameda County Water District Association of Bay Area Governments • Bay Area Clean Water Agencies Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency • City of Napa • City of Palo Alto • City of San Jose • Contra Costa Water District • Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • East Bay Municipal Utility District • Marin Municipal Water District • North Bay Watershed Association • San Francisco Estuary Project • San Francisco Public Utilities Commission • Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative • Santa Clara Valley Water District • Solano County Water Agency • Sonoma County Water Agency • State Coastal Conservancy • Zone 7 Water Agency