



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

INFORMATION ABOUT: INTEGRATION

WHAT IS INTEGRATION IN THE BAY AREA IRWMP?

The Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP) takes an integrated approach to water resources management. That is, the water resources needs are identified, prioritized, and combined in an overall management strategy for the entire region.

The Bay Area IRWMP approaches integration through implementation of multiple water management strategies within and across individual agency jurisdictions. Combining multiple water management strategies will establish a comprehensive, multi-faceted solution that will stand up to circumstances that might otherwise compromise the integrity of a single-pronged solution.

HOW WERE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES INTEGRATED FOR THE BAY AREA IRWMP?

The integration of water management strategies across the Bay Area is achieved through collaboration among agencies and jurisdictions across the region, geographically within watersheds, and through implementation of multiple water management strategies within individual organizations. The Bay Area IRWMP integration approach is based on the following method.

- ***Document the integrated mix of water management strategies.***
- ***Describe how strategies work together to achieve goals.***
- ***Describe the value and benefit of integrating multiple strategies.***

By implementing water management strategies that complement one another, the participating water resources management entities can help ensure that each goal is fully addressed. While single water management strategies may address particular aspects of a regional goal, combining multiple water management strategies will establish a comprehensive, multi-faceted solution that will stand up to circumstances that might otherwise compromise the integrity of a single-pronged solution. By integrating water management strategies to achieve regional goals, multiple economic, environmental, and long-term water security benefits for the region can be achieved.

*Please see the **Goals and Objectives Fact Sheet** for a description of the Bay Area IRWMP regional goals and objectives.*

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.bayareairwmp.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 IS THE VALUE AND BENEFIT OF INTEGRATING MULTIPLE STRATEGIES?

An integrated approach to regional water resources management has many benefits over a localized approach. The added value provided by integrating strategies both geographically and across the functional areas of water management is discussed below.

Organizational Benefits. Combining water management strategies can provide significant benefits, both within an individual organization comprised of several different departments, as well as among multiple organizations collaborating on a given project or program. When multiple strategies within an organization are coordinated, different areas within an organization are brought together to achieve a common goal. The resulting collaboration creates increased support within the organization, as well as within the community. Bringing together multiple organizations to implement a common project encourages a broad-based support for project implementation that is difficult to achieve at a local level.

Geographic Benefits. Ecosystem processes are inherently linked to physical characteristics of the site in which they are at work. Multiple water management benefits can be achieved when projects and programs with similar geographic and spatial considerations are addressed together. Coordinated implementation of projects upstream and downstream within a watershed can provide economies of scale in project planning by reducing redundancies. This can result in reduced project costs, while building cumulative benefits into the projects.

Synergistic Benefits. Synergistic benefits (i.e., benefits provided are greater than the sum of the parts) are an important effect of an integrated approach to water resources management. When multiple water management strategies are combined within a single project, greater benefits can be achieved, often at less expense, than by implementing individual water management strategies independently.

Financial Efficiencies. Integration of water management strategies across geographies, within project implementation, and through partnerships between agencies can result in significant financial efficiencies. By eliminating redundancy, garnering broad-based support, and allocating the best resources to complete a project, the costs associated with project implementation can be minimized. By combining the interests of multiple agencies into a single project, conflicts between agencies can be avoided, and a solution can be developed that benefits all participants. The result is multi-benefit projects that are widely supported, far reaching, and implemented better, faster, and cheaper than could be accomplished by a single agency focused on a single area of water management.

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