



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
for the first
BAY AREA IRWMP
Public Meeting

The focus of this public meeting will be the draft objectives section of the Bay Area IRWMP. The Plan will address major water resources related objectives and issues within the region: water supply and water quality; flood protection and stormwater management; wastewater and recycled water; watershed management, and habitat protection and restoration.

Monday, February 27, 2006
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
at the
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street (at Grove)
Latino/Hispanic Community Room
(Enter 30 Grove, go downstairs)

For more information:
 Suzanne Gautier
 (415) 554-3204



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.

Four functional areas will be integrated into the Bay Area IRWMP: water supply and water quality; flood protection and stormwater management; wastewater and recycled water; watershed management, and habitat protection and restoration.

Goals of the Bay Area IRWMP process include:

- ▶ Complete and adopt an IRWMP by January 1, 2007
- ▶ Foster coordination, collaboration, and communication among Bay Area agencies responsible for water and habitat related issues
- ▶ Achieve greater efficiencies and build public support for vital projects
- ▶ Improve regional competitiveness for project funding
- ▶ Establish an inclusive regional planning process

What is Integrated Regional Planning?

Integrated planning involves local agencies and interest groups working together to coordinate planning activities across jurisdictional boundaries. In this regional approach, efforts of individual agencies are combined to leverage resources and meet multiple water resource needs at the same time. For example, water supply, water quality, and habitat projects might be combined with a flood control project in a manner that benefits a much larger area than the original jurisdiction. The result is a multi-objective approach that multiplies the benefits of an individual agency's single project.

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
Integration

WORKSHOP #3 JUN 26
Implementation

WORKSHOP #4 OCT 23
Public Draft Bay Area IRWMP

2007

Final Adoption JAN 1

* Tentative dates

Bay Area IRWMP Questions and Answers

How is the Bay Area IRWMP funded?

Funding for development of the Bay Area IRWMP comes in the form of grants through Proposition 50, the statewide bond initiative passed by voters in 2002, and local agency cost sharing. The Zone 7 Water Agency and the California State Coastal Conservancy are administering the planning grants, which total \$838,000. Of the \$380 million set aside for all IRWMP related grants, \$160 million is designated for the first cycle, and \$220 is designated for the second cycle. Of the first cycle funding, \$12 million is set aside for planning and \$148 million is set aside for implementation.

What constitutes an IRWMP?

Proposition 50 states the IRWMPs should include a description of the region and participants, regional objectives and priorities, water management strategies, implementation, impacts and benefits, data management, financing, stakeholder involvement, relationship to local planning, and state and federal coordination. The four functional areas that will be integrated into the Bay Area IRWMP are water supply and water quality; flood protection and stormwater management; wastewater and recycled water; watershed management, and habitat protection and restoration.

Why is the Bay Area IRWMP important?

Managing our vital water resources is most efficient and effective when performed cooperatively, rather than individually. In addition, as state funding becomes more oriented toward regional planning, it is in the Bay Area's best interest to successfully compete for future funding opportunities. The Bay Area IRWMP will serve as the blueprint to facilitate this type of regional cooperation.

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. A *Letter of Mutual Understandings (LOMU) to Develop a Bay Area IRWMP* has been established among many of these agencies and groups to guide the development of the IRWMP. The LOMU partners value the contributions of other interested parties, and encourage participation in the process.

Who is preparing the Bay Area IRWMP?

The LOMU signatories have established a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), comprised of representatives from participating agencies of the four functional areas, to manage the development of the Bay Area IRWMP. Technical consultants have been hired to actually prepare the IRWMP.

What is the timing for initial implementation of the Bay Area IRWMP?

There are two cycles of IRWMP implementation grants. Cycle 1 is currently underway. Cycle 2 will probably occur in 2008. As projects are identified, an updated schedule will be made available. A region must have an approved IRWMP to receive funding for implementation projects.

Why should agencies and other groups participate in this process?

For a regional effort to be comprehensive, effective and sustainable, the participation of all key agencies, jurisdictions and interest groups is essential for developing and implementing the Plan. Participation is also critical to ensuring all major issues and interests are addressed in the Plan.

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 • 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