Greater Monterey County
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Acceptance Process Materials

Regional Water Management Group

Big Sur Land Trust
California Coastal Commission
California Water Service Company
Castroville Community Services District
City of Salinas
Coastlands Mutual Water Company
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Garrapata Creek Watershed Council
Marina Coast Water District
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.
Watershed Institute at California State University Monterey Bay

Submitted to the California Department of Water Resources
April 29, 2009

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Submitted to the California Department of Water Resources
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1. Submitting Entity

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Why the RWMG has selected this entity to submit the RAP materials: Susan Robinson is an independent consultant who has been hired through private grant funds obtained by the Big Sur Land Trust to coordinate development of the Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

2. Composition of RWMG

> A description of the composition of the RWMG. Identify RWMG members, including their role in the RWMG process, regional water management responsibilities, and the level of IRWM participation. For each entity, state if they have adopted, plan to adopt or will not adopt the IRWM plan.

Background

The Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Committee was formed in December 2008 as the result of a meeting of the six Central Coast IRWM groups (spanning from Santa Cruz County to Santa Barbara County), which revealed several areas underrepresented in Monterey County for integrated regional water management planning and associated funding opportunities. It was determined at the regional level that a planning committee would be convened to review the potential for the formation of a new IRWM region in order to address these underrepresented areas and IRWM Plan (IRWMP) coverage voids. The Planning Committee is comprised of the following agencies and organizations:

- Big Sur Land Trust
- California Coastal Commission
- California State University Monterey Bay Watershed Institute
- Castroville Community Services District
- City of Salinas
- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Garrapata Creek Watershed Council
- Marina Coast Water District
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program
- Monterey County Farm Bureau

- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

The Planning Committee has met regularly since February 2008, reviewing the potential for the new region in the context of Proposition 84 guidelines and other regional plans for the Central Coast, and has determined that the current Salinas Valley IRWM Functionally Equivalent Plan (FEP) region should be expanded to create an entirely new region—the Greater Monterey County region—for the purposes of integrated regional water management planning and implementation. Expanding the current Salinas Valley region to create the Greater Monterey County region will address IRMWP coverage voids in Monterey County and western San Benito County and will bring previously underrepresented areas into the IRWM planning process, including such key areas as the Big Sur coastal watersheds, the larger Salinas watershed, and the Gabilan watershed.

Regional Water Management Group Members

The Planning Committee has initiated formation of a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. The RWMG includes all members of the Planning Committee (except for the Monterey County Farm Bureau, which has opted to participate as a stakeholder rather than a RWMG member) plus additional organizations needed to ensure adequate and balanced representation of the various resource areas, interests, and geographic areas in the proposed region. The RWMG is composed as follows:

- ***Big Sur Land Trust:*** The mission of the Big Sur Land Trust, a non-profit organization established in 1979, is to conserve the significant lands and waters of California's Central Coast for all generations. Working with private and public partners, the Big Sur Land Trust has successfully conserved more than 30,000 acres of shoreline, wildlife habitat, streams, forests, grasslands, rangelands and riparian corridors along the Big Sur Coast, Monterey Bay shoreline, and other special places in Monterey County.

- ***California Coastal Commission:*** The California Coastal Commission is a State agency that regulates development, projects, and activities that can affect the Coastal Zone. The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20) and later made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Coastal Commission, in partnership with coastal cities and counties, plans and regulates the use of land and water in the coastal zone. Development activities, which are broadly defined by the Coastal Act to include (among others) construction of buildings, divisions of land, and activities that change the intensity of use of land or public access to coastal waters, generally require a coastal permit from either the Coastal Commission or the local government.

- ***California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Watershed Institute:*** The Watershed Institute at CSUMB consists of a direct action community-based coalition of researchers, restoration ecologists, educators, planners, students, and volunteers, working together to promote sustainable ecosystem management of watersheds in the Monterey Bay region and around the world. The Watershed Institute's Central Coast Watershed Studies Team (CCoWS) conducts watershed and ecosystem research at sites throughout

the planning region, including storm water quality monitoring in agricultural, natural, and urban settings, water quality studies, aquatic ecology research, and watershed assessment. The Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project (RON), the education and outreach arm of the Watershed Institute, conducts community-based watershed restoration projects at sites throughout the planning region, including urban creek restoration in the City of Salinas. The Watershed Institute has been instrumental in the development of the Carr Lake Project, a 480-acre proposal in the center of the City of Salinas to deal with water quality, flood control, stormwater runoff, habitat restoration, recreation and social justice issues.

- ***California Water Service Company:*** California Water Service Group is the third-largest publicly traded water utility in the United States. Under the regulation of state public utilities commissions, the company provides water utility services to more than two million people in 100 cities through five operating subsidiaries. The company's largest subsidiary, California Water Service Company (Cal Water), began providing high-quality water utility services in the Salinas area in 1962. Cal Water's Salinas District serves more than 100,000 people, delivering approximately 20,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year through a system that includes 55 wells, 300 miles of pipeline, and almost 8 million gallons of storage capacity.

- ***Castroville Community Services District (CCSD):*** The Castroville Water District was formed in 1952 under the County Water District Act for the purpose of installing and operating water supply and distribution system facilities for the community of Castroville. In 2007, the Castroville Water District joined with County Service Area 14 to form the Castroville Community Services District. The District provides water, sewer, and storm water services to the Castroville community, Monte de Lago, North Monterey County High school and Moro Cojo subdivision, as well as recreation facilities, open space, street lighting, private street maintenance, pest control and abatement services within the district boundaries. The District serves more than 6,800 customers, delivering approximately 1,000 AFY of water, all of which comes from the Salinas Valley groundwater basin.

- ***City of Salinas:*** The City of Salinas is the largest city within Monterey County with a population of 150,900 persons. The City is a compact urban community within a unique agricultural setting, situated at the northern end of the Salinas Valley. It is also the employment center for Monterey County, supporting approximately one-third of all jobs within the county. The City maintains storm drains and the sewer system, and operates an industrial waste facility for the treatment and disposal of process water from local agricultural industries and others with process water requirements. The City is served by two public water service providers, California Water Service Company and ALCO Water Service Company; the location of facilities is subject to approval by the City. The City of Salinas is the only Phase I entity for stormwater in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board region. It is currently in its second five-year MS4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit term.

- ***Coastlands Mutual Water Company:*** Coastlands Mutual Water Company is a not for profit water and roads association serving the residents of the Coastlands subdivision of homes adjacent to Post Ranch and Nepenthe Restaurant on the west side of Highway One

in Big Sur, California. The water company is managed by a Board of Directors elected by the residents on a yearly basis. There are 40 "hook-ups" or entitlements to water served by two creeks (Post Creek and Mule Creek) that originate on the western slope of the Santa Lucia mountains on the east side of Highway One. Surface water is captured in spring boxes, filtered and chlorinated and piped to each resident's property. Extra capacity is stored at each property owner's personal water storage facility as well as in a community 100,000-gallon storage tank on high ground adjacent the subdivision.

- ***Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve:*** The National Estuarine Research Reserves System is a network of 27 areas representing different biogeographic regions of the United States that are protected for long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education and coastal stewardship. Established by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the reserve system is a partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states. The Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) is managed by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and is operated in partnership with NOAA. ESNERR is located on the southeast shore of Elkhorn Slough, one of the relatively few coastal wetlands remaining in California. The 1400-acre Reserve is a hub of activity and hosts programs that promote education, research, and conservation in Elkhorn Slough, with 50,000 visitors annually. Portions of the slough are designated a State Ecological Reserve and Wildlife Management Area by the CDFG, a Marine Protected Area by the California Natural Resources Agency. The beaches at the mouth are managed for public access by California State Parks. The slough has been a focal point for extensive conservation activities and land acquisition by the Nature Conservancy and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation.

- ***Environmental Justice Coalition for Water:*** The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) is a network of more than 50 grassroots and intermediary organizations. EJCW's mission is to educate, empower, and nurture a community-based coalition that will serve as a public voice and be an effective advocate of environmental justice issues in California water policy. EJCW ensures that policy makers listen to the concerns of community members and holds policy makers accountable for negative impacts caused by certain water policies on low-income communities and communities of color. EJCW has worked on drinking water issues in the Salinas Valley both locally, with communities such as Chualar and San Jerardo Farmworkers Co-operative, and on a regional basis partnering with community-based organizations and nonprofits such as California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

- ***Garrapata Creek Watershed Council:*** The Garrapata Creek watershed is located 10 miles south of Carmel along the Big Sur coast. The total watershed area encompasses about 10.6 square miles of land, 88% of which is privately owned. The Garrapata Creek Watershed Council was established in 2000 to protect the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the watershed. The Council completed the "Garrapata Creek Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plan" in 2006, and has been implementing components of the plan since that time.

- ***Marina Coast Water District (MCWD):*** The Marina Coast Water District is a county water district formed in 1960 and authorized by Division 12 of the California Water

Code. MCWD provides potable water to customers in the City of Marina, a service area that occupies about 4.5 square miles. MCWD currently delivers approximately 2,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of potable water (all of which is from groundwater supplies) to approximately 18,000 customers. MCWD also operates a desalination plant which has a capacity of 300 AFY, though this plant is currently idle. MCWD also provides water to the former Fort Ord. Total existing water demand in the Ord community is estimated at approximately 3,000 AFY.

- ***Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program:*** The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) was designated in 1992 as a federally-protected marine area offshore of California's Central Coast. The Sanctuary encompasses 276 miles of shoreline and 5,322 square miles of ocean, covering everything below the water's surface from Marin County to Cambria, from the high tide mark to as far as 53 miles offshore. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use of this national treasure, and is part of a system of 13 National Marine Sanctuaries administered by NOAA. During the designation of the MBNMS, eight key water quality agencies within the Sanctuary region entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to provide a cooperative, ecosystem-based water quality management process to help protect the waters of the MBNMS from non-point source pollutants. The agreement led to the development of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP). Today, the WQPP is a partnership of 25 federal, state and local agencies, public and private groups dedicated to protecting and enhancing water quality in the Sanctuary and its watersheds.

- ***Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA):*** The Monterey County Water Resources Agency is responsible for managing, protecting, and enhancing water supply and water quality, as well as providing flood protection, in the County of Monterey. MCWRA operates the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for flood management and water supply (groundwater recharge) purposes. MCWRA operates a distribution system that delivers approximately 13,300 AF of recycled water to approximately 12,000 acres of agricultural land in the northern Salinas Valley. MCWRA has published a county-wide flood management plan and reviews hydrological data, oversees structural development, and implements land use regulations to reduce the risk of flooding. The MCWRA also performs groundwater elevation and ground and surface water quality monitoring. MCWRA was the lead agency in developing the Salinas Valley IRWM FEP.

- ***Moss Landing Marine Laboratories:*** Moss Landing Marine Labs, established in 1966, hosts and administers an interdisciplinary Master of Science Degree in Marine Science for seven California State University campuses: Fresno, East Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Monterey Bay and Stanislaus. It is the second oldest marine laboratory on Monterey Bay, serving approximately 120 students. Since the early 1990s Moss Landing Marine Labs has participated in the development of water quality management and wetland restoration activities that enhance coastal resources and reduce human impacts on the marine environment. The Moss Landing Marine Lab Restoration Group and Central Coast Wetland Group have provided technical assistance to study these dynamic systems, have developed numerous habitat management and restoration plans, have implemented many restoration activities and have helped build an infrastructure of local scientists working collaboratively to protect and restore aquatic

resources within the Monterey Bay area.

- ***Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Monterey County:*** The RCD of Monterey County was established in 1942 as a non-regulatory special local district, authorized under Division 9 of California Public Resources Code. The RCD's mission is to conserve and improve natural resources, integrating the demand for environmental quality with the needs of agricultural and urban users. The RCD of Monterey County has been at the forefront of collaborative, watershed-based natural resource management and protection in Monterey County and the Central Coast. The RCD works closely with the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide technical assistance to Monterey County landowners, growers and ranchers, including assistance with conservation planning and design, project funding, permitting, and implementing management practices. During the past 10 years, RCD-NRCS teamwork has resulted in the establishment of voluntary conservation and restoration projects on over 80 farms by collaborating with over 160 farmers and land managers. The RCD also works with local researchers to develop new ways to improve water quality and to evaluate the effectiveness of management practices.
- ***San Jerardo Farmworkers Co-operative:*** San Jerardo is a co-operative housing complex for low-income farm working families, located several miles outside of Salinas. The co-operative was built in the 1970's and currently houses 60 - 70 families. The community has suffered from a lack of clean drinking water for the past decade. Their wells have high rates of nitrates, originating primarily from agricultural run-off in adjacent fields. In addition to contamination, a federal court found the water provider guilty of operation violations, which plunged the system into a protracted legal battle. Now, the community is on the verge of getting a new water system, but it will result in water bills of over $100 per month for co-operative members. Through their efforts to gain safe drinking water, the community has become experts on drinking water contamination in the Salinas Valley.

The RWMG and stakeholders include all of the agencies and organizations in the region that will be necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies involved in the development of the IRWMP. The table below summarizes the water resource and geographic areas represented by members of the RWMG:

TABLE 1. RWMG MEMBERS

RWMG Member	Statutory Authority?	Water Supply	Water Quality	Waste Water Treatment	Flood Management	Environmental Resource Protection	Agricultural Interests	Land Use Planning	Environmental Justice	Geographic Area Represented
Big Sur Land Trust						x				All of Monterey County
California Coastal Commission	x		x			x		x		Coastal zone
CSUMB Watershed Institute			x			x			x	Entire region
California Water Service		x	x							Salinas Valley
Castroville Community Services District	x	x	x							Castroville area (upper Salinas

										Valley/northern coast)
City of Salinas	x		x	x	x			x		City of Salinas (upper Salinas Valley)
Coastlands Water Company		x	x							Big Sur Coast
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve			x			x				Elkhorn Slough (northern coast)
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water			x						x	Entire region
Garrapata Creek Watershed Council			x			x				Garrapata Creek watershed (Big Sur)
Marina Coast Water District	x	x	x							Marina and Ord Community (upper Salinas Valley/northern coast)
MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program	x		x			x				Mean high water with education & outreach in the watersheds
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County			x				x			All of Monterey County
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	x	x	x		x		x	x		All of Monterey County
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories			x			x				Entire region
San Jerardo Co-operative			x						x	San Jerardo (Salinas Valley)

A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared and is being proposed for approval by the RWMG members to acknowledge cooperative efforts in the planning region and to form an institutional structure to develop and implement an IRWMP. The MOU formalizes the collaborative planning effort, describes the level of participation expected of RWMG members, and outlines a process for completing the IRWMP and for making amendments in the future. RWMG members will share joint responsibilities for ensuring effective and comprehensive IRWM planning and implementation for the region, including the facilitation of regular RWMG and stakeholder meetings, communication with the public and with additional stakeholder groups as needed to ensure fair and inclusive representation, administration and financial support for the IRWM program, production and update of the IRWMP, project implementation, and continued IRWM planning beyond the State grant IRWM funding programs. Upon completion of the Greater Monterey County IRWMP, it is anticipated that RWMG members will each accept, approve, or adopt the plan through resolution by their governing boards or by other means according to organizational protocol.

A listing of the local agencies within this region with statutory authority over water supply or water management. Provide the basis and nature of that statutory authority even if they are not part of the RWMG.

Local Agencies with Statutory Authority over Water Resource Management

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) manages water quality in the Sanctuary, an area encompassing 276 miles of shoreline and 5,322 square miles of ocean. MBNMS's authority is established by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Title 16, Chapter 32, Sections 1431 et seq.) and extends to activities in coastal watersheds that drain to the Sanctuary

and that affect Sanctuary resources. Specifically, MBNMS prohibits or otherwise regulates activities that include discharging or depositing from beyond the boundary of the Sanctuary any material or other matter that subsequently enters the Sanctuary and injures a Sanctuary resource or quality (15 CFR Chapter IX, Subpart M-Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 922.132). This authority applies throughout the entirety of proposed region, since all of the region's coastal watersheds ultimately drain to the Sanctuary. MBNMS is a participating member of the RWMG.

The California Coastal Commission is a State agency that regulates development, projects, and activities that can affect the Coastal Zone. The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 (Proposition 20) and later made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Coastal Commission is a participating member of the RWMG.

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB3) is the principal State agency with responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality in the planning region (as authorized by the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Section 13001). The RWQCB3 formulates and adopts water quality control plans for all areas within the region, as directed by Porter-Cologne (Section 13050), including beneficial uses which are to be protected for specific water bodies, water quality objectives which protect those uses, and an implementation plan which accomplishes those objectives. RWQCB3 has also been delegated authority by the State Water Resources Control Board to administer the NPDES permit process in compliance with the Clean Water Act, and therefore regulates storm water management programs in the region (Clean Water Act, Public Law 92-500, as amended). The City of Salinas is the only Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) in the Central Coast Region and is covered by an individual NPDES permit. Cities within the planning region enrolled under the Phase II General Permit for Stormwater Discharges include King City and Marina (the Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Program covers the City of Marina and unincorporated areas in Monterey County).

Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) is the primary water management agency for Monterey County and is responsible for managing, protecting, and enhancing water supply and water quality, as well as providing flood protection, in the County of Monterey. MCWRA was formed under Chapter 699 of the Statutes of 1947 as the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. In 1990 the District was renamed the Monterey County Water Resources Agency in Chapter 2 of the Water Code Appendix. MCWRA is a participating member of the RWMG.

A small portion of the planning region—in the northeastern portion of the region where the Salinas River watershed falls within San Benito County—lies within the jurisdictional boundaries of the San Benito County Water District (SBCWD). The SBCWD is a special purpose district that was formed in 1953 by the San Benito County Water Conservation and Flood Control Act. The SBCWD mission is to preserve the economic and environmental wealth and well-being of San Benito County through the control, management and conservation of waters and the provision of water services in a practical, cost-effective and responsible manner. The District delivers primarily agricultural water (to 500+ customers), as well as a small amount of municipal and industrial water to its customers.

In addition, a small portion of the planning area—in the northernmost section where the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning region abuts the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM planning region—lies within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA). The PVWMA is a state-chartered special purpose district formed under State Law in 1984 pursuant to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Act. PVWMA was formed to efficiently and economically manage existing and supplemental water supplies in order to prevent further increase in, and to accomplish continuing reduction of, long-term overdraft and to provide and ensure sufficient water supplies for present and anticipated needs within its boundaries. PVWMA has the authority to adopt ordinances for the purpose of conserving local groundwater supplies that all public and private water purveyors within the Agency's boundaries must adhere to. The PVWMA service area is comprised of portions of three counties, which are Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties.

Wastewater treatment services for the planning region are provided in large part by the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA). MRWPCA is a joint powers agency formed in 1972 to provide wastewater collection and treatment. MRWPCA is governed by a Board of Directors representing each of the jurisdictions that it serves. The agency has a regional treatment plant on the Salinas River and discharges treated wastewater effluent in addition to producing recycled water for agricultural irrigation.

In addition, numerous water districts, community services districts, municipalities, and communities provide water supply and wastewater treatment services in the region. Please see Tables 2 and 3 for a listing of these agencies. Several RWMG members provide these services, including the City of Salinas (industrial wastewater treatment), Marina Coast Water District (water supply), and Castroville Community Services District (water supply).

Other Participants

A listing of other participants such as agencies, stakeholders, and others included in the RWMG and describe their role in developing and implementing the IRWM Plan.

The Planning Committee has identified numerous additional stakeholders to be brought into the IRWM process for project development, planning, and implementation. Stakeholders will play a key role in defining sustainable water resource management goals and objectives and regional priorities, and will provide input to the RWMG through attendance at public workshops, invited comments, and review of draft IRWMP sections. Together, stakeholders and the RWMG will represent all of the major water resource management authorities in the region boundary—as well as water resource management authorities and stakeholders from neighboring IRWM regions (Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay, Pajaro River Watershed, San Luis Obispo County, and Northern Santa Cruz County IRWM regions)—and will provide broad and fair representation of water supply, water quality, wastewater, stormwater, flood control, watershed, municipal, environmental, agricultural, and regulatory interests throughout all geographic areas of the planning region. Please see Appendix A for the list of stakeholders identified thus far who will be encouraged to participate. This list will be updated as appropriate to include new stakeholders identified over the course of IRWMP development.

Working Relationship of Identified Agencies and Stakeholders

List and describe the working relationship of identified agencies and stakeholders per CWC §105401(g). Descriptions of working relationship may include but is not limited to information regarding the sharing of information, shared infrastructure, or competing interests.

Resource managers in the Monterey County region have a long history of working cooperatively to resolve issues related to water supply, water quality, wastewater management, flood protection, environmental conservation and protection, and public access and recreation. These issues have also brought together the larger community—including agricultural groups, rural and urban community groups, researchers, non-profit organizations, environmental groups, municipalities, neighborhood associations, watershed communities, and other stakeholders—in productive working relationships to resolve conflicts and find cooperative solutions to common issues and challenges. All members of the RWMG as well as many of the stakeholder groups are active participants in these forums. Some examples of partnerships and cooperative efforts among members of the RWMG (and stakeholders) are described below. Several other efforts to address regional water management issues and conflicts in the region through multi-benefit integrated programs are described in Section 7.

Managers Working Group: The MCWRA is coordinating with the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, MRWPCA, Marina Coast Water District and other entities on regional water supply solution opportunities. A Managers Working Group, led by Monterey County, was formed in 2004 and is comprised primarily of General Managers of water/wastewater agencies and cities from the Monterey Peninsula and north Monterey County, including the northern Salinas Valley. The group was formed to discuss and develop regional

water supply alternatives to the California-American Moss Landing Desalination project and potential governance structures. The Managers Working Group has also worked on a draft MOU and scope of work to facilitate development of a regional water supply strategy. This strategy is intended to determine the project (or combination of projects) and project elements that represent the most cost-effective, environmentally sensitive and expeditious solution to the region's current water replacement need, as well as for future potential supply needs.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP): The WQPP has developed six action plans to address water quality problems in Monterey Bay and its watersheds: *Implementing Solutions to Urban Runoff*; *Regional Monitoring, Data Access, and Interagency Coordination*; *Marinas and Boating*; *Agriculture and Rural Lands; Beach Closures and Microbial Contamination*; and *Cruise Ship Discharges*. The WQPP works in partnership with many of the RWMG members and stakeholder groups to implement the strategies outlined in these action plans. For example, a group called the "Agriculture Water Quality Alliance" was formed to implement the *Agriculture and Rural Lands Action Plan*. The Agriculture Water Quality Alliance is comprised of RWMG members including the MBNMS and the RCD of Monterey County, as well as several of the Greater Monterey County IRWM stakeholders, including the Monterey County Farm Bureau, Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition and NRCS.

Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan Advisory Committee: In 1920, an extensive ditch was constructed to drain wetlands in the lower Salinas Valley for agricultural use. The ditch was an enlargement of an existing waterway (Gabilan Creek) that connected a series of seven historic lakes roughly between the City of Salinas and Castroville. After the Reclamation Ditch was completed in 1920, most of the lakes were reclaimed for agricultural use, including Carr Lake, a 450-acre historic lake bed located in the center of the City of Salinas. Carr Lake is still mostly under agricultural production today. Following the 1995 and 1998 El Niño events, which caused serious flooding in the Salinas area, a Reclamation Ditch Improvement Plan Advisory Committee (RDIPAC) responsible to the MCWRA was formed to plan for improvement of the drainage system. The RDIPAC has become today the most active forum for discussion of one of the Central Coast's most important waterways. At issue is not only flood control, but the potential to return the Reclamation Ditch to a more vibrant, natural waterway, and the possibility of converting Carr Lake's agricultural fields into a multi-use regional park, with flood protection, water quality, wildlife, wetland, environmental justice, and recreational benefits. RDIPAC meetings continue to be a forum for potent and sometimes contentious debate, and are attended by residents, farmers, engineers, business people, researchers, educators, and staff from the County, City of Salinas, Coastal Commission, Moss Landing Harbor District, RWQCB, and the Department of Water Resources.

3. Stakeholder Participation

A description of how stakeholders, including DACs, are identified and invited to participate. List the procedures, processes, or structures that promote access to and collaboration with people or agencies with diverse views within the region. Discuss how the outreach efforts address the diversity of water management issues, geographical representation, and stakeholder interests in the region. Explain how the IRWM region is inclusive and utilizes a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process that provides mechanisms to assist DAC; address water management issues; and develop integrated, multi-benefit, regional solutions that incorporate environmental stewardship to implement future IRWM plans.

How Stakeholders are Identified and Invited to Participate

To ensure that the needs and priorities of the diverse array of water management interests within the planning region are included in the Greater Monterey County IRWMP, a list of potential stakeholders has been compiled encompassing all known agencies, organizations, groups, and individuals with interest or active involvement in water resource management, environmental resources, land use planning, or related areas (see Appendix A for the list of stakeholders). Stakeholders have been identified based on historical involvement of stakeholder groups during similar resource management planning and implementation efforts in the region. Additional stakeholders will be identified and added to the stakeholder list in the course of plan development via workshop participation, the program website, and other plan-related activities. All stakeholders identified will be individually contacted, informed about the IRWMP process, and encouraged to participate in integrated regional water management planning efforts. Opportunities for stakeholder participation in plan development will include attendance at RWMG meetings and/or public workshops, providing input through the IRWMP website, and providing written comments on the Draft IRWMP and at various stages of the planning process.

The stakeholder list is inclusive and representative of diverse interests and all geographic regions within the regional boundary. The list includes elected officials, water agencies and water purveyors, wastewater agencies, flood control agencies, county representatives, cities, land use entities, community-based groups, environmental organizations, environmental justice groups, watershed groups, agricultural organizations, and many more. Many of the agencies and organizations on the stakeholder list will be project proponents, and as such will not only participate in IRWM planning but potentially in project implementation as well.

Disadvantaged Communities

Special effort will be made to encourage participation of disadvantaged communities in the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning process and to ensure that their water resource needs are considered and addressed. Disadvantaged communities within the proposed Greater Monterey County IRWM region include Greenfield, King City, San Ardo, San Lucas, Gonzales, Salinas, Soledad, Boronda, Castroville, and Chualar.[1] The Environmental Justice Coalition for

[1] Disadvantaged communities were determined based on 2000 US Census data, and include communities with annual median household incomes (MHI) that are less than 80% of the statewide MHI, as well communities with American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, and/or Hispanic/Latino populations exceeding 50% of the total population. Four of the communities listed above have MHI that are less than 80% of the statewide MHI (Greenfield, King City, San Ardo, and San Lucas), and all ten of the communities listed have Hispanic/Latino populations that well exceed 50% of the total population.

Water has been invited to participate as a member of the RWMG to ensure that environmental justice concerns are addressed early on in the planning and decision-making process. In addition, a member of the San Jerardo community, a co-operative housing complex for low-income farm working families located several miles south of Salinas, will also be participating on the RWMG to ensure that their water resource needs as well as those of other disadvantaged farm labor communities in the Salinas Valley are met. To further assist disadvantaged communities and encourage their participation during plan development, translation services will be provided to the extent possible at public workshops. Fact sheets will be translated into Spanish, posted on the program's website, and made available to participants at public workshops.

4. Public Access and Participation

A description of the process being used that makes the public both part of and aware of the regional management and IRWM efforts. Discuss ways for the public to gain access to the RWMG and IRWM process for information and how they could provide input.

Stakeholder involvement for the Greater Monterey County IRWMP will target specific audiences and constituencies, as well as the general population. Outreach activities will be conducted throughout the plan's development to inform, educate, and engage constituents, stakeholders, and interested parties. Targeted outreach will be conducted in a manner that will facilitate meaningful input, foster collaboration, ensure an inclusive process, engender trust, and establish credibility.

All stakeholders will receive announcements about upcoming workshops and other stakeholder involvement activities. A project website is currently being created to facilitate planning, information exchange, analysis, communication, and decision support. The website will provide another forum for stakeholder identification and participation. Draft documents, public announcements, meeting handouts, and other deliverables will be posted to the website for public review, along with information about who to contact for questions regarding regional water management efforts or IRWM planning and implementation.

We anticipate holding three public workshops (at different locations throughout the planning region) to encourage broad public participation:

- *Workshop #1:* Participants will be informed about the IRWM planning process. Regional issues and conflicts (as identified by the RWMG, with substantial input from experts in the field) will be presented, along with preliminary goals and objectives (as identified by the RWMG). Small breakout sessions focusing on each of the water resource areas will be formed to encourage discussion regarding both key issues and conflicts in the region, as well as goals and objectives for the purpose of IRWM planning. Written comments will also be collected.
- *Workshop #2:* The final regional issues and conflicts, goals and objectives, as well as the water management strategies to be included in the IRWMP, will be reviewed. Preliminary regional priorities along with a system for ranking projects will be proposed, and public comment and discussion will be invited. Projects will be solicited.

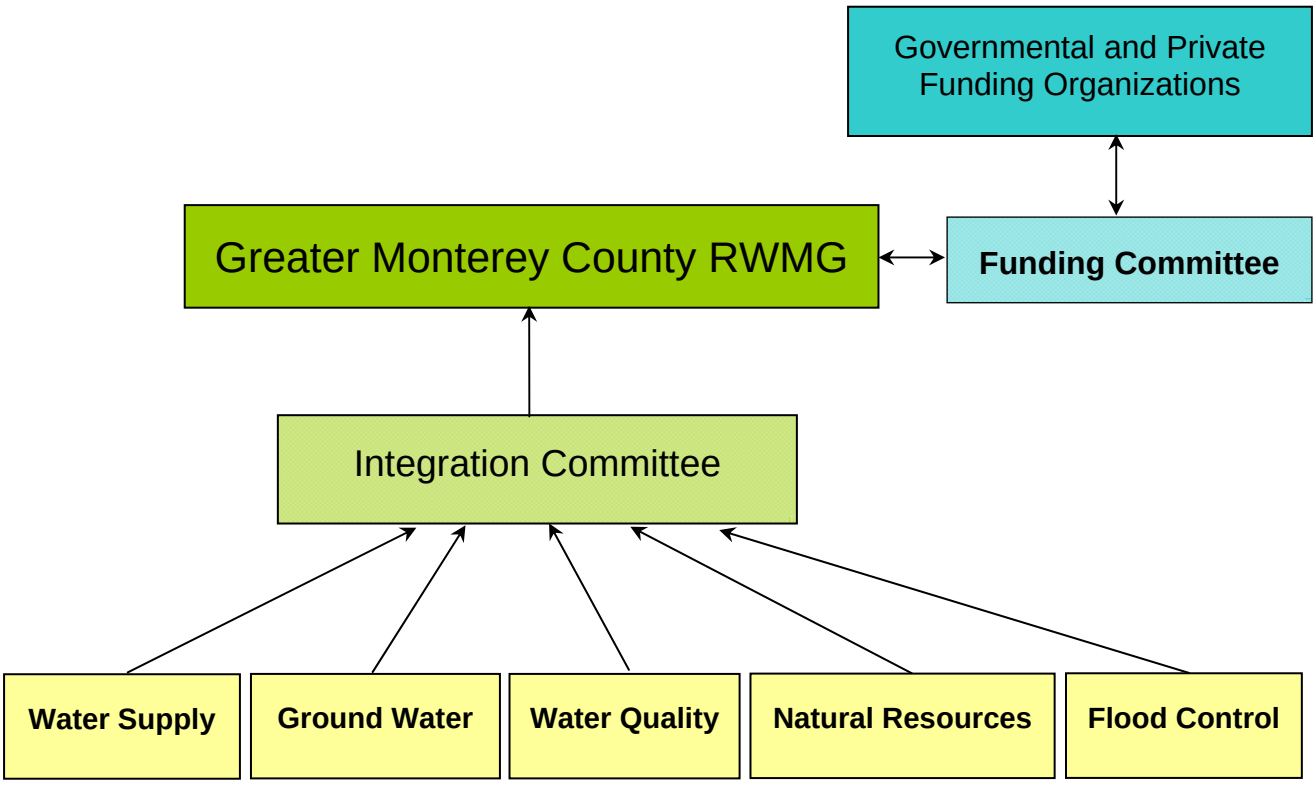
- *Workshop #3:* The Draft IRWMP will be presented in sections, including the finalized list of projects. The process for submitting comments will be explained. The facilitator will demonstrate how projects integrate water management strategies, goals and objectives, and regional priorities. The process and anticipated timeframe for future plan amendments and future actions regarding the IRWMP will be explained.

Media advisories will be submitted to the local newspapers prior to all stakeholder workshops, email announcements will be distributed to the IRWMP mailing list about workshops and key deliverables, and automatic email updates will be sent to those listed in the website database each time new or updated materials are added to the website.

5. Governance Structure

A description of the RWMG governance structure and how it will facilitate the sustained development of regional water management and the IRWM process, both now and beyond the state grant IRWM funding programs. Discuss how decisions are made. Identify the steps in which RWMG arrives at decisions and how RWMG members participate in the decision-making process. Describe how the RWMG will incorporate new members into the governance structure. Explain the manner in which a balance of interested persons or entities representing different sectors and interests have been or will be engaged in the process, regardless of their ability to contribute financially to the plan. Describe how the governance structure facilitates development of a single collaborative water management portfolio, prioritized on the regional goals and objectives of the IRWM region.

The Greater Monterey County RWMG governance structure has been designed to facilitate sustained development of the IRWM region now and beyond the current IRWM funding programs. As described in Section 2 above, the RWMG comprises adequate and balanced representation of water resource management issues and geographic areas in the proposed region and includes all of the agencies and organizations that will be necessary to address the objectives involved in the development of the IRWMP. A three-tiered organizational structure for the RWMG has been created, as illustrated below:



How Decisions are Made

The RWMG, seated at the top, is the final decision-making authority but will be assisted in its work and in its decision-making by various committees, including a Funding Committee, an Integration Committee, and several subcommittees focused on specific water resource management areas. All RWMG members will demonstrate their commitment to ongoing

participation in integrated regional water resource planning by signing an MOU. RWMG members will be expected to attend all meetings (as outlined in the MOU). RWMG meetings will be open to the public and held on a monthly or bi-monthly basis throughout the duration of plan development, and thereafter on a schedule to be determined most appropriate for continued integrated planning and plan updates. Incorporation of new members into the RWMG will be decided on a case-by-case basis by consensus of the group. A new member will be required to sign the MOU and will be expected to actively participate as described in the MOU, and must demonstrate that their priorities are not being represented by another member of the RWMG.

All major decisions regarding the IRWMP and the planning process will be decided by the RWMG by consensus, with each member organization receiving an equal vote regardless of whether or not they have contributed financially to the plan or to other RWMG activities, and with ample opportunities for input from stakeholders and the general public. RWMG activities will be funded mainly by in-kind contributions from RWMG members. For example, all member organizations will contribute staff time to participate in RWMG meetings, public workshops, and other RWMG activities; the MBNMS will assume responsibility for scheduling RWMG meetings; Moss Landing Marine Labs has created and will be responsible for hosting the IRWMP website (with assistance from the Watershed Institute and the City of Salinas); and members will participate in various committees as needed, for instance, to review draft IRWMP sections, respond to public comments, keep track of project implementation, and maintain databases. Importantly, the Big Sur Land Trust has obtained grant funds (from a private foundation) to entirely fund plan development, including consultant fees and publishing costs. Upon award of IRWM funds or other grant funds, responsibility for project administration, implementation, and reporting will be assumed by the appropriate RWMG organization based on the project and anticipated outcomes. The RWMG may decide to dedicate a lead organization for grant administration depending on a member's willingness and ability to play such a coordinating and administrative role.

The RWMG will be responsible, with input from stakeholders and the general public, for identifying regional issues and conflicts, goals and objectives, regional priorities, water management strategies for inclusion in the IRWMP, and a system for ranking projects. To develop a project list for inclusion in the IRWMP, the RWMG will announce an open call for projects to water supply and flood control agencies, local governments, resource conservation districts, watershed groups and NGOs, regulatory and resource agencies, and other interested parties.

Each project submitted to the RWMG for IRWMP consideration will first be assigned to a subcommittee according to the project's primary resource focus (to include, at a minimum, Water Supply, Ground Water, Water Quality, Natural Resources, and Flood Control). Subcommittees will be comprised of RWMG members and stakeholders, including resource managers, scientists, and others with expertise and interest within those water resource management areas, with at least one RWMG member participating on each subcommittee. Projects will first be screened to ensure that certain baseline requirements are met, and then will be reviewed and developed according to goals and objectives for each resource area. Subcommittee members may work with project proponents to modify or further develop projects in order to maximize effectiveness or integration with other projects or partners.

After comprehensive review and evaluation, each subcommittee will submit a list of projects to the Integration Committee. The purpose of the Integration Committee, which will be comprised of one representative from each of the subcommittees, will be to shape outcomes that are strategic as well as integrated for the regional objectives and priorities. The Integration Committee will seek opportunities to combine projects or project elements in order to maximize integration, regional partnerships, efficiency, and project benefits. The Integration Committee will also review projects to ensure that actions defined to address one or multiple water management objectives do not inadvertently undermine or hinder efforts of other subcommittees (e.g., a restoration project may inadvertently impact flood control issues). When the Integration Committee identifies a project that will likely result in negative implications for another subcommittee, the project will be sent to the specific subcommittees for resolution.

Using evaluation criteria that will have been determined previously by the RWMG (with input from stakeholders and the public), the Integration Committee will then create a final, prioritized list of projects for consideration and adoption by the RWMG. The RWMG will ensure that projects selected for inclusion in the IRWMP meet multiple objectives, employ numerous water management strategies, address the major water-related issues and conflicts within the region, address regional priorities, and are responsive to stakeholder concerns. The RWMG will adopt the project list by consensus at a regular publicly noticed RWMG meeting. Finally, upon completion of the Greater Monterey County IRWMP, it is anticipated that RWMG members will each accept, approve, or adopt the plan through resolution by their governing boards or by other means according to organizational protocol.

Note that a Funding Committee will be created to assist the RWMG in identifying funding sources (beyond state IRWM funds, including federal, other state, and private funding sources) to help implement the region's projects. The Funding Committee will keep informed of funding opportunities and will meet two or three times a year to review projects for funding needs. The Funding Committee will act as a liaison between the RWMG and funders, assisting the RWMG in identifying funds and representing the region to funding agencies and organizations in order to maximize funding support for Greater Monterey County region projects.

6. Regional Boundary Description

Present the IRWM regional boundary. Indicate in the submittal which boundaries are included and if/how they affect the determination of the region boundary:

- Political/jurisdictional boundaries
- Water, conservation, irrigation, and flood district boundaries
- Watershed management areas
- Groundwater basins as defined in DWR Bulletin 118, Update 2003 – California's Groundwater
- RWQCB boundaries
- Floodplain maps (i.e. FEMA/Corps of Engineers)
- Physical, topographical, geographical and biological features
- Surface water bodies

Previous IRWMP regional alignments along this section of the Central Coast have resulted in many key underrepresented areas and significant coverage voids. The region for the Salinas Valley IRWM Functional Equivalent Plan (FEP) was defined by the boundaries of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin, which only included a portion of the Salinas River watershed. Taken together with the other two IRWMPs in Monterey County (i.e., the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWMP and the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP), major uncovered and void areas existed in this section of the Central Coast, including important areas such as the entire Big Sur coast and much of the Salinas River watershed within Monterey County.

The Greater Monterey County IRWMP will supersede the Salinas Valley IRWM FEP and will expand that region to eliminate the coverage voids which resulted from the previous regional alignments. The proposed region is based on watershed, groundwater, and jurisdictional boundaries as well as common water management and natural resource issues. The region lies entirely within the RWQCB3 district and includes all of the Salinas River watershed north of the San Luis Obispo County line (encompassing a small portion of San Benito County where the Salinas River watershed extends outside of Monterey County), and includes the entirety of Monterey County exclusive of the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM region and Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWM region established under Proposition 50. The region contains four Critical Coastal Areas (CCA), two Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), and five Marine Protected Areas (MPA).[2] The region is also adjacent to the MBNMS and includes the Ventana Wilderness, which is part of the Los Padres National Forest.

Boundary Delineations Between Adjacent IRWM Regions

In relation to the other two IRWM regions within Monterey County, the proposed Greater Monterey County region will abut the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM region at the Pajaro River

[2] Protected areas include: Elkhorn Slough (CCA and MPA), Moro Cojo Estuary (MPA), Old Salinas River Estuary (CCA), Salinas River (CCA), Julia Pfeiffer Burns Underwater Park (CCA and ASBS), Point Lobos (MPA), Point Sur (MPA), Big Creek (MPA), and the ocean area surrounding the mouth of Salmon Creek (ASBS).

watershed line in Monterey County. There will be no overlapping area. The proposed Greater Monterey County region will surround the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWM region on all sides except where it meets the coast; our proposed region will run north from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District boundary, including the City of Marina, will run north of the Seaside Groundwater basin, and will include the areas outside of the Carmel River watershed boundary. On its southern edge, our proposed region will run south from the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District boundary just south of Pt. Lobos, and will run south from the southernmost limit of the San Jose Creek and Carmel River watersheds to the San Luis Obispo County line. There will be no overlapping geographic areas between any of these IRWM regions.

Justification for Boundary Alignments

This alignment represents the most logical boundaries for water resources planning and management from a local perspective. The proposed Greater Monterey County region encompasses service areas of multiple local agencies (as evidenced by the agencies and organizations participating in the RWMG and stakeholder group) and will promote significant opportunity for integration of water management activities related to water supply, water quality, environmental stewardship, groundwater management, and flood management. Expanding the Salinas Valley IRWM FEP boundary will make the region more inclusive, invite more stakeholders to the table and will open up new opportunities for cooperation and integration of efforts.

As noted above, the proposed regional alignment will include key areas that have not been previously covered in any other IRWMP. These include, specifically: the Big Sur coastal watersheds and communities on the western side of the Santa Lucia Range, from Pt. Lobos south to the San Luis Obispo County line; the larger Salinas River watershed from the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge at the Pacific Ocean south to the San Luis Obispo County line and including the east and west ranges of the valley; the Gabilan watershed; and portions of western San Benito County. The expansion of the Salinas Valley IRWM FEP region not only eliminates previous regional coverage voids in Monterey County but also eliminates regional coverage voids that existed in San Benito County between the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP and the Salinas Valley IRWM FEP regions, along the western edge of San Benito County.

List of Maps

Please see attached maps for a detailed illustration of the region:

- *Greater Monterey County IRWMP Region*, depicting county boundaries, jurisdictional boundaries of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, and the San Benito County Water District, and including incorporated cities and large communities
- *Regional Setting of the Greater Monterey County IRWMP Region*, in context with other IRWMP regions on the Central Coast
- *Major Watersheds, Water Infrastructure, and Impaired Water Bodies*, including dams and 303(d) listed water bodies
- *Major Groundwater Basins*

- *Conservation Land and Major Water Bodies*, illustrating major rivers, National Forests, State Parks, and other conserved lands, and the Santa Lucia and Gabilan Mountain Ranges

7. Regional Overview

A description of the history of IRWM efforts in the region. Describe how the region boundary relates to the current water resources and historic water management issues in the region.

History of IRWM Efforts in the Region

The various regional IRWM boundaries in the planning area reflect the way in which water resource issues are managed locally and regionally. In Monterey County, this structure is institutionalized through the charters of three water management districts as well as through several subsequent MOUs between those agencies. As the first of those agencies created in the Water Code, the MCWRA (known originally as the Monterey County Flood Control and Water Conservation District) was organized with broad, countywide water resources planning and management authorities. Subsequently, through creation of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) and the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA), as well as through follow-on MOUs, most water resources planning and management authorities except flood protection were allocated from MCWRA to those agencies within their jurisdictional areas. The regional IRWM boundaries contained within the proposed Greater Monterey County IRWMP, the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP, and the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWMP reflect those constructive relationships. These regional alignments not only recognize the historical management of water resources in the area—including a rich history of partnership and collaboration between agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders in the region—but recognize the unique issues and conflicts that exist in those distinct IRWM regions.

At the south end of Monterey County, the Salinas River watershed extends into San Luis Obispo County but is divided near the county boundary into major groundwater basins, the Salinas Valley and Paso Robles groundwater basins. The use of the county boundary to differentiate these two IRWMP regions recognizes this, as well as the historical political separation defining land, watershed, and infrastructure management responsibilities between Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Note that MCWRA owns and operates two reservoirs, San Antonio and Nacimiento, whose watersheds lie astride the boundary between Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. The MCWRA recently completed (October 2008) a watershed plan for those two watersheds with the assistance of a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) grant. Stakeholders in both watersheds and San Luis Obispo County staff were involved in the preparation of that plan.

Regional Water Management Issues and Conflicts in the Region

A description of the regional water management issues, and conflicts in the region. Issues and conflicts may relate to water supply, water quality, flood management, environmental stewardship, imported water, waste water, conjunctive use, etc. Also describe efforts to develop multi-benefit integrated programs and projects that meet regional priorities.

Monterey County has a rich history of organizations, agencies, and citizen groups working together to resolve issues and conflicts around water and other natural resources. Major water resource management issues in the proposed planning region include seawater intrusion and nitrate contamination in the Salinas Valley groundwater basin, water quality issues in the watersheds and coastal waters of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary resulting from land-based activities (including impacts from urban use and agricultural activity), conflicts between food safety and water quality protection, the decline of endangered species, particularly steelhead trout, and erosion, coastal water quality issues, and threats to small community water and wastewater systems along the Big Sur Coast resulting from major wildfires.

Seawater Intrusion in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin: Seawater intrusion in the Salinas Valley groundwater basin was first documented in 1946 by the Department of Water Resources, which led to construction of the Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs (1957 and 1967 respectively). Groundwater withdrawal in the Salinas Valley groundwater basin has allowed seawater to infiltrate both the 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers. In 1983, MCWRA received SWRCB funding to evaluate alternatives that would prevent further seawater intrusion. Numerous studies were conducted between 1983 and 1992 to determine the extent of the seawater intrusion and possible solutions. The results of these studies created a series of projects known as the Monterey County Water Recycling Projects, which are joint efforts between MCWRA and MRWPCA. Landowners of the Salinas Valley agreed to assess themselves to help fund these multi-million dollar projects, creating the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project—a new water recycling facility at the Regional Treatment Plant and a pipeline distribution system to provide recycled water for agricultural irrigation. The project has successfully addressed a portion of the seawater intrusion problem in the Salinas Valley by providing reclaimed wastewater to approximately 12,000 acres of agricultural land near Castroville. The Monterey County Water Recycling Projects have been in operation since April 1998.

In 1998, the SWRCB initiated adjudication proceedings for the Salinas Valley groundwater basin. The SWRCB expressed an interest in working with local stakeholders and decision makers to solve the seawater intrusion and nitrate contamination issues in the Valley, only bringing to bear adjudication as a last resort. The SWRCB committed State funding to the MCWRA to assist in updating seawater intrusion lines, investigating continuity of clay layers, and preparing groundwater hydrostatic and monitoring reports. The result of this undertaking was the Salinas Valley Water Project, a project that was developed through public input and involvement of key stakeholders from throughout the Salinas Valley. In 2003, the MCWRA created a new Zone 2C and won 85% voter approval for a new assessment to pay for implementation of the project. Voter approval was earned through the efforts of a broad network of agricultural groups and landowner associations working with the MCWRA to develop a cost allocation structure that would gain public support. The primary objective of the Salinas Valley Water Project is to reduce the reliance on groundwater in the Salinas Valley in order to stop seawater intrusion, improve the long-term hydrologic balance between recharge and withdrawal, and provide a sufficient water supply to meet municipal and agricultural water needs through the year 2030. The project consists of two main components: 1) modification of the spillway at Nacimiento Reservoir; and 2) re-operation of the reservoirs and construction of an inflatable dam

diversion structure with associated fish screening and pumping facilities to allow the diversion of Salinas River water into the existing Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project distribution system.

Nitrate Contamination in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin: In addition to seawater intrusion, nitrate contamination has seriously impacted the groundwater basin in the Salinas Valley. Fifty percent of wells sampled in the Salinas Valley exceed the maximum contaminant level for drinking water, which is 45 mg/l (NO3). Nitrate contamination in the Salinas Valley was first documented in a report published by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments in 1978. The SWRCB has twice documented (1988 and 1992) that nitrate levels in the Salinas Valley groundwater have impaired its beneficial use as a drinking water supply. In response to those reports, a Nitrate Technical Advisory Committee was formed by MCWRA to examine nitrate in the Salinas Valley groundwater basin and recommend a course of action. MCWRA has prepared a nitrate management plan that is currently under implementation.

Seawater intrusion and nitrate contamination in the Salinas Valley can only be solved with multiple water management strategies. The Greater Monterey County IRWM region encompasses numerous water resource agencies and water purveyors—including participating members of the RWMG—that are actively contributing to implementation of projects to ease the stress on groundwater pumping, restore Salinas River flows, improve impacted habitat, and allow long-term development of agriculture and urban areas.

Municipal Stormwater and Water Quality Impacts on Watersheds and Coastal Areas: The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is adjacent to nearly 300 miles of California's coastline and receives runoff from ten major watershed areas. Offshore areas of the Sanctuary are in relatively good condition, but nearshore coastal areas show a number of problems resulting largely from nonpoint sources of pollution, including elevated levels of nitrates, sediments, persistent pesticides, metals, bacteria, pathogens, detergents, and oils. As noted previously, the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program works to address nonpoint sources of pollution affecting MBNMS watersheds and coastal waters and has released various Action Plans with strategies to address these water quality problems.

The first Action Plan developed by the WQPP was *Implementing Solutions to Urban Runoff*. Urban runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution and one of the most difficult to address. The WQPP worked with many cities and counties on the Central Coast to develop a multifaceted approach to addressing this problem. A highlight of this work was the development of a Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP), a "how-to" guide for addressing polluted urban runoff in small municipalities in California, developed in collaboration with the California Coastal Commission and Cities of Santa Cruz and Monterey. MURP has since been replaced with Phase I and Phase II Stormwater Management Plans which include local ordinance revisions, municipal best management practices, illicit discharge detection programs, technical training workshops and education and outreach efforts. The City of Salinas is enrolled in the Phase I Stormwater Runoff program through the RWQCB3 and King City and Marina are included in a regional Phase II Stormwater Runoff permit.

Implementation of the *Marinas and Boating* Action Plan has included working with local harbormasters and environmental organizations on the siting of pumpout facilities for oily

bilgewater in local harbors, technical trainings for harbor staff, and educational outreach to boaters. Implementation of the *Regional Monitoring, Data Access* Action Plan is currently underway to coordinate and expand water quality data with the Sanctuary and the RWQCB3 leading the synthesis of water quality monitoring data on the Central Coast, including volunteer monitoring data. In 1997, the WQPP established the Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network—a consortium of approximately 20 citizen monitoring groups that monitor the health of the watersheds flowing into the Sanctuary—to provide support, training, and a central forum and database for citizen monitoring programs.

The MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program's *Agriculture and Rural Lands Action Plan* was released in 1999 to address water quality issues associated with agricultural production in Central Coast watersheds. The process of developing the plan helped heighten grower awareness about water quality throughout the region, from coastal farm fields to as far away as King City in southern Monterey County, where farming representatives would travel many miles to attend many months of meetings. The plan contains 24 voluntary strategies that growers and ranchers can implement to reduce agricultural runoff.

The *Agriculture and Rural Lands* planning effort spurred the formation of both the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA) and the Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition. AWQA (noted earlier) is a regional collaboration of agriculture industry groups, federal, state, and local agencies, technical experts, environmental organizations and university researchers working together to help farmers and ranchers along the Central Coast attain technical assistance and funding, navigate the permitting process, and implement the management strategies outlined in the *Agriculture and Rural Lands* plan. The Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition represents farmers and ranchers in the development and implementation of voluntary, cost-effective, producer-directed programs to protect water quality in the greater Monterey Bay watershed. The Coalition organizes Watershed Working Groups comprised of agricultural landowners and managers to identify local water quality issues and implement voluntary management measures to address these issues along streams and rivers throughout the greater Monterey Bay area.

Conflict Between Water Quality Protection and Food Safety: The concurrent achievement of both water quality and food safety standards has become one of the most important and difficult challenges facing farmers and ranchers along the Central Coast. Since 1995, there have been at least 20 reported lettuce-associated outbreaks of *E. coli* across the nation,[3] nine of which were traced back to Central Coast fields. In 2007 the RCD of Monterey County conducted a grower survey to assess the impact of conflicting demands between food safety and environmental protection. They found that over 30% of respondents had removed non-crop vegetation, 15% had removed conservation measures, and 89% had adopted practices to deter wildlife. The pressure to comply with stringent food safety guidelines developed by private food companies (buyers/retailers) has essentially un-done much of the water quality protection work that had been voluntarily achieved over the past 10 years by Central Coast growers, along with agencies and organizations such as MBNMS, local RCDs, NRCS, AWQA,

[3] According to US Food and Drug Administration, California Department of Health Service, and Center for Disease Control records, as cited on the Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition's website, www.agwaterquality.org/WQ-FS-Program-Summary-Final_7.11.08.pdf.

and the Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition.

Efforts are underway, however, to address this problem. The Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition is currently conducting a Water Quality/Food Safety Program aimed at exploring the compatibility of water quality and food safety. Pilot field trials in the Pajaro and Salinas River watersheds are investigating the influence of vegetative water quality best management practices (including grassed waterways/drainage ditches, vegetative treatment systems, and polyacrylamide) on nutrient, sediment, and bacterial levels, and over 20 on-farm demonstration projects are underway. The food safety/water quality issue has created a major challenge and potential new source of conflict for growers and resource conservation managers, but efforts to address this problem—led by growers themselves—are testament to the collaborative working relationships that generally exist between the agricultural industry and the environmental resource community on the Central Coast.

Threatened Steelhead Trout: The region's creeks and streams provide habitat for several federally protected species, including most notably steelhead trout (federally listed as threatened in 1997). Critical habitat has been designated for South-Central California Coast Steelhead along the entire Big Sur coast and within the Salinas River basin, which includes the Salinas River, the Salinas River Lagoon, Gabilan Creek, Arroyo Seco River, Nacimiento River, the San Antonio River, and their tributaries. In the Salinas River system, suitable habitat for steelhead is greatly limited in part because yearly flows in the lower reaches of the river are extremely variable and water temperatures are inhospitably high during low-flow periods, and also because the migration required to reach upstream spawning and rearing habitats is excessively long. Another factor adversely affecting steelhead populations in the Salinas River system has been the significant reduction and degradation of riparian habitat due to agriculture, building construction, and other land use practices. Many growers and ranchers in the region have been working to implement best management practices to improve riparian habitat through such initiatives as the Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition, as noted above.

In Garrapata Creek along the Big Sur coast, steelhead populations were assessed as part of the watershed assessment and restoration planning effort in 2006, and specific recommendations have been made and are being implemented to reduce upslope erosion along the river and to control invasive species in the lower watershed area; plans also exist to remove in-stream barriers. In addition, steelhead enhancement recommendations have been developed for the Big Sur River, Little Sur River and Big Creek by state and federal resource agencies.

Wildfires in Big Sur and Santa Lucia Range: The Big Coast area is susceptible to major wildfires, and while wildfires are a necessary part of the natural cycle they can cause serious degradation to water and other natural resources. A series of record-breaking wildfires burned through Big Sur and the Santa Lucia Range during the summer of 2008. The Indians Fire began on June 8th and was ignited by a campfire, while the Basin Complex Fire was ignited by lightning on June 21st, and merged with the Indians Fire by June 25th. About 240,00 acres of federal, state, and private lands—83% of which was a part of the Monterey District of the Los Padres National Forest—burned in the fire, making it the 7th largest fire in California history. The fire extended south to Fort Hunter Liggett and north to Carmel Valley, creating a footprint 40 miles north-south and 15 miles east-west. Major wildfires can cause excessive erosion and

impaired water quality in creeks, destroy or damage small community water and wastewater systems, and damage public and private roads. Runoff from rain washes debris from the fire into coastal creeks and the ocean, with potentially detrimental effects on nearshore marine communities. Watershed evaluations have been performed following the fires leading to rankings of highly susceptible infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems, public and private roads, and emergency response mechanisms. In addition, research and monitoring projects are in place throughout the Monterey Bay Sanctuary region to track terrestrial inputs from the fires and determine if it alters water chemistry, quality, and clarity of nearshore waters, as well as measure community-level responses in the rocky intertidal and adjacent kelp forests.

Description of Water Related Components of the Region

A description of the water related components of the region. The submittal must consider two different types of components, the physical components and the groups that manage or have input to those components. Physical components of a water system include natural and man-made infrastructure. Some of the components to be included are watersheds, surface water impoundments, ground water basins, water collection systems, distribution systems, wastewater systems, flood water systems, and recharge facilities. The submittal should explain how water arrives in the region, how it is used, and how it is handled after it is used.

Watersheds: The Salinas River watershed encompasses an area of approximately 3,950 square miles and is the largest water system in Monterey County. The watershed includes the Salinas Valley, which extends from the Salinas River headwaters in the La Panza and Garcia Mountains in southern San Luis Obispo County to Monterey Bay, a length of approximately 170 miles. Other major watersheds in Monterey County include the Santa Lucia watershed, comprised of the numerous coastal watersheds along the Big Sur coast, the Estrella River watershed in the southern portion of the county (which drains into the Salinas River watershed), the Bolsa Nueva and the Gabilan Creek watersheds at the northern end of the county. The Gabilan Creek watershed, which includes the City of Salinas, is the most polluted watershed emptying into the MBNMS. The region also includes a small portion of the Estero Bay watershed at the southern end of the county along the Big Sur coast (please see attached map for a delineation of the major watersheds).

Several watershed groups exist in the planning region. The Garrapata Creek Watershed Council was established in 2000 (Big Sur coast) and in 2006 completed the "Garrapata Creek Watershed Assessment and Restoration Plan." The Nacitone Watershed Group (southern Salinas Valley) was established in 2006, and in October 2008 completed for MCWRA a watershed management plan for the San Antonio and Nacimiento River watersheds. Stakeholders in both watersheds as well as San Luis Obispo County staff were involved in the preparation of that plan. Other watershed communities in the planning region have expressed interest in creating watershed management plans including the Big Sur River watershed community. A baseline study has been funded from private funds to assess the impacts of the devastating 2008 Basin Complex Fire in the Big Sur region, and work is expected to begin on a watershed plan this year. Several other groups—including Friends of Carr Lake, and Return of the Natives and the Watershed Institute at CSUMB—have initiated watershed planning efforts for the Gabilan Creek watershed, which includes three waterways (Gabilan Creek, Alisal Creek, and Natividad Creek) and the historic Carr Lake in the City of Salinas.

Groundwater Basins: Groundwater is the main source of water for most water users in the planning region with the exception of residents along the Big Sur coast, who depend entirely on surface water and shallow wells for their water supply. The largest groundwater basin in the planning region is the Salinas Valley groundwater basin. The basin is located entirely within Monterey County and consists of one large hydrologic unit comprised of five subareas: Upper Valley, Arroyo Seco, Forebay, Pressure, and East Side. Total groundwater pumping from these subareas in 2007 was as follows: Upper Valley 137,017 AF, Arroyo Seco and Forebay 158,775 AF, Pressure 125,620 AF, and East Side 104,183 AF, with agricultural pumping accounting for 90% of that total and urban uses accounting for the remaining 10%.[4] These subareas have different hydrogeologic and recharge characteristics, though they are not separated by barriers to horizontal flow and water can move between them. The Upper Valley, Arroyo Seco and Forebay Subareas are unconfined and in direct hydraulic connection with the Salinas River. Other, considerably smaller groundwater basins in the planning region include Lockwood Valley, Cholame Valley, and Peach Tree Valley basins at the southern end of the county and a portion of the Pajaro Valley groundwater basin at the northern end of the county (please see attached map for an illustration of groundwater basins in the proposed region).

Surface Water: The primary surface water features overlying and influencing the Salinas Valley groundwater basin's hydrology are the Salinas River and its tributaries, Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs, and Monterey Bay. The San Antonio and Nacimiento Rivers are by far the largest tributaries to the Salinas River, with watersheds of about 330 and 328 square miles, respectively. The San Antonio River has its headwaters in the Santa Lucia Mountains and flows in a southeasterly and easterly direction through the Los Padres National Forest and Fort Hunter Liggett Military Base to its confluence with the Salinas River, for a total length of 58.2 miles. The Nacimiento River, located about five miles southwest of the San Antonio River, originates in the Santa Lucia Mountains and flows southeasterly through the Los Padres National Forest, Fort Hunter Liggett, and Camp Roberts to its confluence with the Salinas River, for a total 54.2 miles. Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers contribute approximately 200,000 AFY and 70,000 AFY, respectively, to the Salinas River. Another significant tributary is the Arroyo Seco River, the largest unregulated tributary to the Salinas River. Average annual flows to the ocean from the Salinas River are around 282,000 AFY, most of which occurs during the period of November through March.

The Gabilan Creek watershed located in the north-easterly portion of the IRWM region contains three creeks—Gabilan, Natividad and Alisal Creeks—as well as the historic lakebed, Carr Lake (described previously), in the City of Salinas. Along the Big Sur coast, major rivers include the Big Sur River (with drainage area of about 60 square miles and an average annual runoff of about 65,000 AFY), Little Sur River, and Big Creek, as well as numerous coastal creeks.

Elkhorn Slough, located in the northern coastal area of the proposed region, provides some of the most important freshwater marsh and brackish marsh habitat for wildlife in California. Part of the MBNMS, it supports remarkable biological diversity and harbors a dozen

[4] Data from MCWRA 2007 Groundwater Summary Report.

rare, threatened or endangered species, including peregrine falcons, Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, California red-legged frogs, brown pelicans, least terns and sea otters, and is an important breeding area for sharks, rays and commercially harvested flatfish. Additionally, the slough is on the Pacific Flyway, providing an important feeding and resting ground for many types of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Elkhorn Slough has been recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society and a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. The area is protected by a combination of private, federal, and state landowners including the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Moss Landing Wildlife Area, and the Nature Conservancy. In 1989, the Elkhorn Slough Wetland Management Plan was prepared for the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Monterey County Planning Department to address the preservation and protection of wetlands and other sensitive resources.

Water Infrastructure: The Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs—built in 1957 and 1967, respectively, and owned and operated by MCWRA—are the two most prominent elements of the Salinas Valley's water infrastructure. At full pool, the San Antonio Reservoir has a volume of 335,000 acre/feet, surface elevation of 780 feet, and a maximum depth of 180 feet. San Antonio Reservoir yields on average about 13% of the total water in the Salinas River System. At maximum pool, the Nacimiento Reservoir's storage capacity is 377,900 acre/feet with a surface elevation of 800 feet and a surface area of 5,400 acres. The Nacimiento Reservoir yields on average about 62% of the total water in the Salinas River System. MCWRA operates the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs primarily for flood management and water supply (groundwater recharge) purposes.

The following table summarizes water supply for connections greater than 200 and major wastewater treatment providers in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region:

TABLE 2. WATER SUPPLY (CONNECTIONS >200) AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROVIDERS

Service Supplier	Service Area (within Greater Monterey County IRWM Region)	Population Served*	Water Supply	Wastewater Services
California Water Service Company	Portion of City of Salinas	11,1135	x	
	King City	14,781	x	
	Salinas Hills (Toro Park Residential area and along River Road)	12,659	x	
	Las Lomas Areas	2,760	x	
	Oak Hills Area	3,510	x	
Service Supplier	**Service Area (within Greater Monterey County IRWM Region)**	**Population Served***	**Water Supply**	**Wastewater Services**
Monte Del Lago Park	Monte Del Lago Mobile Home Community	750	x	
Spreckels WC	Community of Spreckels and Tanimura Antle Plant	660	x	
Little Bear WC	Area south west of King City	2,314	x	x
Marina Coast Water District	City of Marina and Ord Community	34,558	x	x
Castroville Community Services District	Community of Castroville	6,800	x	
ALCO Water Service Company	Service areas within the City of Salinas – north and east sides	27,597	x	

City of Gonzales	City of Gonzales	8,737	x	x
City of Greenfield	City of Greenfield	16,629	x	x
City of Soledad	City of Soledad (wastewater treatment includes prisons)	16,146	x	x
California American Water Company	Hidden Hills Area	1,005	x	
	Toro Water Company	1,340	x	
	Ambler Park	915	x	
	Bishop	899	x	x
	Community of Chualar	614	x	x
	Las Palmas	1,100 connections + -		x
	Indian Springs	400 connections + -		x
Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District	NormCo WC – NE of Hwy 101 and Hwy 156 junction	868	x	
CTF Soledad Prison	Facility grounds	7,175	x	
Salinas Valley State Prison	Facility grounds	5,719	x	
Camp Roberts	National guard base in South County	5,986	x	
Fort Hunter Liggett	Army base in South County	5,500	x	x
California State Parks	Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park		x	
	Andrew Molera State Park		x	
	Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park		x	x
	Fremont Peak State Park		x	
King City		11,518		x
San Lucas County Water District	San Lucas Community	450	x	x
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency	City of Salinas, Marina, unincorporated areas within the County (plus Monterey Peninsula cities outside our IRWM region)	250,000 (including areas outside our IRWM region)		x
Pajaro Sanitation District operated by Monterey County Public Works	Las Lomas Area	2,760		x
Monterey County Parks	Lake San Antonio		x	x
California Utilities	Toro Area	1,100 connections + -		x

* 2007 Data from State of California, Department of Finance, compiled by Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.

Table 3 below summarizes water supply provided in Monterey County for connections less than 200. (Note that this data includes some areas outside of the Greater Monterey County IRWM region.)

TABLE 3. WATER SUPPLY (CONNECTIONS <200)

Type of Connection	Total # of Connections
County Small Water Service: 2 - 4 Connections	2,029
State Small Water Service: 5 - 14 Connections	1,983
Community Water Service: 15 – 24 Connections	1,031
Community Water Service: 25 – 99 Connections	2,992
Community Water Service: 100 – 199 Connections, including:	

Cabana Holidays WS	100
Vega Road WS #01	148
Buena Vista WC	183
Country Meadows MWC	108
Gabilan WC	162
Monterey Dunes Colony MWA	137
Moss Landing Harbor WS	134
San Ardo WD (also provides wastewater treatment)	162
Santa Lucia Preserve WS	150
Transient Non-community (businesses)	229
Non-transient Non-community (businesses)	463

Below is a more detailed description of the more major water suppliers and wastewater treatment providers in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region.

California Water Service (Cal Water) is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission and serves approximately 100,000 residents (70% of the urban users) in the City of Salinas and some of the surrounding areas, as well as nearly 15,000 residents in King City. Cal Water relies solely on groundwater sources from a total of 55 wells. Over the years, the District's wells have experienced declining water quality due to nitrates, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), MTBE, uranium, iron, manganese, and arsenic. Since 1999 Cal Water has removed one well from service in the Salinas service area due to high levels of MTBE, and six wells during the past 13 years have been placed in inactive status because of non-complying water quality. Cal Water is currently treating four wells in the Salinas service area to remove nitrates, the most common threat to water quality, and has deactivated four wells in the King City service area because of nitrate concentrations that have exceeded the allowable maximum contaminant levels. Cal Water has plans for additional capitol improvement projects including additional well and booster pump installations and storage tank construction to ensure water supply reliability in the King City area.

ALCO Water Service (ALCO) is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission and services approximately one-third of the City of Salinas, primarily in the east and southeast portions of the city. ALCO maintains nine wells with a combined capacity of 13,560 million galls per year and a pump capacity of 7,525 million gallons per year. Current demand is approximately 1,550 million gallons of groundwater per year to the Salinas area. Planned improvements include the drilling of new wells to double groundwater source capacity, and the construction of a 5,000,000-gallon storage facility by 2010 to supplement the existing 150,000-gallon tank presently in use. Despite the 70-year history of service delivery and planned improvements described above, the City is concerned about ALCO's ability to deliver an adequate volume and quality of water necessary to service future growth areas east of the City. The most recent concerns arose in 1990 and 1997 when judgments were rendered against the corporation in both Federal and State Courts. As a result of these judgments, ALCO is currently in state and federal receivership.

The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) provides potable water services and wastewater services (i.e., maintains conveyance infrastructure but does not provide wastewater treatment) to customers in the City of Marina. MCWD currently delivers approximately 2,000 AFY of potable water to approximately 18,000 customers through a network of seven supply

wells (six of which have been replaced since 1985 because of seawater intrusion), two storage tanks, and 42 miles of pipeline. MCWD also provides water and wastewater services to the former Fort Ord. The Ord Community uses drinking water from three supply wells. Drinking water is delivered through a network of seven reservoir tanks, seven pressure zones and 170 miles of pipeline. Total existing water demand in the Ord Community is estimated at approximately 3,000 AFY. MCWD has senior water rights to recycled water from the MRWPCA treatment plant, though is not currently exercising them. MCWD owns a desalination plant with a potential capacity of 300 AFY. This plant is currently idle, though discussions are underway between MCWD, MCWRA, California American Water (which supplies water to the Monterey Peninsula region), and MRWPCA to consider utilizing the desalination plant for the proposed Regional Water Supply Program (see Section 8 below for a description of that program).

The City of Greenfield provides potable water and sewer services for a population of over 13,000 people. The current total potable water demand in Greenfield is 1,716 AFY, and the City currently has capacity to serve 6,694 AFY. The City operates four production wells. The water supply has been threatened by nitrates, VOCs, MTBE, and salinity (not from seawater intrusion), but the City has not yet considered groundwater treatment as a viable option. In order to ensure future water reliability, Greenfield has plans to install three new wells, two pumping plants, and an additional 2.0 million gallons of storage to provide for the projected 5.4 MGD supply deficit. The City of Greenfield also provides wastewater treatment services. The current capacity of its wastewater treatment plant is 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD). With the existing facility operating at almost 90 percent of capacity, the City of Greenfield is in the process of implementing a plant expansion, which will result in a doubling of capacity from 1.0 MGD to 2.0 MGD.

The City of Soledad is currently the eighth fastest growing city within California. Its current population is 26,203 people, including the nearby state correctional facility, which is within the City limits. The City provides drinking water to the citizens of Soledad through a system of public water wells, treatment facilities, storage tanks and distribution mains and services. The City of Soledad operates three production wells. The distribution system is gravity fed from three 1.0 million gallon tanks. Recently contaminates including nitrates, VOCs, TDS, and sulfates have threatened water supply reliability. To combat declining water quality, the district is planning a 5.0 MGD tertiary wastewater treatment plant that will be online by 2010 to minimize groundwater pumping for irrigation. The City is also working on improving aging infrastructure to prevent exposure and leaks in order to ensure a high quality water supply. The City of Soledad also owns and operates wastewater treatment plant facilities one mile southwest of the city and additionally plans to operate the former State Department of Corrections Wastewater Treatment plan five miles northwest of the City. The City also maintains over 12 miles of sanitary sewer collection pipelines throughout the city. The City of Soledad is in the process of improving its wastewater treatment processes with the goal of offsetting urban water demand within the City limits with the use of recycled water.

The City of Gonzales is an incorporated community of over 8,500 residents and 150 businesses. Services provided by the City include, among other things, the delivery of potable water and sewer services. The City operates four production wells. Nitrates and MTBE have

recently become constituents of concern that could threaten the water supply, but the City has not found it necessary to consider groundwater treatment. The City's wells feed directly into the distribution system which includes a 1.0 million gallon storage tank. The City is increasing its water storage and sewer capabilities including the addition of a 2.5 million gallon water storage tank and expansion of the Sewage Treatment Plant.

The Castroville Community Services District (CCSD) serves more than 6,800 customers through 1,567 connections located in the Salinas Valley in northern Monterey County. CCSD currently delivers approximately 1,000 AFY of water, all of which is groundwater. CCSD operates three production wells, with an estimated capacity of just under 5 million gallons per day. Regular water sampling has determined that there are no contaminants, such as nitrates, that would require treatment prior to distributing supplies as potable water. However, because of its coastal proximity, CCSD's western well has been troubled by seawater intrusion. The Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project, managed by MCWRA, has successfully reduced agricultural water demand in the Castroville region and has consequently stopped most of the migration of seawater intrusion to areas directly west (coastward) of Castroville. Nonetheless, CCSD plans to move a number of its production wells east to ensure supply reliability. The CCSD system encompasses approximately 13 miles of pipeline and includes two water storage tanks with a capacity of 1.1 million gallons. The stored water is distributed to customers via an average pumping of 800,000 gallons/day; however, CCSD has a maximum capacity to pump up to 4.5 MGD to meet peak demands if needed. While District infrastructure is currently adequate to meet the existing demand, the District's 10-year Plan includes the construction of one additional storage tank and the replacement of one existing well. A deep well (1400') was dug in 2007 but cannot be used until arsenic treatment is installed.

Chualar is comprised of about 225 households that are served entirely by California-American Water (Cal-Am) for their water supply. Cal-Am operates two wells that currently provide high quality water. Future build-out projections are unknown and Cal-Am does not have immediate plans for capitol improvement projects in the Chualar service district. The Chualar Community Service Area was formed in 1993 and provides stormwater management and wastewater disposal services to residential and commercial users in its approximately 175-acre service area. The wastewater treatment plant does not currently use best available technology and is subject to flooding.

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) is a joint powers authority that provides regional wastewater conveyance, treatment, disposal, and recycling services to all of the sewered portions of northern Monterey County, including the City of Salinas, Boronda, Marina, Castroville, Moss Landing, the Ord community (former Fort Ord), and some unincorporated areas in northern Monterey County. MRWPCA operates a regional wastewater treatment plant located two miles north of Marina and maintains 25 wastewater pump stations connected to the treatment plant. Each day, 21 million gallons of wastewater are processed at the plant, serving a population of 250,000 people. Secondary treatment is discharged near the Salinas River mouth two miles into Monterey Bay; however, MRWPCA has a long-term plan to eliminate wastewater discharges to the Monterey Bay by constructing projects to recycle water within its jurisdictional area. MRWPCA currently operates a water

recycling facility at the regional treatment plant and manages the distribution system under contract from MCWRA that provides approximately 13,300 AF of irrigation water to 12,000 acres of farmland. Sixty percent of incoming wastewater is recycled. The treatment and distribution of recycled water is paid for by Salinas Valley agricultural growers and property owners. While the reclaimed water is currently only used for agriculture, it has been identified as a possible future urban water source.

To supplement treatment provided by the MRWPCA, the City of Salinas owns and operates the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility for over 30 food processors and other related industries. The facility is located near Davis Road and the Salinas River, has a design capacity of 4.2 mgd. Both sanitary and storm sewers are prohibited in the industrial sewer system. Wastewater is subjected to biological treatment and disposed of through evaporation and percolation. The facility was originally designed to allow disposal of treated water into the Salinas River, though the current discharge permit prohibits the practice.

The King City Public Works Department maintains a sewer system for its nearly 15,000 residents. Sewer services utilize primary and secondary ponds with facilities for non-recoverable industrial wastewater. Average flow capacity is 1.2 million gallons per day (gpd); peak hour design flow is for 3.0 million gpd. The City is currently in the process of preparing a Wastewater Capacity Evaluation and updating its Sewer Master Plan for the wastewater treatment plant.

Water supply along the Big Sur coast is provided primarily by two private water companies—Coastlands Mutual Water Company and Buck Creek Water Company—with the majority of residents obtaining their water from private wells and springs. California State Parks treats and provides its own water supply at each of the State Parks in Big Sur, including Andrew Molera State Park, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, and Fremont Peak State Park, which lies partially in Monterey and San Benito Counties.

All sewage disposal systems in the Big Sur coastal region are septic, with the exception of Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Ventana Inn, and the Esalen Institute. California State Parks has a treatment plant that handles wastewater for the park, restaurant and State offices. Esalen has advanced treatment for part of their facilities with plans to expand, and the Ventana Inn is in the processes designing an advanced treatment plant for the entire facility. Monterey County Department of Environmental Health is working in conjunction with the RWQCB3 with both Esalen and Ventana on permitting their treatment plants. The RWQCB3 has oversight and works with Environmental Health on septic systems that discharge over 2500 gallons per day.

Flood Control Infrastructure: Flood control infrastructure within the planning region includes the San Antonio and Nacimiento dams and the Reclamation Ditch, as described previously.

8. Relationship of Region to Adjacent IRWM Regions

A description of the IRWM region's relationship and coordination with adjacent existing or developing IRWM regions. Identify any overlapping areas and explain the basis for the overlap. Discuss whether there is a clear relationship and acknowledgement by both regions that the overlap is acceptable. Explain whether the regional boundary will leave any uncovered or void areas immediately outside or within the boundary. Describe any areas within the region that are excluded or create a void area and explain why this is reasonable and appropriate. Describe any distinct water management differences between adjacent or overlapping IRWM regions and the proposed IRWM region to support being separate IRWM regions.

Central Coast Region IRWMPs

Six IRWMPs have been developed for the Central Coast region:

- Northern Santa Cruz County IRWMP (October 2005)
- Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP (May 2007)
- Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWMP (November 2007, Amended March 2009)
- Salinas Valley IRWM Functionally Equivalent Plan (May 2006, Amended October 2008)
- San Luis Obispo County IRWMP (December 2005, Amended July 2007)
- Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP (May 2007)

Each of these regions was determined and deemed appropriate for IRWM planning based on various factors relevant to each region—including watersheds, groundwater basins, jurisdictional boundaries, existing partnerships, historical planning efforts, and other factors—that made each regional alignment the most logical for integrated water resource planning and coordination. These regional boundaries were developed in consultation with the water resource agencies and organizations in each of the six counties to coordinate and avoid conflicts between the IRWMP regions. The Central Coast IRWM regions were all accepted for the Proposition 50 process, noting however certain void areas in Monterey County. The regional expansion proposed for the Greater Monterey County IRWMP will eliminate any regional coverage voids in Monterey County by incorporating all lands within the Salinas River watershed in the County, as well as the Gabilan Creek watershed, Bolsa Nueva watershed, and coastal watersheds in the County not connected with the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWM region.

Shared Border with San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region

The Salinas Valley IRWM FEP region—and the proposed Greater Monterey County IRWMP region—shares a border with the San Luis Obispo County IRWM region. The region for the San Luis Obispo County IRWMP is defined as the County of San Luis Obispo. While the two IRWM regions do not overlap, there are overlapping interests. One of the projects contained in the plan, the Nacimiento Water Project, includes the construction of a pipeline and appurtenant facilities from the existing Nacimiento reservoir south to the communities of Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero and San Luis Obispo to convey the District's existing water entitlement from the reservoir to areas of use. While the Nacimiento Reservoir is located within San Luis Obispo County, it is owned and operated by MCWRA since it is located on a tributary to the Salinas River. The MCWRA and the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) have coordinated efforts for the implementation of both the Nacimiento Water Project and the Salinas Valley Water Project, both of which utilize water from the Nacimiento Reservoir.

Because of this shared use of resources of the Nacimiento Reservoir and the fact that the

Salinas River watershed spans both counties, the MCWRA and the District discussed the possibility of shared regional planning. The decision was made, however, to contain the respective IRWM planning regions to within each county. This regional alignment made sense given that the Salinas River watershed is divided near the county boundary into major groundwater basins (the Salinas Valley and the Paso Robles basins), and that the county boundary has historically differentiated management responsibilities for land, watershed, and infrastructure within the two counties. The new RWMG for the Greater Monterey County IRWMP will continue to coordinate with San Luis Obispo County on watershed management and water supply issues, and will continue to discuss joint regional planning efforts for the future.

Shared Border with Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Region

Two other IRWM planning efforts exist within Monterey County: the Pajaro River Watershed IRWM planning effort and the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWM planning effort. Each of these two regions faces water resource management issues and challenges that are extensive and quite specific to those regions. Water resource managers from all three regions have agreed that these issues are best addressed through a localized approach, and consider the IRWM delineations to be appropriate given circumstances that are unique to each of these regions (as described below). Collaborative efforts have been undertaken with representatives from each of the IRWM regional groups to ensure that projects for each of the regions are well understood and coordinated where overlapping interests may exist now and in the future.

The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP is a collaborative effort by the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, San Benito County Water District, and Santa Clara Valley Water District. The Pajaro River is the largest coastal stream between San Francisco Bay and the Salinas River watershed. The IRWMP planning area encompasses the boundaries of the Pajaro River watershed, which is approximately 1,300 square miles and includes portions of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. The Pajaro River watershed is determined to be an appropriate area for integrated regional water management because of the mutual needs and shared resources that link the region, and that distinguish the region from neighboring areas.

For example, the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP partners are all entitled to Central Valley Project (CVP) deliveries and share an interest in improving the system reliability, efficiencies, and operational flexibility of the San Felipe Division of the CVP. The Greater Monterey County IRWM region does not receive CVP water and instead depends entirely on local groundwater and surface water sources for its water supply. This is a significant factor distinguishing these two IRWM regions. In addition, flooding is a major source of conflict within the Pajaro River watershed; cooperative efforts to manage flooding have led to the formation of the Pajaro River Flood Prevention Authority, a joint powers authority with representatives from all four counties (the MCWRA is a participating member of this group). Thus, common interests and shared water resource challenges within the Pajaro River watershed—which local and regional resource managers agree are best addressed through the cooperation of the agencies and stakeholders found within its boundaries—also serve to distinguish this region from neighboring regions, including the proposed Greater Monterey County IRWM region.

Shared Border with Monterey Peninsula IRWM Region

Development of the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWMP is being led by the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), the Big Sur Land Trust, City of Monterey, the MCWRA, and the MRWPCA, known collectively as the Water Management Group. The Monterey Peninsula IRWM region boundary is based on groundwater basins within the MPWMD boundary (specifically, the Carmel Valley aquifer and the Seaside groundwater basin) and surface watersheds flowing into or through the MPWMD boundaries, including all of the Carmel River and San Jose Creek watersheds. The planning region is approximately 347 square miles and consists of coastal watershed areas in Carmel Bay and south Monterey Bay between (and including) Pt. Lobos on the south and Sand City on the north—a 38-mile stretch of the Pacific coast.

The Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWMP region is dependent on local rainfall and runoff for its potable water supply, with no connections to water sources outside of the region. Nearly all of the region's water supply comes from the Carmel River, the Carmel Valley aquifer, and from the coastal subareas of the Seaside groundwater basin. This common reliance on a shared water supply distinguishes this region from the larger Monterey County region, which depends mainly on Salinas Valley groundwater (and surface water, especially in the Big Sur region) for its water supply sources. In addition, freshwater from the Seaside and Carmel River basins is integrally linked through infrastructure and is used to supply the Monterey Peninsula cities, whereas no similar infrastructure exists between the Seaside and Salinas basins; water exportation from the Salinas Basin is prohibited by Monterey County ordinance, and no water from the Seaside Basin is exported to the Salinas Basin. For these reasons, the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay IRWM region is considered a discrete sub-region within Monterey County and has been determined to be an appropriate geographical region for integrated planning, separate from the proposed Greater Monterey County region.

One area where some overlap may occur between the Greater Monterey County and the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay IRWMPs is in the vicinity of the Seaside/Salinas Valley groundwater basin divide and in the management of the Seaside Basin as a place of storage and extraction. The Marina Coast Water District provides municipal supply water to developed areas on the former Fort Ord military base. The water is obtained from wells near Marina, in the Salinas Valley basin. There are currently a number of proposals to create a Regional Water Supply Project that would yield approximately 15,200 AFY, with 12,500 AFY supplied to the Monterey Peninsula area and 2,700 AFY provided to users on the former Fort Ord served by MCWD. The Regional Water Supply Project would potentially link water supplies in the Salinas Valley with supplies to the Monterey Peninsula. The project would be developed in phases and initially would include a 10 MGD desalination plant at the North Marina site. Negotiations are currently ongoing between MRWPCA, MCWD, and MCWRA to resolve the following issues concerning the proposed Regional Water Supply Project:

- use of water from wells in the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin as feedwater for the MCWD desalination facility
- use of MRWPCA's ocean outfall by MCWD for disposal of the brine
- use of recycled water from the MRWPCA treatment plant during irrigation and non-irrigation seasons for groundwater replenishment and additional irrigation project storage

- purchase costs of water from MCWD's desalination facility

The Greater Monterey County RWMG and the Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay and South Monterey Bay Water Management Group have discussed the possibility of future overlapping projects between our two regions, particularly in regard to the Regional Water Supply Project; both groups have agreed to continue communication about these projects and to coordinate as necessary.

Combined Central Coast Regional Efforts

In February 2007, all six IRWMP planning regions within the Central Coast began discussions regarding regional cooperation within the framework of the IRWM process. The lead agencies for each of these planning regions developed and agreed to a set of principles to guide the funding region in seeking Proposition 50 funds (see Appendix B). The MBNMS has worked extensively with the Central Coast IRWM group and recently compared and summarized the IRWM plans in the Central Coast hydrologic unit. The following table outlines water management objectives and issues common to all six planning regions as well as projects that might be considered for future coordination across the Central Coast funding area.

TABLE 4. CENTRAL COAST IRWM REGIONS: SHARED INTERESTS

Objective	Key Issues	Strategies	Project Examples
Water Quality	**Agriculture Water Quality:** High concentrations of nutrients, pesticides and sediment are known pollutants in certain watersheds with agricultural development	• Nutrient management • Irrigation management • Education • Integrated pest mgmt • Food safety efforts	• Permit Coordination • Watershed Working Groups • Ranchette Series Model • Expand Regional Mobile Lab
	Urban Water Quality: High concentrations of nutrients, indicator bacteria and metals are known pollutants in watersheds with urban development	• Reduce runoff • Education • Integrated pest mgmt • Best management practices	• Permit Coordination • Low Impact Development • First Flush monitoring • Green Business Program
Objective	**Key Issues**	**Strategies**	**Project Examples**
Water Quality	**Special Protected Areas:** All planning regions along the coast have areas either designated as Marine Protected Areas, Critical Coastal Areas or Areas of Special Biological Significance	• Education • Watershed assessments • Monitoring	• Coast and Oceans Regional Round Table • CCC Critical Coastal Areas Program • Historical Ecology
	Sediment and Erosion: Erosion from roads, agriculture and unstable stream banks carry pollutants and are detrimental to aquatic habitat and organisms	• Irrigation management • Stream bank stabilization • Redesign of rural roads • Education	• RCD Rural Roads program • Roads Maintenance Guide • Implementation of SWMPs
	Data Coordination and Management: A coordinated effort of data synthesis, assessment, management and accessibility is important to determine effectiveness of efforts	• Make data comparable, accessible, and useful • Develop consistent evaluation tools	• SAM Project • Upload of data to SWAMP • Regional Web Information Station • Central Coast Wetland Group

Water Quality Water Supply	**Groundwater Management:** Groundwater is an important source of water for much of the Central Coast, but is threatened or already affected by saltwater intrusion, salinity, and overdraft in many areas	• Conjunctive management • Recharge area protection	• Pajaro Watershed Desalination Feasibility Study • RWQCB Low-Impact Development Strategy
Water Supply	**Water Availability:** Water needs exceed available supply throughout the Central Coast for municipal, domestic, and agricultural use as well as environmental protection. Expected water demand will increase in the future.	• Desalination • Water Recycling	• Regional Planning Approach • Research • Explore new technologies • Reclaimed water • Information exchange • Import advanced technology
		• Expand conservation programs • Expand rebate programs	• Regional conservation programs
		• Recharge, restoration, and enhancement	• Wastewater mgmt to restore naturally functioning systems • Seaside ASR
Ecosystem Protection	**Fisheries Enhancement:** Many Central Coast streams provide habitat for federally threatened or endangered species such as coho, steelhead, and the red-legged frog	• Promote, improve or re-establish habitat	• Removing fish passage barriers • Watershed assessments • Habitat restoration
	Flood Management: All regions have areas prone to flooding and development within flood plains.	• Flood management	• Wetland restoration • Improve existing levees • Hydromodification • Central Coast Wetland Group • Stream gauges

9. RAP Interview Attendees

List the entities and the number of representatives from each entity that the RWMG anticipates will be participating in the RAP interview, and the primary spokespersons within those who will be attending.

We anticipate representatives from the following organizations to participate in the RAP interview:

- Big Sur Land Trust
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

The primary spokespersons will be Donna Meyers (Conservation Director for the Big Sur Land Trust), Bridget Hoover (Director of the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program), Bill Phillips (Deputy General Manager, Monterey County Water Resources Agency), and Paul

Robins (Executive Director, Resource Conservation District of Monterey County).

APPENDIX A
STAKEHOLDERS

FEDERAL AGENCIES
National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Bureau of Land Management
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Forest Service
USFWS Salinas National Wildlife Refuge

STATE AGENCIES
California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Public Health
California Department of Water Resources
California State Parks
Caltrans
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
State Water Resources Control Board

COUNTY GOVERNMENT/LOCAL AGENCIES, COUNCILS, & DISTRICTS (BESIDES WATER)
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Fort Ord Reuse Authority
Monterey County Health Dept., Division of Environmental Health
Monterey County Parks
Monterey County Planning and Building Inspection
Monterey County Resources Management Agency
Monterey County Weed Management Association
Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
Moss Landing Harbor District
Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority
San Benito County Government
San Luis Obispo County Government
Santa Barbara County Government
Santa Cruz County Government
Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

WATER DISTRICTS & WATER SUPPLIERS & WASTEWATER
ALCO Water Service Company
Aromas Water District
Buck Creek Water Company
California American Water
California Utilities
Camp Roberts
Carmel Area Water District
CTF Soledad Prison

Fort Hunter Liggett
Little Bear Water Company
Monte Del Lago Park
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Pebble Beach Community Service District
Salinas Valley State Prison
San Ardo California Water District
San Benito County Water District
San Lucas County Water District
Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Santa Lucia Preserve
Seaside Basin Watermaster
South County Regional Waste Water Authority
Spreckels Water Company
Sunnyslope County Water District
Water Resources Association of San Benito County

MUNICIPALITIES/COMMUNITIES
City of Carmel by the Sea
City of Del Rey Oaks
City of Gilroy
City of Gonzales
City of Greenfield
City of Hollister
City of Marina
City of Monterey
City of Morgan Hill
City of Pacific Grove
City of Sand City
City of San Juan Bautista
City of Seaside
City of Soledad
City of Watsonville
Community of Big Sur
King City

AGRICULTURAL REPRESENTATIVES/GROUPS
ALBA
Agriculture Water Quality Alliance
Cattleman's Association
Central Coast Agricultural Water Quality Coalition
Central Coast Rangeland Coalition
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Monterey County Ag Commissioner
Monterey County Vineyard Association

Salinas River Channel Coalition
Salinas Valley Water Coalition

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & CITIZEN GROUPS
Action Pajaro Valley
California Native Plant Society, Monterey County Chapter
CAL Trout
Carmel Valley Association
Carmel Valley Steelhead Association
Carmel River Watershed Conservancy
Citizens for Responsible Growth
Coast Property Owners
Elkhorn Slough Foundation
Friends, Artists, and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough
Friends of Carr Lake
Friends of the River
Friends of the Tembladero
LandWatch Monterey County
Monterey Bay Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network
Monterey County Agriculture and Historical Land Conservancy
Planning and Conservation League Foundation
Rising Leaf Watershed Arts
Santa Lucia Conservancy
Save The Whales
Sierra Club
South Valley Streams for Tomorrow
Surfrider Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Ventana Wildlife Society

BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS
Barnyard and Crossroads Business Centers
Big Sur Chamber of Commerce
Monterey County Chamber of Commerce
Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce
Pebble Beach Company
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce
San Benito Chamber of Commerce

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS
Central Coast Wetland Group
UC Berkeley Hastings Reserve
UC Cooperative Extension
UC Santa Cruz Big Creek Reserve

ELECTED OFFICIALS
Congressman Sam Farr

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
State Assemblymember Bill Monning
State Senator Abel Maldonado
State Senator Jeff Denham

APPENDIX B
CENTRAL COAST AREA STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Background

- Regional representatives have met and agree that their long term interests are best met by working together to develop a coherent approach to benefit all planning sub-regions within the funding area.
- The region is diverse, with geographically distinct sub-regions. Some sub-regions have common/overlapping water related interests, but most water issues are more effectively managed within the six geographic sub-regions.
- Water management interests that are common across the Central Coast funding area have yet to be defined, but may include (but not be limited to) water conservation, water quality monitoring and improvement, fisheries restoration, and drought protection.

Principles

- Cooperate on a regional basis (Central Coast funding area) within the framework of the IRWM process pursuant to Prop 50 (IRWM) and Prop 84 (IRWM).
- To the extent possible, such a process should be consensus based among/across the six planning subregions defined in the Central Coast funding area.
- To the extent possible, geographic areas not currently covered by IRWM Plans should be brought into the IRWM planning process in the future and incorporated into adjacent planning areas.
- The six planning sub-regions (participants) agree to take coordinated action and no unilateral action in seeking Prop 84 (IRWM) funds allocated to the Central Coast area.
- The six planning sub-regions agree to coordinate their actions in seeking further Prop 50 (IRWM) funds, including supporting current changes to the State process, but acknowledge the continued competitive nature of the process.
- Benefits from the various funding sources, taken as a whole, should be shared throughout the funding area so that areas that are not funded by Prop 50 are given initial priority in allocating a portion of Prop 84 (IRWM) funds, recognizing that these areas must adhere to IRWM standards and guidelines and have sub-region and regional stakeholder support.
- The Central Coast region will, under a performance based approach to IRWM planning, continue our efforts to develop regional priorities, which includes providing added priority to projects identified in sub-region IRWM plans not previously funded by Proposition 50, and reach consensus on the equitable allocation of Proposition 84 funds in our region.
- This agreement does not affect a sub-region's ability to apply unilaterally for other recently established State grants, such as Prop 1-E funds, but best efforts should be made to coordinate with other sub-regions so as to avoid direct competition. Other funding processes (such as the State Revolving Fund) are not affected by this agreement.
- Priorities within each IRWM Plan have been determined based on the needs of the sub-region identified through a rigorous outreach and stakeholder process. These priorities

were also developed to integrate or be consistent with portions of the Basin Management Plan for the Region and other applicable State and Federal management plans.