

Section A: Governance

A.1 DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is the group responsible for development of this Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan. According to California Water Code §10539, a RWMG is “a group in which three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management, as well as those other persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of a plan that meets the requirements of [IRWM planning], participate by means of a joint powers agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other written agreement, as appropriate, that is approved by the governing bodies of those local agencies.”

Eighteen organizations have come together to form the Greater Monterey County RWMG for the purposes of integrated regional water management planning and project implementation within the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. These organizations were invited to join the RWMG based on the intention to create a diverse and inclusive RWMG with adequate and balanced representation of water resource management issues and geographic areas in the Greater Monterey County IRWM region. The member entities include government agencies, nonprofit organizations, educational organizations, water service districts, private water companies, and organizations representing agricultural, environmental, and community interests, as follows:

Big Sur Land Trust
California State University Monterey Bay
California Water Service Company
Castroville Community Services District
City of Salinas
City of Soledad
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 Agricultural Commissioner’s Office
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.

The Greater Monterey County RWMG includes all of the agencies and organizations necessary to address the objectives involved in the development of the IRWM Plan. Seven of the 18 RWMG organizations have statutory authority over water supply and/or water management within the Greater Monterey County region: Castroville Community Services District, City of Salinas, City of Soledad, Marina Coast Water District, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, and the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. The following provides a brief description of each

RWMG member, their relationship to water management issues, and if applicable, their statutory authority over water supply or water management.

The Big Sur Land Trust: The Big Sur Land Trust is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 1978 whose mission it is to conserve the significant lands and waters of California's Central Coast for all generations. Working with private and public partners over the past 30+ years, 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 State University Monterey Bay: California State University Monterey Bay is represented on the RWMG by the Watershed Institute, a research and community action institute of the university. The Watershed Institute consists of a coalition of researchers, restoration ecologists, educators, planners, students, and volunteers working together to promote sustainable 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 stormwater 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.

California Water Service Company: California Water Service Group is the third-largest publicly traded water utility in the United States. The company provides water utility services to more than two million people in 100 cities through six operating subsidiaries (four of which are regulated by state public utility commissions and two of which are not). The company's largest subsidiary, California Water Service Company (Cal Water), began providing water utility services in the Salinas area in 1962. Cal Water's Salinas District serves more than 130,000 people, delivering approximately 20,000 acre-feet (AF) of groundwater per year through a system that includes 59 wells, 300 miles of main pipeline, and 8.6 million gallons of storage capacity.

Castroville Community Services District: 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 stormwater 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 acre-feet/year (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 approximately 150,000 people. 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 City of Salinas is the only Phase I entity for stormwater in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region.

City of Soledad: The City of Soledad, incorporated as a general law city in 1921, is located in the southern Salinas Valley approximately 25 miles south of the City of Salinas. The City has no common boundaries with other municipalities and is surrounded completely by unincorporated areas of Monterey County, most of which is agricultural land. The City has a population of about 26,000 people, an estimated 10,000 of which live in one of the two prisons operated by the State Department of Corrections (although they are not contiguous with the rest of the City, the prisons are inside the City limits). The City of Soledad provides a broad range of public facilities and services. The Public Works Department, Water Quality Control Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the City's water wells and water distribution system, sanitary sewer system and brand new Water Reclamation Facility, and the City's storm drain system.

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 1,400-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 managed as a State Ecological Reserve and Wildlife Management Area by the CDFG, and the beaches at the mouth of the slough are managed for public access by California State Parks.

Environmental Justice Coalition for Water: The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization representing 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 the San Jerardo Farmworkers Cooperative) 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 percent 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: The Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) is a county water district formed in 1960 and authorized by Division 12 of the California Water Code. The MCWD delivers approximately 4,500 acre-feet per year (AFY) of potable water to 38,000-42,000 customers in the City of Marina and the Ord Community. All of this water is from the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin. The MCWD currently delivers water to the Ord Community by contract, though they are in the process of annexing that service area. The MCWD operates six wells and owns a desalination plant (currently idle), which has a capacity of 300 AFY.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

was designated in 1992 as a federally protected marine area offshore of California’s Central Coast. The MBNMS encompasses 276 miles of shoreline and 6,094 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. MBNMS’s authority is established by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Title 16, Chapter 32, §§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 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Chapter IX, Subpart M-Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 922.132). This authority applies throughout the entirety of the Greater Monterey County IRWM region, since all of the region’s coastal watersheds ultimately drain to the Sanctuary. 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. Today the MBNMS’s Water Quality Protection Program consists of 25 federal, state and local agencies, public and private groups dedicated to protecting and enhancing water quality in the MBNMS and its watersheds.

Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office: The mission of the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner is to promote and protect agriculture, the environment, and public health and welfare, and to assure consumer and business confidence in the marketplace. Under the authority of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is the local regulatory agency for a number of agricultural programs. Major programs include: plant quarantine and export certification, pest exclusion and detection, pest eradication and management, nursery, seed, apiary, crop statistics, fruit and vegetable standardization, and direct marketing. The Agricultural Commissioner also enforces state weights and measures laws to protect the consumer and maintain equity in the marketplace. Under the authority of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Agricultural Commissioner is responsible for the local enforcement of pesticide use requirements including permitting, inspections and investigations. The Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner is also an Accredited Certifying Agency of the National Organic Program. The Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner provides the RWMG with expertise on a wide range of regulatory and technical matters related to agriculture.

Monterey County Water Resources Agency: The Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) 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 and its mandate was updated to provide for the control of flood and stormwaters, conservation of such waters through storage and percolation, control of groundwater extraction, protection of water quality, reclamation of water, exchange of water, and the construction and operation of hydroelectric power facilities. MCWRA operates the Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for flood management and water supply (groundwater recharge) purposes. MCWRA also 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 Functionally Equivalent Plan.

Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency: The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) is a joint powers agency formed in 1972 to provide wastewater collection and

treatment. MRWPCA member communities that lie within the Greater Monterey County IRWM region include the Ord Community, Marina, Castroville, Moss Landing, Boronda, Salinas and some unincorporated areas in northern Monterey County (MRWPCA also serves the communities of Pacific Grove, Monterey, Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, and Sand City). MRWPCA is governed by a Board of Directors representing each of the jurisdictions that it serves. The agency operates a regional wastewater treatment plant located two miles north of Marina and maintains 25 pump stations connected to the treatment plant. MRWPCA also operates the water recycling facility at the Regional Treatment Plant and manages the distribution system under contract from the MCWRA. The recycling operations provide irrigation water to 12,000 acres of Castroville farmland.

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 Wetlands Group have provided technical assistance to study these dynamic systems. They have developed numerous habitat management and restoration plans, have implemented numerous 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 of Monterey County: The Resource Conservation District (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 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation: RCAC is a nonprofit organization that provides technical assistance, training, and financing to rural, disadvantaged communities to help them achieve their goals and visions. RCAC's work encompasses a wide range of services including environmental infrastructure; affordable housing development; economic and leadership development; and community development finance. RCAC's services are generally available to disadvantaged communities with populations of 10,000 or fewer, as well as tribal communities. Headquartered in West Sacramento, California, RCAC serves rural communities in 13 western states including Hawaii and Alaska and is part of a national nonprofit network called Rural Community Assistance Partnership. RCAC has been working closely with the San Jerardo Cooperative over the past several years regarding their drinking water issues and has been actively assisting them with their wastewater needs (including the Round 1 Proposition 84 Implementation Grant wastewater project).

San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.: San Jerardo is a cooperative housing complex for low-income farm working families, located seven miles southwest of Salinas. The Cooperative was built in the 1970s and currently houses 64 families. Over the past two decades, the community had suffered from serious

drinking water, wastewater, and human health concerns. Extremely high concentrations of nitrates and 1,2,3-trichloropropane in the drinking water were determined to be a public health risk, requiring intervention by the courts and Monterey County. In November 2010 the Cooperative received a new drinking water system. However, the community's drinking water supply continued to be threatened due to discharges of nitrate, trichloropropane, and other pollutants released from the community-owned wastewater treatment system. The Cooperative recently received grant funds through the Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grant program to install much-needed repairs to the wastewater treatment facility. Through their efforts to gain safe drinking water and adequate wastewater treatment, San Jerardo community members have become experts on drinking water contamination, and have agreed to act as a representative on the RWMG for disadvantaged communities in the Salinas Valley.

The table on the following page summarizes the water resource and geographic areas represented by members of the RWMG.

Table A-1: RWMG Members: Water Resource Management and Geographic Areas Served

RWMG Member	Water Supply	Water Quality	Wastewater Treatment	Flood Management	Environmental Resource Protection	Agricultural Interests	Land Use Planning	Environmental Justice	Geographic Areas Represented in Region
The Big Sur Land Trust					x				Entire region
CSUMB Watershed Institute		x			x			x	Entire region
California Water Service Co.	x	x							Salinas Valley
Castroville Community Services District	x	x							Castroville area (northern Salinas Valley/northern coast)
City of Salinas		x	x	x			x		City of Salinas (northern/central Salinas Valley)
City of Soledad	x	x	x	x			x		City of Soledad (southern Salinas Valley)
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							Marina and Ord Community (northern Salinas Valley/northern coast)
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary		x			x				Entire region (mean high water, with education and outreach in the watersheds)
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office						x			Entire region
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency	x	x	x						Several cities and unincorporated areas in Monterey County
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County		x			x	x			Entire region
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	x	x		x		x			Entire region
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories		x			x				Entire region
Rural Community Assistance Corporation									Entire region
San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.		x						x	San Jerardo (Salinas Valley)

A.2 GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS

A.2.1 Description of Governance Structure

Members of the RWMG have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to acknowledge cooperative efforts in the planning region and to form an institutional structure to develop and implement an IRWM Plan (the MOU and bylaws can be found in the Appendices). The MOU and bylaws formalize the collaborative planning effort, describe the level of participation expected of RWMG members, and outline a process for completing the IRWM Plan and for making amendments in the future. RWMG members share joint responsibilities for ensuring effective and comprehensive IRWM planning and implementation for the region, including development and update of the IRWM Plan, administration and financial support for the IRWM program, project implementation and data management, and continued IRWM planning beyond the State IRWM Grant Program. The RWMG meets on a monthly basis.

Leading the RWMG in development of the IRWM Plan and the overall IRWM planning effort is the IRWM Plan Coordinator. The IRWM Plan Coordinator is a non-voting member of the RWMG and an independent consultant, supported through a combination of private grant funds, State IRWM Planning Grant funds, and RWMG member contributions. The IRWM Plan Coordinator is responsible for leading the RWMG through every step of the IRWM planning process as outlined in the Proposition 84 and 1E IRWM Program Guidelines, and overseeing the planning process to ensure it meets both the letter and spirit of the original legislation. The IRWM Plan Coordinator's responsibilities include, among other things, conducting the monthly RWMG meetings, convening subcommittees, and generally facilitating decision-making on the part of the RWMG to achieve IRWM Plan "milestones"; communicating with stakeholders to keep them informed of IRWM events and to ensure fair and inclusive representation in the planning process; writing and updating the IRWM Plan (with input and oversight from the RWMG and stakeholders); acting as liaison between the Greater Monterey County RWMG and the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and other RWMGs in the Central Coast Funding Area and state; and conducting regular IRWM Plan performance and monitoring activities.

It is recognized that composition of the RWMG will change over time. Incorporation of new members will be decided on a case-by-case basis by a simple majority vote of the RWMG, with the general understanding that a new entity will be considered for inclusion only if such inclusion would result in a more balanced representation on the RWMG of geographic regions, disadvantaged communities (DACs), or water resource management interests within the Greater Monterey County IRWM region.

A.2.2 Decision-making

The RWMG represents a diverse and balanced group of entities involved in (or directly affected by) water resource or watershed management, representing all major geographic areas within the region. Decision-making has proven to be a cooperative and collaborative process throughout the development of this IRWM Plan. The RWMG also ensures public involvement in its decision-making processes through various means, including:

- Regular email updates to stakeholders on the IRWM planning process
- A regularly updated website, that includes the latest news and events, dates and locations of RWMG meetings, contact information, and all significant IRWM-related documents (<http://www.greatermontereyirwmp.org/documents/minutes/>)
- Public comment periods on all major IRWM Plan "milestones"
- Public workshops

In addition, stakeholders are always invited to participate in the monthly RWMG meetings, and meeting minutes are posted on the website following each RWMG meeting. Please see Section P, Stakeholder Involvement, for a full description of public involvement in the RWMG’s decision-making process.

The Greater Monterey County RWMG is a truly “democratic” group made up of diverse organizations with differing expertise, perspectives, and authorities of various aspects of water management. There is no one leadership position on the RWMG, and no hierarchy of decision-making. All major IRWM planning decisions and IRWM Plan “milestones” are decided by vote at the regularly scheduled RWMG meetings. Each RWMG organization is allowed one vote regardless of whether or not they have contributed financially to the Plan or to other RWMG activities. A simple majority (50 percent plus one) of the RWMG constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and action requires a simple majority vote of those present (in person or via conference call) at a meeting. All votes are counted equally. The protocols for decision-making are clearly outlined in the RWMG Bylaws (Appendix C).

The RWMG has been created to be a “working” group, with RWMG members expected to actively participate in the monthly RWMG meetings and on committees. Committees are convened as needed to assist the RWMG with all aspects of plan development, with IRWM Plan project solicitations, and with ongoing IRWM planning. Any RWMG member can volunteer to participate on any committee. The term of commitment varies; most committees disband after the specified task is achieved, but in the case of ongoing committees (such as the Funding Committee), the term of commitment is decided on a case-by-case basis. The RWMG approves the creation of committees during regularly scheduled RWMG meetings (i.e., in public meetings), and committees always bring recommended actions back to the RWMG for approval via formal vote of the RWMG. The following provides an example and overview of some of the committees convened during the development of this Plan:

- ***Issues and Conflicts Committee:*** The Issues and Conflicts Committee spent several weeks (May – July 2009) interviewing local water resource management experts on matters related to water supply, water quality, flood management, and natural resources in order to gain an understanding of the most significant water resource management issues for the region. In addition, public workshops were held in two different locations (Big Sur and Soledad, in September 2009) to obtain stakeholder input regarding their perception of issues and conflicts in the region. The committee considered all of these sources and developed a summary of the issues and conflicts in the region based on that information. The RWMG discussed the recommendations of the committee and voted to approve a final list of “issues and conflicts” at the October 2009 RWMG meeting.
- ***Goals and Objectives Committee:*** A committee was convened in July 2009 to identify goals and objectives for the purpose of IRWM planning in the Greater Monterey County region. The committee used the list of “issues and conflicts” as the basis for developing the initial goals and objectives. Stakeholders were given ample opportunity to provide comments (via a 30-day public comment period, which was extended an additional three months) and after prolonged discussion, the RWMG voted to approve the final goals and objectives at the March 2010 RWMG meeting. Following the release of the Proposition 84 & 1E IRWM Guidelines in August 2010, a second committee was convened to re-assess the goals and objectives in light of the new guidelines and to make the objectives more measurable. Following a 30-day public comment period, the final goals and objectives were approved by the RWMG in September 2011.
- ***Project Ranking Committee:*** In 2010 for the first round of IRWM Plan projects, a Project Ranking Committee was convened to develop a system for ranking projects that was fair and objective, that clearly reflected the goals and objectives of the region, and that adequately took into consideration IRWM program preferences in order to ensure regional competitiveness for

State IRWM funds. Stakeholders were given an opportunity to provide input into the draft project ranking system via a 30-day public comment period. The RWMG voted to approve the project ranking system, with an allowance for ongoing “adaptive management,” at the May 2010 RWMG meeting. The RWMG has subsequently added minor revisions to this project ranking system, informed by the experience of having prioritized the first (2010) group of IRWM Plan projects and also by having gone through the application process in Round 1 for Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grants (2011). The revised project ranking system was subject to a minimum 30-day public comment period and was approved by the RWMG at the September 2011 RWMG meeting.

- ***Project Review Committee:*** For the first IRWM Plan project solicitation in 2010, four separate Project Committees were created to review project proposals according to the primary water resource focus of each project – water supply, water quality, flood/watershed management, or natural resources. These committees consisted of RWMG members plus various experts from the local community in each of these water resource fields (including resource managers, research scientists, farmers, and other specialists). The role of the Project Committees was essentially to ensure that projects were consistent with laws, regulations, and local plans, to review the projects for technical feasibility, costs, and soundness, and to provide feedback both to project proponents and to the RWMG regarding any concerns, recommendations for strengthening or further developing the projects, and/or overall evaluation. After this first review, the projects were then sent to an “Integration Committee,” comprised of members from each of the four Project Committees, whose task it was to seek further opportunities for project integration. This process (involving four Project Committees plus an Integration Committee) worked well but was extremely labor intensive and time consuming. In 2011 for the second IRWM Plan project solicitation, the RWMG decided to simplify the process and create just one Project Review Committee, comprised solely of RWMG members, whose responsibility it was to both review and rank the projects (according to a RWMG-approved ranking system), and then identify potential opportunities for integration. This system has proven to be much more efficient, and will continue to be used for future IRWM Plan project solicitations.
- ***IRWM Plan Draft Review Committee:*** This committee, consisting of RWMG members, worked with the IRWM Plan Coordinator to review and revise drafts of the IRWM Plan before submitting them to the full RWMG and to stakeholders for comment and review.
- ***Funding Committee:*** The Funding Committee is an ongoing committee made up of RWMG members. The committee is responsible for determining: 1) ongoing funding of the IRWM Plan and IRWM planning process over time; and 2) potential funding sources for IRWM Plan projects beyond IRWM grants, including federal, other state, and private funding sources.

A.2.3 Effective Communication

The Greater Monterey County RWMG governance structure fosters effective communication both within the RWMG and outside of the RWMG with stakeholders, IRWM Plan project proponents, neighboring RWMGs, government agencies, and the general public. Internally, the RWMG strives to create an environment of open communication, cooperation, collaboration, and respect among its members and at the monthly RWMG meetings. Time has been devoted at RWMG meetings for individual RWMG members to discuss their projects, their water management issues, and any concerns.

The IRWM Plan Coordinator works to ensure that stakeholders, project proponents, and the general public are well informed of the latest Greater Monterey County IRWM activities and accomplishments. The IRWM Plan Coordinator sends regular email communications to interested stakeholders about

IRWM news and events; the emails always contain contact information (email address and phone number) for the IRWM Plan Coordinator so that stakeholders can voice their comments, concerns, or questions about the IRWM planning process. The Plan Coordinator will also send this information via US Post for any stakeholders who do not have email access.

The RWMG communicates with federal and state government agencies as needed, with some of those agencies serving as members of the RWMG and as such, able to act in an advisory role. In July 2009, several members of the RWMG met with the Secretary of Natural Resources Agency, John Laird, to keep him informed about the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning process and to discuss opportunities for improving the process on a State level. In addition, the IRWM Plan Coordinator and RWMG members participate in the statewide Roundtable of Regions meetings, a forum for discussion between all RWMGs in the state, and regionally, in Central Coast Funding Area meetings to coordinate IRWM planning activities between the Central Coast IRWM regions and to discuss potential funding strategies. Please see Section Q, Coordination, for a more detailed description of how the RWMG communicates with neighboring regions and government agencies.

A.2.4 Long-term Implementation of the IRWM Plan

The RWMG will continue to meet on an ongoing basis to implement the IRWM Plan and to carry out IRWM planning. The IRWM Plan is intended to be a long-term planning document with a minimum 20-year planning horizon. As such, the Plan will need to undergo periodic updates and revisions to reflect changing conditions. RWMG membership and governance processes may also evolve over time, and the IRWM Plan will be revised to reflect those changes. This section describes how the governance structure allows for periodic formal and informal changes to the IRWM Plan.

An informal review of the IRWM Plan will occur with each IRWM Plan project solicitation, which is expected to occur on an annual basis or at minimum with each successive IRWM Implementation Grant solicitation. The informal review will consist of a re-assessment and update of the issues and conflicts in the region, the goals and objectives, resource management strategies, and other IRWM Plan “milestones.” In addition, with each new IRWM Plan project solicitation, all projects, both existing and new, will get re-ranked and a new project list will be generated and available for viewing on the website. All amendments resulting from informal reviews of the IRWM Plan will be officially incorporated into the Plan upon approval by the RWMG, as determined by vote at a regularly scheduled RWMG meeting open to the public and according to the decision-making protocols outlined in the bylaws.

Formal plan review may include a review and re-assessment of RWMG composition, regional boundaries, and other “big picture” issues related to IRWM planning in the Greater Monterey County region. A formal plan review may also include re-assessment of IRWM Plan “milestones,” as described above. Formal updates and re-adoption of the IRWM Plan, requiring the approval of the governing boards of each RWMG entity, will occur only as required by the State (for example, in the case of a Region Acceptance Process) or as deemed necessary by the RWMG. Ideally the RWMG would formally review, revise, and adopt the IRWM Plan no less frequently than every five years; however, a formal review is an intensive process and the frequency of this type of review will depend entirely on whether adequate funding is available.

Finally, a Plan Performance Review will occur on an approximately bi-annual basis. The intent of the Plan Performance Review is not to review the “content” of the Plan per se but to determine the extent to which project implementation is achieving Plan objectives (as described in Section J, Plan Performance and Monitoring). Project data from all projects implemented through the Plan will be tracked using the data management system as described in Section K, Data Management. Monitoring the projects over time

will not only enable the RWMG to determine its success in implementing the IRWM Plan but will keep the Plan alive and help drive it forward.

A.3 ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

A notice of intention to prepare the Plan, and then a notice of intention to adopt the Plan, was published in accordance with §6066 of the Government Code. Each of the RWMG members have accepted, approved, or adopted the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan through resolution by their governing boards or by other means according to organizational protocol. The Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan was formally adopted by vote of the RWMG on April 17, 2013 by the RWMG at a regularly scheduled RWMG meeting that was open to the public. Please see Appendix A for the formal resolutions, signed by the governing boards of each member of the RWMG, to adopt the IRWM Plan.

In addition, each project proponent named in an IRWM grant application is also required to adopt the IRWM Plan in order to be eligible to receive IRWM grant funds. Each project proponent will be required to submit a formal, signed resolution adopting the IRWM Plan prior to submission of an IRWM grant application.