

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

The Path to a Resilient Water Resources Future



History

In 2002, the State Legislature passed the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Act (SB 1672) to encourage local entities to improve water quality and water supply reliability to meet the state's overall agricultural, domestic, industrial and environmental water needs. IRWM Regions are self-organized, geographically based groups, and the 48 regions serve 99% of California's population.

A Unique Approach With Multi-Benefit Results

IRWM is more than a grant program. It is an established structure that brings together cities, counties, water districts, community and environmental groups, Tribes and others to build diverse partnerships that write regional plans, construct infrastructure projects, and implement water conservation and water-energy savings programs on a regional scale. This approach increases regional self-reliance, reduces conflict, and manages water to achieve climate resilience.

IRWM differs from traditional approaches to water resource management by integrating all facets of water management and climate solutions to achieve multi-benefit results.



The Future of California's Resilience

IRWM Regions have created regional planning capacity that strongly positions them as the best vehicle in planning for future climate resiliency as envisioned in the Water Resilience Portfolio.

The State should continue to leverage this unique tool through investment in IRWM.



State and Local Investments

Locals invest over \$4 for every \$1 invested by the State.

Propositions 50, 84 and 1 have supported more than 1,300 multi-benefit projects. Proposition 1 has specifically targeted disadvantaged communities and Tribes.

**Leveraging
State
Funding**


\$1.45 B
State Funds


\$5.6 B
Local Match

7 Benefits of IRWM

#1 LEVERAGES
funding sources

#2 PROMOTES
regional governance

#3 INCENTIVIZES
multi-benefit projects

#4 DISSOLVES
water management silos

#5 INVOLVES
Tribal governments and underrepresented communities

#6 ENCOURAGES
diverse stakeholder collaboration

#7 INTEGRATES
climate change in comprehensive plans

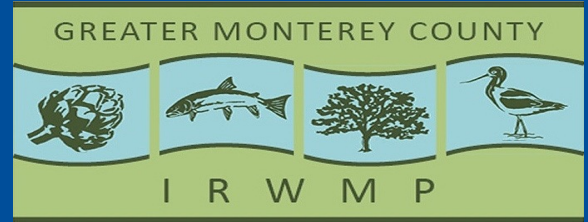
Other Resources

Roundtable of Regions:
www.roundtableofregions.org

Department of Water Resources:
water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management

ACWA IRWM Policy Principles:
www.acwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/PP-Integrated-Regional-Water-Management-IRWM-9-11.pdf

Greater Monterey County



Region At-A-Glance

Region Description

The Greater Monterey County IRWM region includes all of Monterey County exclusive of the Pajaro and Monterey Peninsula IRWM regions. The region also includes the small portion of San Benito County that lies within the Salinas River watershed. The Greater Monterey County IRWM region encompasses the entire Salinas River watershed north of the San Luis Obispo County line, all of the Gabilan and Bolsa Nueva watersheds in the northern part of the county, and all of the coastal watersheds of the Big Sur region within Monterey County.

Population Served

~ 350,000

IRWM Funding Brought to the Region

\$25.6 million

Amount of Funding Leveraged by Locals

\$31.6 million

California Senate and Assembly Districts

Senate Districts 17 and 12

Assembly Districts 30 and 29



Governance Description

The Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) was formed in 2008, and consists of 19 agencies and organizations reflecting balanced representation of water resource management issues and geographic areas across the region. The RWMG meets on a bi-monthly basis.

Top Region Priorities

- Improve water supply reliability.
- Protect and improve water quality, and ensure the provision of high-quality, potable, affordable drinking water for all communities in the region.
- Implement integrated watershed approaches to flood management.
- Protect, enhance, and restore the region's ecological resources.
- Promote regional communication, cooperation, and education.
- Adapt the region's water management approach to deal with impacts of climate change.

Region Successes and Highlights

- ❑ Within the spirit of IRWM, have fostered long-term partnerships among diverse agencies and organizations, and have established a respectful, collaborative forum for discussing water and natural resource issues in Monterey County.
- ❑ Identified needs of disadvantaged communities, developed potential solutions, and conducted preliminary planning activities (including design and planning/construction applications) for several small communities.
- ❑ Received \$7.6 million to implement 12 projects, including water supply, water quality improvement, wastewater treatment and recycling, flood risk reduction, and watershed restoration.



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