

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.

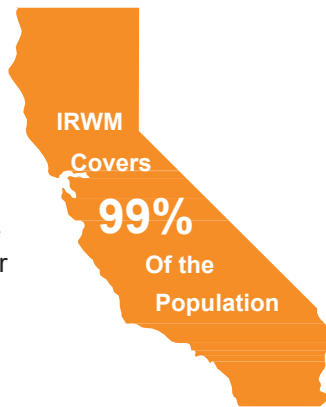
IRWM differs from traditional approaches to water resource management by integrating all facets of water management and climate solutions to achieve multi-benefit results.



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

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, South Monterey Bay



Region At-A-Glance

Region Description

The region's largest water supply historically came from the 255-square mile Carmel River watershed. In 1995 the State Water Board issued a cease-and-desist order for illegal diversions from the Carmel River, reducing water supply by over 50%. The Seaside Groundwater Basin, the only other natural water supply in the region, was adjudicated in 2006 resulting in a 40% reduction in allowable production. Climate change and drought threaten the environment and reduce the amount of water supply from the Aquifer Storage and Recovery project. The region has no import water and must manufacture water to meet water demand.

The Carmel River is home to threatened Central Coast steelhead and California red legged frog species. The region's coast is home to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 3 Areas of Special Biological Significance, and Marine Protected Areas.

Population	Area	California Districts
Approx. 114,000	350 sq. mi.	State Assembly 29, State Senate 17

IRWM Funding Brought to the Region	IRWM Funding for DACs
\$5.6 million	\$1.6 million

Governance Description

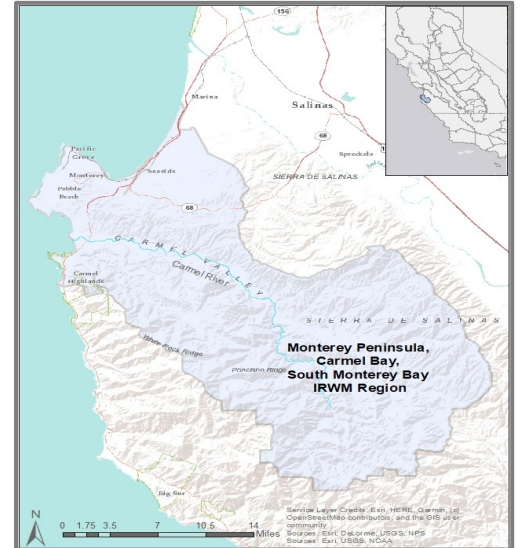
The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is responsible for the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. The RWMG was created to be a working group: its members expected to actively participate in RWMG meetings and committees. Members of the RWMG enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Top Region Priorities

- Improve regional water supply reliability.
- Adapt approaches to deal with climate change.
- Ensure flood protection strategies are developed and implemented through a collaborative watershed-wide approach.
- Preserve environmental health and well-being.
- Improve regional communication.
- Ensure erosion management strategies are developed and implemented through a collaborative watershed-wide approach.
- Develop watershed scale management strategies.
- Protect and improve water quality.

Region Successes and Highlights

1. Regional collaboration with stakeholders since 2008. Membership has grown from 5 to 16 local agencies and organizations.
2. Created 5 editions of the IRWM Plan, received over \$5.6M in grant funding for planning, involvement, and implementation projects.
3. Disadvantaged Community Needs Assessment outreach led to project identification and IRWM implementation Round 1 funding for those communities.



Region Contact

Contact Name: Maureen Hamilton

Title: District Engineer

Website: www.mpwmd.net/environmental-stewardship/irwm-program

Email: MHamilton@MPWMD.net

Phone: (831) 658-5622