

Section I

Plan Performance and Monitoring

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I.1 Introduction

This Section defines the Plan Performance and Monitoring Strategy. The IRWM Plan legislation and 2016 IRWMP standards require that IRWM Plans include performance measures and a monitoring program to document progress towards IRWM Plan Objectives, and methodologies to evaluate the implementation of projects and adjust the IRWMP when new information or resources become available.

The purpose of the Plan Performance and Monitoring strategy is to document how the IRWM Plan Objectives are to be measured and how the projects will be overseen and evaluated in order to ensure the anticipated IRWM Plan objectives are being met. This section also describes the method to report the Tule River Basin Region’s progress in meeting the objectives and implementing projects.

Performance measures and monitoring methods are developed and used to evaluate the overall progress in meeting each objective. The results of the performance and monitoring effort will be used by the District, referred to as lead agency, to measure and track success, prepare progress reports to the RWMG, and present IRWM Plan results to public and stakeholders to maintain and gain further support for the IRWM Plan. These processes are described in more detail below.

The Lead Agency is responsible for:

- IRWM Plan implementation, evaluation, and monitoring the overall performance in meeting the Goals and Objectives
- Reaching out to local stakeholders of each Sub-Region and update the Sub-Region Priorities
- Annually evaluating the performance for implementing projects that contribute to meeting the overall Goals and Objectives
- Tracking all project sponsors, including aggregating reports of specific projects performance, and monitoring
- Budgeting resources to ensure the monitoring efforts are affordable given the limited resources of the project sponsors and lead agency

The annual review by the RWMG contributes to an adaptive management strategy that will help guide changes to the IRWM Plan in the future. It will be used to facilitate discussion of “lessons learned” from project-specific monitoring efforts. IRWM Plans should be adjusted annually in response to monitoring results and as more effects of Climate Change manifest, new tools are developed, and new information becomes available.

I.2 Performance Measures and Monitoring Methods

Measurement methods have been developed to evaluate IRWM Plan performance measures for the objectives presented in Section E. Section E provides a qualitative and/or quantitative performance measure to assess each of the IRWM Plan Objectives. For the purposes of this section, the measures have been combined in one column in the table below. The monitoring methodology for each objective has been added.

These measurement methods should be updated as new tools are developed and new information becomes available. The results of the performance and monitoring effort will be used by the District, referred to as lead agency, to measure and track success, prepare progress reports to the RWMG, and present IRWM Plan results to public and stakeholders to maintain and gain further support for the IRWM Plan.

Table I-1. Table displaying performance measures and monitoring methods to evaluate objectives.

Objectives	Performance Measures	Monitoring Methods
1. Conserve, enhance and regenerate riparian habitats	<p>Increasing number of acres preserved for ecosystem restoration and/or preservation.</p> <p>Increasing number of acres of healthy or improved natural recharge areas associated with riparian corridors.</p>	<p>Create list of new projects and opportunities and any specific species benefits. Report on status of maintenance of existing inventory of riparian habitat</p>
2. Conserve and restore native species and related habitats	<p>Increasing number of acres preserved or restored for native species and their related habitats</p>	<p>Report status of current protection and restoration efforts. Report as to new facilities opportunities and development of project related benefits</p>
3. Protect Water Resources that are critical to Native American Tribal Communities	<p>Decreasing number of comments or complaints from tribal communities regarding loss, or potential loss, of quality or quantity of their water supplies.</p>	<p>Report evaluation efforts and conclusions from tribal communities related to water resources. Report on actions taken in response to tribal community outreach.</p> <p>Evaluate projects based on their potential benefit to critical water issues of tribal communities</p>

Objectives	Performance Measures	Monitoring Methods
<p>4. Evaluate and modify water diversion and conveyance infrastructure</p>	<p>Increasing improvement in existing water diversion and conveyance infrastructure</p> <p>Increasing number of studies to evaluate functionality and sustainability of existing water diversion and conveyance infrastructure.</p> <p>Increasing number of miles of water diversion and conveyance infrastructure</p>	<p>Report on project planning, design and construction activities</p>
<p>5. Protect and improve water resources through land use practices</p>	<p>Increasing level of management over land use practices to prevent impacts to water resources.</p>	<p>Report efforts, successes and failures relative to efforts associated with land use policy development and implementation as those policies effect water resource planning and implementation</p>
<p>6. Meet applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan objectives</p>	<p>Increase in the overall level of management and governance through adopted Basin Management Plans.</p>	<p>Report specific IRWM Participant successes in planning and/or implementation of water resource related projects. Report failures within the Tule Basin to meet the Basin Plan objectives and if a Participant project would have a beneficial impact on the cause of the failure</p>
<p>7. Management of recreational activities to minimize impacts on water resources</p>	<p>Increasing number of programs with the intent to minimize recreation related water resource impacts</p>	<p>Report recent test results indicating presence/absence of impacts and educational efforts undertaken to reduce impacts</p>
<p>8. Promote city, community and regional storm water management plans</p>	<p>Decrease the number of communities without a Storm Water Management Plan (Objective = 0)</p>	<p>Report modifications to existing plans and any new plans designed to meet the goals of this objective</p>
<p>9. Evaluate and promote strategies to reduce arsenic, nitrate, and perchlorate contamination to levels below maximum contamination level.</p>	<p>Decreasing arsenic, nitrate, and perchlorate levels.</p>	<p>Report data collected, observed trends, recognized impacts and areas requiring additional mitigation regarding arsenic, nitrate, and perchlorate contamination.</p>

Objectives	Performance Measures	Monitoring Methods
10. Increase Monitoring and Promote Research Programs to Better Understand the Effects of Climate Change on Ecosystems in the Region	Increasing number of projects/programs to study/monitor the effects of climate change on ecosystems in the region	Report data collected, observed trends, recognized impacts and areas requiring additional mitigation regarding climate change impacts on ecosystems in the region
11. Plan for Potential Regional Impacts of Climate Change on Water Quantity and Quality	Increasing number of projects/programs intended to increase regional resiliency with regard to climate change impacts on water quantity and water quality	Report data collected and evaluation of changes needed to address impacts that are other than those projected to occur
12. Identify and promote strategies for hydroelectric generation facilities	Increase the number of Hydroelectric generation facilities within the Region	Report on planning, design and implementation efforts related to new hydroelectric generation facilities
13. Optimize efficient use, conservation and recycling of water resources	Increase number of projects/programs related to water conservation and recycling	Report data collected and evaluate changes in Tule Basin water conditions and approaches to use, conservation and recycling
14. Increase knowledge regarding groundwater conditions and establish groundwater management practices	Existence of public education programs for groundwater management efforts to promote them	Report data collected, observed trends, recognized impacts and areas requiring additional policy direction and/or project development
15. Reduce impacts and optimize benefits from assisting other drought related areas with Basin-to-Basin transfers of water	Existence of adequate facilities to give and accept basin-to-basin transfers of water.	Report efforts undertaken to facilitate Basin-to- Basin transfers. Report on status of return obligations related to prior assistance transfers

I.2.1 Evaluation of Capacity to Evaluate and Implement Projects

The project development process, culminating in project evaluation using the adopted criteria and scoring system currently in place, is designed to be periodically reviewed. This review process includes not only the response of the scoring criteria and scoring system to funding offer guidelines, but also with respect to the quality of the projects being proposed and, most importantly from an IRWMP perspective, the degree to which efforts were undertaken to integrate projects together for improved efficiencies, reduced capital and operation and maintenance costs, or both. It remains to be determined by the Board of Directors of DCTRA as to whether this evaluation will be placed on a routine calendar schedule, similar to other plan review processes which are in place within DCTRA, or will remain on an “as-needed” basis.

I.2.2 Project-Level Performance and Monitoring Plan

The project sponsor is responsible for development of the project and for developing the monitoring and reporting program(s) necessary to define the degree of satisfaction of intended project goals. The project sponsor is also responsible to convey such information to the IRWM RWMG and Stakeholders Advisory Group as is necessary to clearly define project benefits and required progress as against pre-agreed to benchmarks.

Project Monitoring Elements

The following sets forth the established minimum elements of a project monitoring and reporting program. The final project monitoring and reporting program is to be submitted to the DCTRA prior to completion of construction and disbursement of the final funds due pursuant to any applicable funding agreement. The elements are as follows:

1. Project description including a narrative description of the project site(s);
2. Project location including GPS coordinates and location map;
3. IRWM Plan objective(s) targeted;
4. Workplan including a detailed division of project elements;
5. Schedule including construction start and completion dates and applicable permit elements;
6. Description of operation & maintenance elements and issues related to optimum implementation;
7. Quantify costs and identify funding opportunities for construction elements, operation & maintenance elements and oversight reporting elements;
8. Desired goals described in sufficient detail to allow for use as benchmark against which to measure success;
9. Monitoring elements including:
 - a. CEQA/NEPA mitigation elements;
 - b. General monitoring categories:
 - i. Rates and quantities of flow;
 - ii. Water quality parameters;
 - iii. Depths to groundwater;
 - iv. Flood frequency;
 - v. Habitat Development;
 - vi. Species inventory; and

- vii. Operation & maintenance activities; and
- c. Frequency of monitoring and reporting activities;
- 10. Data management;
- 11. Responsible parties; and
- 12. Conclusions and observations.

Project Reporting Elements

The reporting element shall be sufficient in content to allow for the following information to be conveyed:

- (1) Satisfaction of IRWM Plan objective(s);
- (2) Success of project against benchmark goal(s);
- (3) Financing goals achieved;
- (4) Budget compliance; and
- (5) Satisfaction of operation & maintenance requirements.

Monitoring Period

The project proponent shall submit to the RWMG an outside target time period for conclusion of monitoring and reporting activities. In no case shall such time period be less than five (5) years. In the event of lack of agreement with respect to said time period, the default shall be to have same established by the Director of the Department of Water Resources.