

Section N

Planning Coordination

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N.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to ensure an appropriate level of coordination with local, State, and federal agencies and stakeholders to minimize conflicts and to optimize water resource utilization. It is the responsibility of the RWMG to coordinate efforts with these entities. This section identifies public agencies representing the IRWM region, and discusses their role in water management within the Region. The end of the section contains existing agreements and coordination efforts taking place on a Water Planning Area level.

N.2 Coordinate Water Management Activities to Avoid Conflict

This section discusses and recognizes entities within the region that have a stake or role in water resources management/issues. The following (not listed in any order of importance) is a list of the more visible water resources related agencies and stakeholders:

- California Water Service Company
- City of Porterville
- Community Water Center
- County of Tulare
- DCTRA / Tule River Association
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Water Resources
- Keller/Wegley Engineering
- Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group
- R.L. Schafer & Associates
- 4Creeks, Inc.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Santa Rosa Tachi Tribe
- Tule River Tribe
- Sequoia Rivers Land Trust
- Self-Help Enterprises
- Tipton CSD
- Pixley PUD
- Woodville PUD
- Poplar CSD
- Alpaugh CSD
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

It is important to understand their influence and involvement on water resources management efforts within the County, and that they have either contributed to the development of this IRWM Plan, or should be coordinated with in future efforts to better understand the conditions in different water planning areas and the benefits and impacts of proposed water management strategies.

The RWMG works toward bringing interested agencies and stakeholders to the project implementation process at an early stage when their involvement is beneficial and educational for both sides. Additionally, efforts under the purview of the IRWM Plan need to be able to show a direct benefit to the IRWM Plan's Goals and Objectives, and ultimately meet one or more of the Water Management Strategies used in this plan to measure and report success. Depending on the level of engagement with an agency, the outcome is to be recorded for reporting in the IRWM Plan Monitoring and Performance Report.

N.3 Pre-Project Coordination Efforts

Prior to project implementation, significant outreach efforts occur to encourage coordination between stakeholders. This effort serves to minimize conflict and optimize project outcome.

N.3.1 Outreach to Neighboring Regions

The IRWMP boundary abuts that of the Southern Sierra IRWM to the east, the Kaweah Basin IRWM to the North, and the Poso Creek IRWM to the South. A considerable degree of cooperation exists between the IRWM groups and it is anticipated that the entities will conduct joint project evaluations to determine if a strengthening of projects could occur as a result of simply evaluating the nature of particular projects and their particular advantages and disadvantages. It is a goal of the Board of Directors of DCTRA to continue this coordination, which is partially based on the recognition that water deliveries into the DCTRA have a common source basis of the Tule River.

N.3.2 Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities

Based on the decision to adopt a common Stakeholders Advisory Committee, programs specifically designed to address water quality issues related to disadvantaged communities and aggregation of single-family residences in a disadvantaged hamlet setting are raised to a new level. Recognition exists that a different outreach methodology will need to be generated, at least as to the efforts of the IRWMP, relative to the outreach mechanisms to other than surface water related entities.

Mapping has been completed of each of the concentrations of households within the IRWMP boundary in excess of six single-family units. From this basis, work could begin with respect to the drinking water quality of each of those areas, followed by the development of a program for assistance to the identified areas. In some cases, this outreach could be oriented toward development of a water distribution system and the extension of an adjacent water purveyor, meeting current state and federal drinking water standards, as the methodology to supply the now non-compliant area with an adequate drinking water supply. In other areas, where consolidation is not an option, pursuit of a step-by-step process as was outlined in Chapter 9, could be undertaken by DCTRA. Throughout this process, an outreach to the effected homeowners and to representatives of environmental justice concerns would need to be made in order to ensure that all possible steps are taken to remedy the drinking water quantity/quality deficiency.

While the IRWMP process adequately addresses the intent to incorporate stakeholders and potential beneficiaries in the service areas into the process, more specific work needs to be undertaken to address the project development phase and, more importantly, the government's development steps which are associated with generating solutions to rural drinking water related problems.

N.3.3 Outreach to Native American Tribal Communities

The DCTRA and the Tule River Association have a longstanding relationship with tribal community representatives in the area. Pre-project coordination with tribal community representatives ensures the

protection of cultural resources critical to Native Americans. Consultations take place on any project which is in the development process or, more importantly, at the threshold of the construction process, to promote coordination with tribal group representatives and to ensure protection of antiquities, sacred sites and burial sites.

N.4 Activity Coordination with Adjacent Regions

N.4.1 Coordination with Tulare Basin JPA Development

Based on a regional stakeholders meeting called by DWR and held at the office of the Semitropic Water Storage District, significant effort was put into the formation of a regional Joint Powers Authority. Meetings were initiated and have been held on a monthly basis since. These meetings are currently being held on the first Monday of each month in the offices of Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group in Visalia. Stakeholders from the region continue to attend with participation from the Kings River Basin, Kern County IRWM groups including the Poso IRWM, the Kaweah River Basin, the Tule River Basin and the Southern Sierra IRWM. There has been periodic attendance from parties considering formation of an organization covering the Tulare Lake bed area.

The initial efforts to form were pursued to the extent of developing a formal Joint Powers Authority with an outline for development of that Authority being developed and agreed to by the participants. A copy of that outline is presented in Appendix C.

This effort culminated in the preparation of a Joint Powers Agreement which was specific to Tulare Lake hydrologic region water-related entities. The initial formal parties to this agreement included the KDWCD, the Kings River Conservation District and the Semitropic Water Storage District. A copy of the subject JPA Outline is included in Appendix C.

Several parties having input to the participants to this proposed JPA have weighed the value of this broader regional effort and how it might improve, or reduce opportunities in the project evaluation process and whether it might pit one region within the JPA area against another. Formal action has been taken by some participants to memorialize this position, while still providing instruction to participate in regional JPA related activities. Movement beyond the ad-hoc level which currently exists will probably be dependent, to a significant degree, on state-wide related funding activities, principal of which are those administered by the State Department of Water Resources.

N.5 Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

State and federal agencies have an important regulatory responsibility to the people of the state and country, respectively. Two of the more visible agencies and their responsibilities – the State Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board – are summarized below.

N.5.1 Water Resource Management of Two Primary State Agencies

California Department of Water Resources

The State DWR mission statement is “To manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State’s people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments.” DWR programs and roles include:

- Development and implementation of the California Water Plan
- Grant program administration
- Conservation and urban water management planning regulation
- Groundwater basin and watershed planning/management
- State Water Project ownership and operation

California Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. Regional Water Boards operating under the SWRCB manage water quality through the regulation a variety of water management practices. Specifically, Regional Water Boards regulate wastewater discharges from human activities that could result in degraded water quality. Their programs also address water rights, grant program administration, and guidance to assist with these efforts. From the State Board web site; programs offered by the State and Regional Board include:

- Biosolids
- Dredge/fill (401) wetlands
- Irrigated lands
- Land disposal (landfills, waste piles)
- Waste discharge requirements (non-Subchapter 15)
- NPDES Surface Water
- Recycled water
- Sanitary sewer overflows
- Stormwater
- Timber harvest activities

Coordination with Other State and Federal Agencies

Parties associated with the DCTRA IRWMP are in a continuous mode of coordination with other state and federal agencies as well. Coordination with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers occurs on an almost-daily basis with regard to Lake Success, Success Dam, and flood control. The Central Valley Flood Protection Board also coordinates with stakeholders regularly on storm water control and flood protection projects. Stakeholders coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation on a series of projects related to the Central Valley Project. Virtually no element of water management within the Tule River Basin takes place without the involvement of representatives from these agencies.

N.6 Water Service Cooperative Agreement and Other Coordination Efforts

There are a significant number of relationships and agreements contribute to the IRWM structure. This section discusses the various cooperative agreements related to water management throughout the IRWM region. These are grouped by jurisdiction/interest area in the table below:

Table N-1. Cooperative relationships and agreements that contribute to the IRWM planning process and structure.

Jurisdiction	Cooperative Agreement
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tule River Association Organization Agreement • Friant Water Authority JPA • State Water Project Water Users JPA • Tule River Improvement JPA • TBID/DCTRA Land Use Agreement • TBID/LTRID Water Exchange Agreement • TBID/SID/LTRID Resources Exchange Agreement • LTRID/City of Orange Cove Agreement • LTRID/J.G. Boswell Co. Agreement • LTRID/Pioneer Water Company Agreement • County of Fresno/LTRID • Pixley ID/LTRID/Angiola WD Cooperative Agreement for Groundwater • LTRID/Vandalia ID Exchange Agreement • USBR Water Management Plans • AB 3616 Water Management Plans • Success Reservoir Storage Agreement
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCTRA GWMP • Tulare Lake Basin Coordinated GWMP • City of Porterville Urban Water Conservation Plan • City of Porterville Development Impact Policy • County of Tulare General Plan • Groundwater Model Elements • Master Basin Model
Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County of Tulare Agreements and Facilities • City of Porterville Agreements and Facilities • County of Tulare and LTRID Agreements and Facilities • Tulare County Flood Control District and LTRID • Tulare County License for Pumping with USBR • LTRID 404 Permit • LTRID 1601 Permit
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tule Sub-watershed Water Quality Coalition • Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition

Jurisdiction	Cooperative Agreement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Porterville WDRs • Strathmore P.U.D. WDRs • Terra Bella Sewer Maintenance District WDRs • Woodville P.U.D. WDRs/NPDES • Poplar C.S.D. WDRs • Tipton C.S.D. WDRs • Pixley P.U.D. WDRs • Woodville Farm Labor Camp WDRs • County of Tulare Abandoned Well Program
Weather Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCTRA CIMIS Station Agreement
Endangered Species Recovery/Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sierra-Los Tulares Land Trust Projects (Sequoia Riverlands Trust) • DCTRA Recharge Ponds Site
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Multiple Water Management Agency Boards of Directors ◦ Multiple Water Management Agency Advisory Committees ◦ Multiple Water Management Agency Technical Committees ◦ Interbasin Water Management Coordinating Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kings-Tule • Kaweah-Tule • Tule-Tulare Lake • Groundwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ GWMP Stakeholder Committees ◦ DCTRA/City of Porterville Coordination Committee ◦ Groundwater Model Technical Committee • Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Steering Committee ◦ Technical Committee ◦ Legal Committee ◦