

Water Resources Division Strategic Plan

The Water Resources Division (WRD) of the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department is committed to partnering with communities throughout the county to help achieve sustainable water resources for their area. Funded primarily by the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) Zone General 0.525% share of the 1% county-wide tax, this strategic plan outlines the areas of the overall mission that relate to the role of the WRD as a partner, in accordance with District Resolution 2016-281 and the District Act.

Mission

The Water Resources Division will be an effective partner in achieving sustainable water resources for all areas of the county.

Our mission has two key parts to represent not only what we do – technical planning efforts to support the achievement of water sustainability - but how we go about doing it – in partnership with all who depend on water. We must be effective – meaning producing quality work in an efficient manner in recognition of the public service we provide and accountability to the taxpayer.

Part 1: Be an effective partner

Goal 1: Operate with integrity

- Do the right thing – by applying ethical principles in decision making
- Strive for excellence – by maintaining a high commitment to quality service
- Be accountable – by taking responsibility for our own actions

Goal 2: Promote teamwork

- Be a leader – by “walking the talk” and helping to define the path forward
- Develop people – by aligning resources and providing training
- Take care of your team – by treating them with respect and empathy

Goal 3: Proactively communicate

- Develop relationships – by collaborating and building trust
- Engage fully – by caring and taking the initiative
- Listen to understand – by verifying assumptions first and asking questions

Part 2: Achieve sustainable water resources for all areas of the county

Goal 1: Develop a common understanding of conditions in each area (map attached)

In order to achieve county-wide water resources sustainability, a common understanding of historic, current and projected future water resource conditions in each integrated Water Planning Area (WPA)¹ is essential to effective conflict resolution and decision making. This involves collecting the right data, in the right manner, on the right time scale to establish a comprehensive and defensible foundation upon which to build detailed technical studies of groundwater, watershed, subregional and regional conditions. It also involves maintaining a system to keep this data and information updated and accessible.

a. Collection of Groundwater Data

This involves collecting and/or cataloging well logs and level data of adequate temporal/spatial scale and in a useable format to inform evaluations of long term and seasonal trends and basin-wide technical studies.

b. Collection of Watershed Data

This involves collecting and/or cataloging rain, reservoir, evaporation and stream data of adequate temporal/spatial scale and in a useable format to inform evaluations of long term and seasonal trends and watershed-wide technical studies.

c. Development of integrated watershed/groundwater models and water balances

This involves utilizing data collected above, and historical water and land use information, to develop and calibrate an integrated watershed/groundwater model that can be used as a tool to analyze a range of projected future conditions and management strategies to achieve sustainable water resources in the given watershed/groundwater system.

d. Development and Maintenance of a Data and Information Management System

¹ See attached map. A WPA is one or more integrated watershed/groundwater system, including all those who depend on it and external contributions to the system (e.g. imported water)

This involves creating and periodically updating an index of water-related data and information sources, periodically updating the data and information collected to analyze and communicate conditions and having electronic reporting tools that can be updated as new information comes forward.

Goal 2: Define sustainability goals for each area

To be successful, it is also necessary to establish broad support for specific sustainability goals in each area and county-wide. This can be memorialized via the development of integrated watershed and groundwater sustainability plans and the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Each plan will need to identify a desired future state for its area in terms of minimum thresholds for undesirable conditions, level of resiliency and future water needs.

a. Integrated Watershed Goals

This involves helping to develop goals for watershed health that address human and ecosystem needs and regulatory requirements associated with flood, stormwater and waterway conditions.

b. Sustainable Groundwater Goals

This involves helping to develop goals for groundwater health that address human and ecosystem needs and regulatory requirements associated with groundwater and interconnected surface water conditions.

c. Integrated Regional Water Management Goals

This involves combining the plans for each area into a county-wide plan that results in an integrated picture of what sustainability looks like for the region.

Goal 3: Identify feasible solutions to meet goals

Feasible solutions that achieve sustainable water resources are socially equitable, and environmentally and economically sound. The process for determining feasibility and identifying solutions involves partnering with stakeholders to 1) understand resource management strategy options, including regulatory requirements and socioeconomic considerations; 2) develop integrated solutions to meet goals and 3) establish an implementation roadmap.

a. Understand Resource Management Strategies (RMSs)

This involves understanding and vetting best management practices, and technological and infrastructure options available to meet sustainability goals;

understanding the regulatory standards, processes and objectives that must be addressed and/or met with any given solution; and understanding the social and economic impact of any given solution.

b. Develop Integrated Solutions

This involves comparing and integrating the most feasible RMSs to achieve watershed, groundwater and/or integrated goals.

c. Establish Implementation Roadmaps

This involves identifying the necessary institutional and financial steps to implement the integrated solutions.

Goal 4: Facilitate the initial implementation of identified solutions

To ensure water resources can be sustained into the future, adequate structures need to be in place to address ongoing operations and management decisions and financial needs. In cases of emergency, institutional and/or physical structures that facilitate the sharing of resources are also needed.

a. Institutional Structures

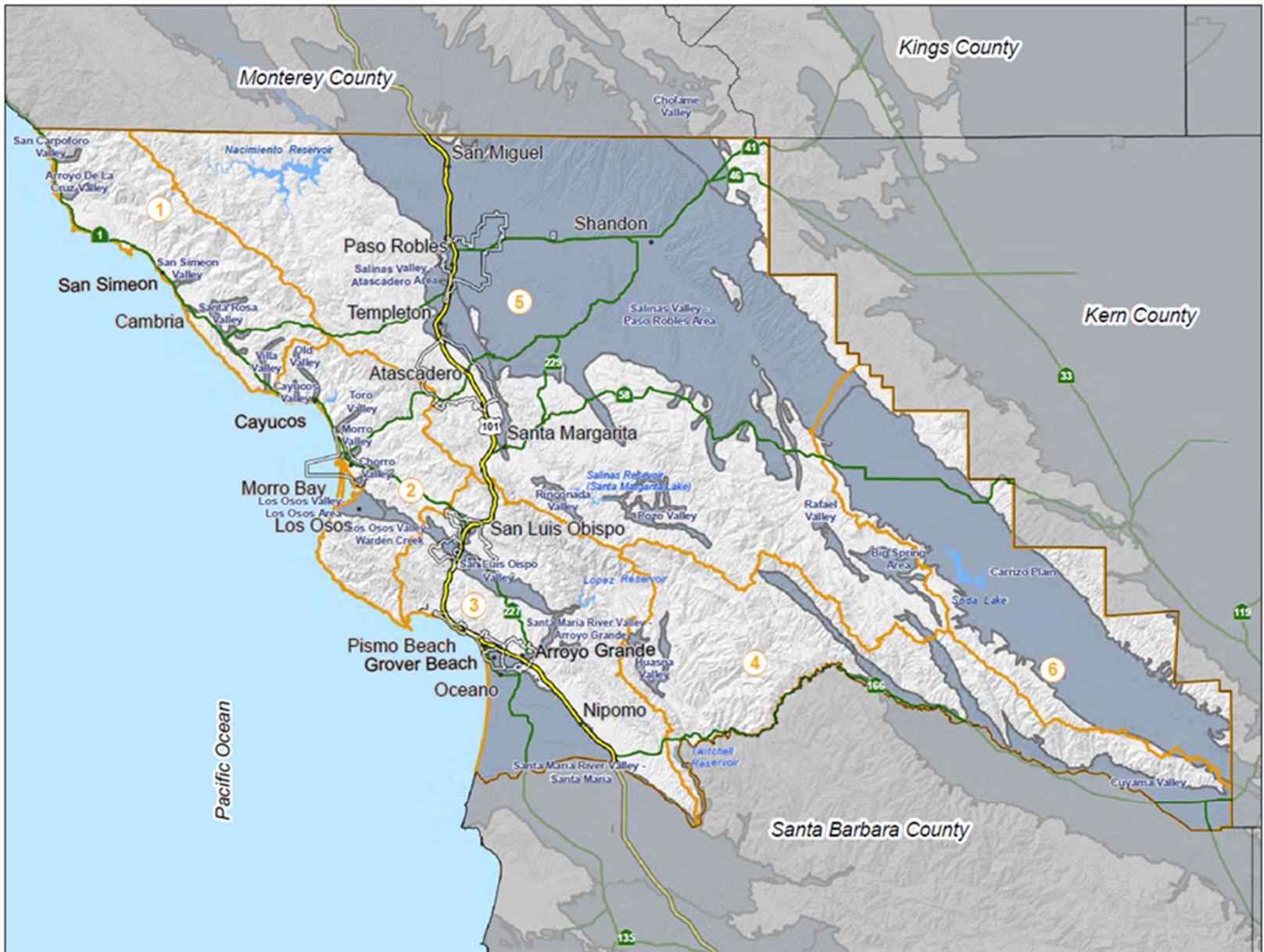
This involves facilitating the establishment of independent or cooperative management structures to oversee the implementation and maintenance of sustainability solutions.

b. Financial Structures

This involves facilitating the establishment of independent or cooperative financial structures to fund the implementation and maintenance of sustainability solutions.

c. Emergency Structures

This involves facilitating the establishment of a cooperative structure, and any necessary infrastructure, to facilitate transfers of resources in a water related emergency in any area of the county.



County of San Luis Obispo
Public Works
Water Resources
**Water Planning
Area Index Map**

Figure: 3-3

- Legend**
- Highways**
- US HIGHWAY
 - STATE HIGHWAY
- City Limits
- Bulletin 118 Goundwater Basins

- Water Planning Areas (WPA):
2018 IRWM Plan Update**
- WPA 1 San Simeon / Cambria
 - WPA 2 Cayucos / Morro Bay / Los Osos
 - WPA 3 San Luis Obispo / South County
 - WPA 4 Cuyama River
 - WPA 5 North County
 - WPA 6 Carrizo Plain



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