

## Section B. Governance, Stakeholder Involvement, and Outreach



# Section B. Governance, Stakeholder Involvement, and Outreach

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## Section B. Governance, Stakeholder Involvement, and Outreach

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This section summarizes the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update (IRWM Plan Update)<sup>1</sup> Region governance structure, as well as the stakeholder involvement and outreach process. Per the 2012 California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Guidelines, hereinafter referred to as the “State IRWM Guidelines” or “State Guidelines”, the governance structure serves to define the processes, structures, and organizational traditions that determine how power is exercised, how stakeholders are involved in IRWM Plan development, how decisions are made, and how the IRWM Plan is updated over time. This section also provides discussion of:



- State IRWM Guidelines: Governance and Stakeholder Involvement Standards
- IRWM Program Participants, including the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), Lead Agency, Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC), Implementation Affiliates, and Interested Stakeholders
- IRWM Organizational Structure, including governance, and decision making processes
- Stakeholder involvement and public outreach processes, including the Communications and Outreach Plan, outreach to disadvantaged communities, and administration of IRWM Plan Update
- Long-term implementation of the IRWM Plan, including the steps for updating and adopting the plan, and coordination with neighboring IRWM efforts, as well as state and federal agencies

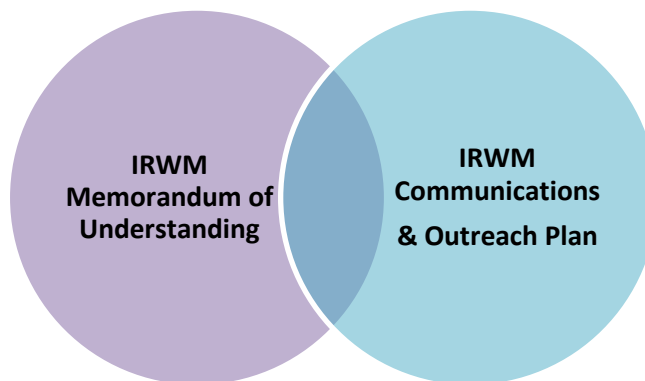
Governance and stakeholder involvement during the development of the IRWM Plan offers the education and awareness needed for active participation in the IRWM development and implementation process. Decisions are made after recording and reviewing the questions, concerns, and recommendations formalized in public workshops and working groups at the

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<sup>1</sup> The abbreviated version IRWM Plan, as used in this plan, refers to San Luis Obispo’s IRWM Plan, in general; whereas, IRWM Plan Update refers to the 2013/14 Update of the current 2007 IRWM Plan.

watershed, Water Planning Area, Sub-Region, and regional levels. This process allows all participants to be heard and concerns to be considered before decisions are made.

This IRWM Plan section is based on two documents created to define governance and participation in the local IRWM program (see **Table B-1**). The *San Luis Obispo County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) establishes the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and essential governance structure inclusions. Based upon this MOU, the Region’s Program Participants developed a *Communications and Outreach Plan* – further defining details of governance, outreach, and communications processes prior to formation of the RWMG. A copy of this plan is included as **Appendix C – IRWM Communications and Outreach Plan**. The content of the plan is also summarized in this section.



**Table B-1. Supporting Documents Related to IRWM Governance, Stakeholder Involvement and Outreach Section**

Supporting Document Title	Relation to IRWM Plan Governance, Stakeholder Involvement, and Outreach Section
1. SLO Region IRWM Program Participants Memorandum of Understanding (2012)	The MOU establishes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions of IRWM common terms</li> <li>• Program participant roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Decision-making processes</li> </ul>
2. San Luis Obispo County IRWM Communications and Outreach Plan (2013) <sup>2</sup>	The Communications and Outreach Plan establishes how communication will flow and be managed throughout the life of the IRWM Plan Update. The Communications and Outreach Plan was developed in response to the DWR outreach requirement to build a solid, inclusive, and representative agency. The plan also addresses including local stakeholders and disadvantaged communities, as required as part of the IRWM planning process.

<sup>2</sup> IRWM Plan and program updates concerning communications and current efforts can be found at: <http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Frequent%20Downloads/Integrated%20Regional%20Water%20Management%20Plan/>

## B.1 STATE IRWM GUIDELINES: GOVERNANCE AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT STANDARDS

The 2012 Proposition 84 and 1E IRWM Program Guidelines (State Guidelines) provided the lead document for the approach and content required for the Region’s IRWM Plan Update. These Guidelines update prior IRWM Guidelines and reflect current legislation impacting what should be included in IRWM Plans throughout the state of California. The Guidelines’ IRWM Plan Standards discuss specific elements that must be part of an IRWM Plan, and are included in the IRWM Plan requirement tables located in **Appendix Q – State Guideline Requirements Tables**.

## B.2 IRWM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Development and implementation of the Region’s IRWM Plan is a collaborative effort undertaken by the Region’s Program Participants.

The governing body, known as the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), consists of local agencies and IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations from the SLO Region and one Lead Agency that represents the SLO IRWM Region in interregional and statewide coordination. The IRWM Program Participants, governance structure, and stakeholder involvement are described herein.

### B.2.1 Regional Water Management Group

The legislation and the State IRWM Guidelines defines a RWMG as a group that includes three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or management, as well as those other persons necessary for the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. This section describes the water management powers and authorities that satisfy the requirements for a RWMG. The member agencies are listed to the right.

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP	
San Luis Obispo County	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Heritage Ranch CSD
California Men’s Colony	Land Conservancy
Cambria CSD	Los Osos CSD
City of Arroyo Grande	Morro Bay National Estuary Program
City of Grover Beach	Nipomo CSD
City of Morro Bay	Oceano CSD
City of Paso Robles	Templeton CSD
City of Pismo Beach	San Miguel CSD
City of San Luis Obispo	San Simeon CSD
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement	S&T Mutual Water Company
	Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

The purpose of the RWMG is to: 1) engage elected officials and water resource management leaders, 2) represent public and stakeholder groups, 3) resolve conflicts, 4) build political support, and 5) achieve a unified front for the IRWM Plan’s implementation of Regional water projects. Through the *San Luis Obispo County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*, included as **Appendix B**, San Luis Obispo Local Agencies<sup>3</sup> or IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations came together and formed the RWMG. The MOU establishes the RWMG as follows:

*The Region’s RWMG members are signatories to this MOU, have adopted the current Plan, and may designate a representative to participate in RWMG activities and its Working Group. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The RWMG has the capacity to carry out projects (i.e., financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). The agencies/organizations that form the RWMG may have planning or implementation projects eligible for State IRWM grants.*

The MOU signatories are again listed in **Table B-2** to establish the cross section of agency types. Each has designated a RWMG member to represent their respective agencies and to work collaboratively in providing the expertise and timely information in the review and development of the IRWM Plan. **Figure B-1** shows how the RWMG meets California Water Code (CWC) §10539 and is sufficient in breadth of membership and participation to develop and implement the IRWM Plan. The MOU is primarily used as a method of clarifying the governance structure and allowing members and other stakeholders to understand how to participate in the IRWM Plan development and implementation.

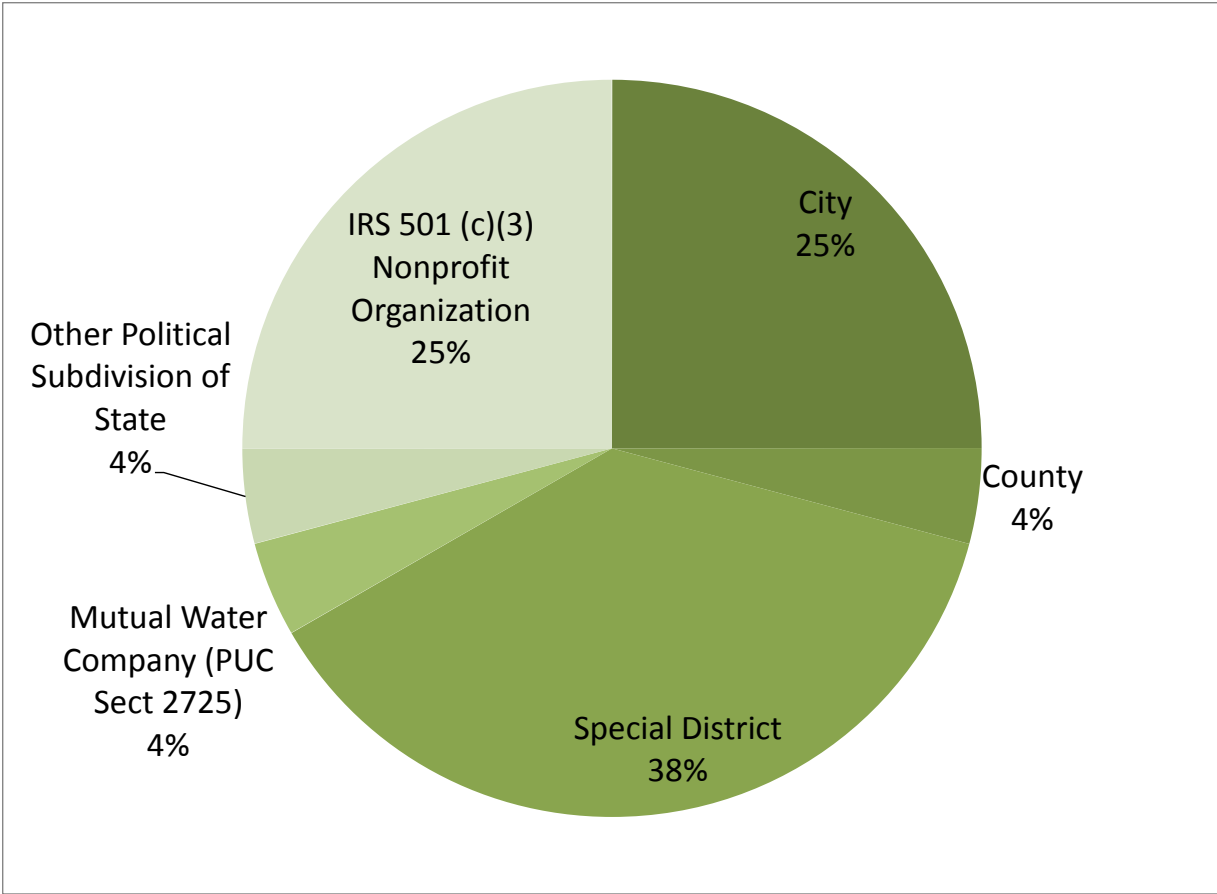
The categorical make-up of the RWMG among municipalities (includes land-use), water resources agencies, environmental/non-profit organizations, and special districts is shown in **Figure B-1**. The figure provides the percentage of each agency category based on membership in the RWMG. **Table B-2** indicates all four agencies designated as disadvantaged communities<sup>4</sup> (DACs) in San Luis Obispo County are represented in the RWMG.

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<sup>3</sup>Any city, county, special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the state, a public utility as defined in Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code, or a mutual water company as defined in Section 2725 of the Public Utilities Code.

<sup>4</sup> DAC definition provided in DWR's Proposition 84 and 1E IRWM Guidelines: “a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income (PRC §75005 (g)).”  
<<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/guidelines.cfm>>





*Figure B-1. General Composition of the RWMG based on Membership*

**Table B-2. Regional Water Management Group Membership List (as of April,7 2014)**

Agency or Organization	Local Agency							IRS 501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization	San Luis Obispo IRWM Sub-Regions Represented		
	City	County	Special District	Public Utility (PUC Sect 216)	Mutual Water Company (PUC Sect 2725)	Joint Powers Authority	Other Political Subdivision of State		North Coast	North County	South County
1. San Luis Obispo County		X							X	X	X
2. San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District			X						X	X	X
3. California Men's Colony							X		X		
4. Cambria CSD			X								
5. City of Arroyo Grande	X										X
6. City of Grover Beach	X										X
7. City of Morro Bay	X								X		
8. City of Paso Robles	X									X	
9. City of San Luis Obispo*	X										X
10. Central Coast Salmon Enhancement								X	X	X	X
11. Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District								X	X		X
12. Heritage Ranch CSD			X							X	
13. Land Conservancy								X	X	X	X
14. Los Osos CSD			X						X		
15. Morro Bay National Estuary Program								X	X		
16. Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee								X		X	
17. Nipomo CSD			X								X
18. Oceano CSD*			X								X
19. City of Pismo Beach	X										X
20. San Miguel CSD*			X							X	
21. San Simeon CSD*			X						X		
22. S&T Mutual Water Company					X				X		
23. Templeton CSD			X							X	
24. Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District								X	X	X	

\* State Designated DAC <<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>>

### **B.2.1.2 RWMG Members**

New members can be incorporated into the RWMG by executing the MOU and adopting the IRWM Plan.

#### ***B.2.2 Lead Agency – San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)***

The District is a member of the RWMG, but also serves as the approving body and Lead Agency for the IRWM Plan’s development. Given its regional framework and geographic scope, the District was viewed as an appropriate agency to act as RWMG Lead Agency. The District was established by the California Legislature in 1945 with the passage of the "San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act." The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors; its boundaries are co-terminus with the County of San Luis Obispo (see **Figure B-2** for IRWM Region and 3 Sub-Regions), and its board members and staff are the same as those who act separately on behalf of the County of San Luis Obispo. Pursuant to the 1945 legislation, the primary services of the District include or cover:

1. Management of flood and storm waters
2. Conserving waters for beneficial purposes
3. Protecting life and property
4. Preventing waste or diminution of the water supply
5. Obtaining, retaining, and reclaiming waters for beneficial use, including the purchase and sale of water within the district
6. Providing for incidental recreational activities

As the Lead Agency with responsibility for San Luis Obispo County’s regional water planning and the implementation of Regional water supply projects, the District essentially acts in two capacities:

1. gathers data, identifies issues, coordinates stakeholder review, and recommends solutions. The general regional data gathering, planning, and coordination efforts are funded in the District’s budget from its general property tax allocations;
2. implements specific projects and programs, typically on a sub-regional basis, relating to the services identified above. Sub-regional projects, programs, and services are typically funded from revenues provided by participating agencies, organizations, and other parties benefiting from the services.

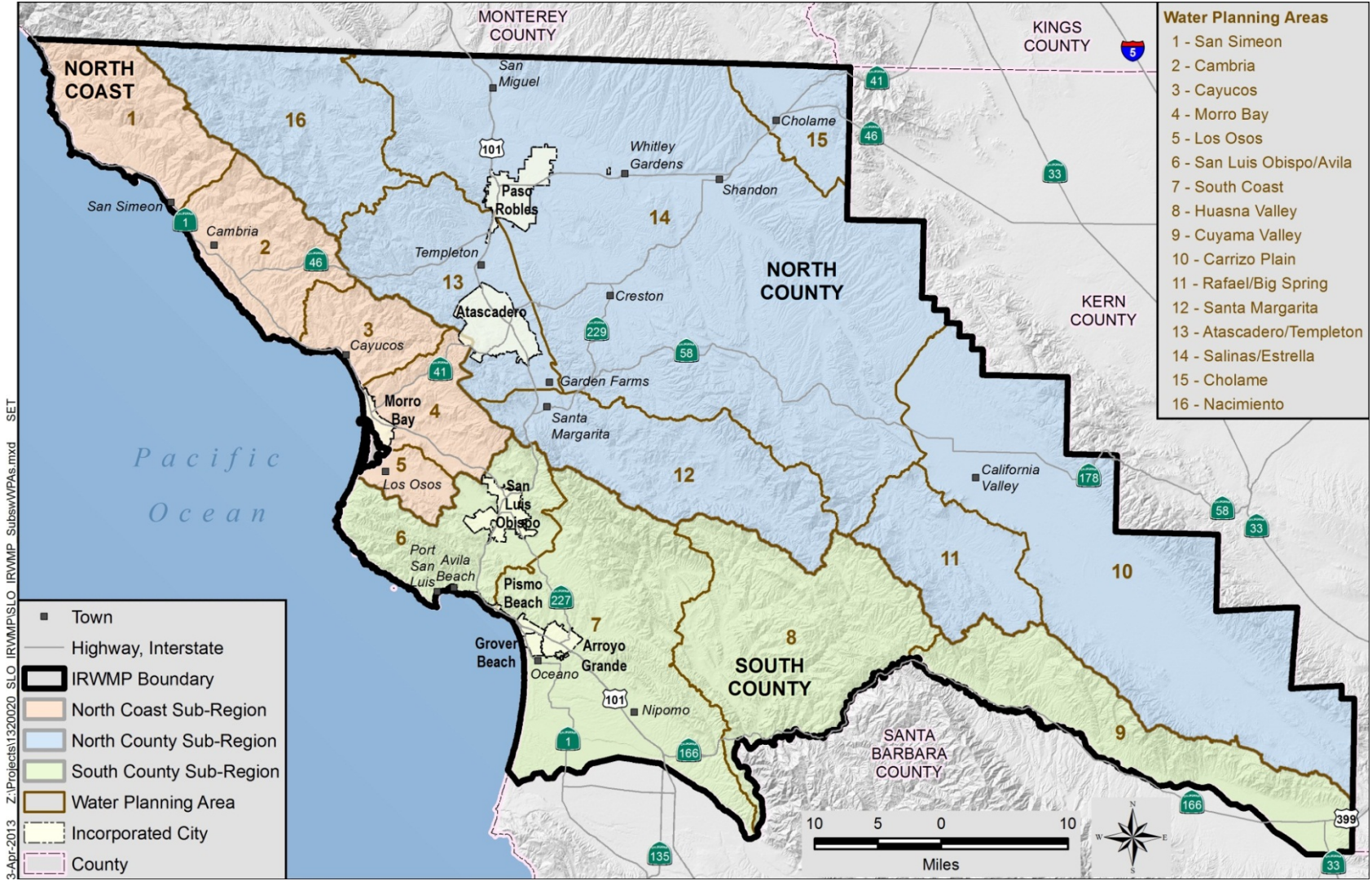


Figure B-2. San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWMP) Region and Three Sub-Regions

### ***B.2.3 Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC)***

The Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) is an advisory body made up of citizens and governmental representatives, including elected officials, appointed by the District's Board of Supervisors to advise the Board on water resource projects and policies in the Region. The WRAC has 34 members representing 23 agencies, organizations, or associations, along with at-large members representing the agricultural, environmental, and developmental communities. For more than 50 years, WRAC hearings have been the primary forum for the regional review of water resource issues and details. The WRAC's many purposes include developing recommendations for the District's Board. This makes the WRAC the most obvious forum for stakeholder participation in IRWM planning. **Table B-3** identifies the member agencies of the District's WRAC.

The District, in conjunction with the WRAC, developed the original 2005 IRWM Plan and 2007 IRWM Plan update. The WRAC offered a broad stakeholder base, as well as solid regional perspectives on the water resources. The WRAC will continue to serve as an important stakeholder base, as well as critical advisor to the District Board of Supervisors.

### ***B.2.4 Implementation Affiliates***

The Implementation Affiliates include Local Agencies and IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that eventually adopt the IRWM Plan by resolution, but are not to be signatories of the MOU. The purpose of this participant tier is to allow agencies and organizations to submit projects and programs for consideration in the IRWM Plan, even if they cannot participate in the IRWM Plan development. The Implementation Affiliates have the capacity to carry out projects (i.e., adequate financial resources, developed management structures, and adequate staffing). In order to have a planning or implementation project eligible for state IRWM grants, agencies must be an Implementation Affiliate if they are not a part of the RWMG.

### ***B.2.5 Interested Stakeholders***

The interested stakeholders include individuals, organizations, and nonprofits (including those that are not IRS 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations) who are interested in the IRWM program. The interested stakeholders may sign a letter of support for the IRWM Plan, or otherwise provide input to the RWMG, but would not be eligible for directly receiving state IRWM grant funds.

**Table B-3. Water Resource Advisory Committee Membership List**

<b>Agency/Organization Represented</b>	<b>Agency/Organization Interests</b>
Agriculture At-Large	Agriculture
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Water Purveyor
California Mens Colony	Water and Wastewater
Cambria CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Camp San Luis Obispo	Water and wastewater
City of Arroyo Grande	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Atascadero	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Grover Beach	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Morro Bay	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Paso Robles	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Pismo Beach	Municipal water and wastewater
City of San Luis Obispo	Municipal water and wastewater
Coastal San Luis RCD	Natural Resources Conservation
County Board of Supervisors District 1	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 2	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 3	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 4	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 5	Water Resources
County Farm Bureau	Agriculture
Cuesta Community College	Water and wastewater
Development At-Large	Development
Environmental At-Large	Environmental
Golden State Water	Water Purveyor
Heritage Ranch CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Los Osos CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Nipomo CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Oceano CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
San Miguel CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
San Simeon CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Templeton CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCD	Natural Resources Conservation
Flood Control District staff	Regional water interests

## B.3 IRWM ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### B.3.1 Governance Structure

The MOU defines the purpose of the RWMG, its membership, other Program Participants, and each participant’s role and responsibility in program development and implementation. **Figure B-3** illustrates the IRWM Plan’s governance and organizational structure, as well as functional relationships of the various IRWM Program Participants.

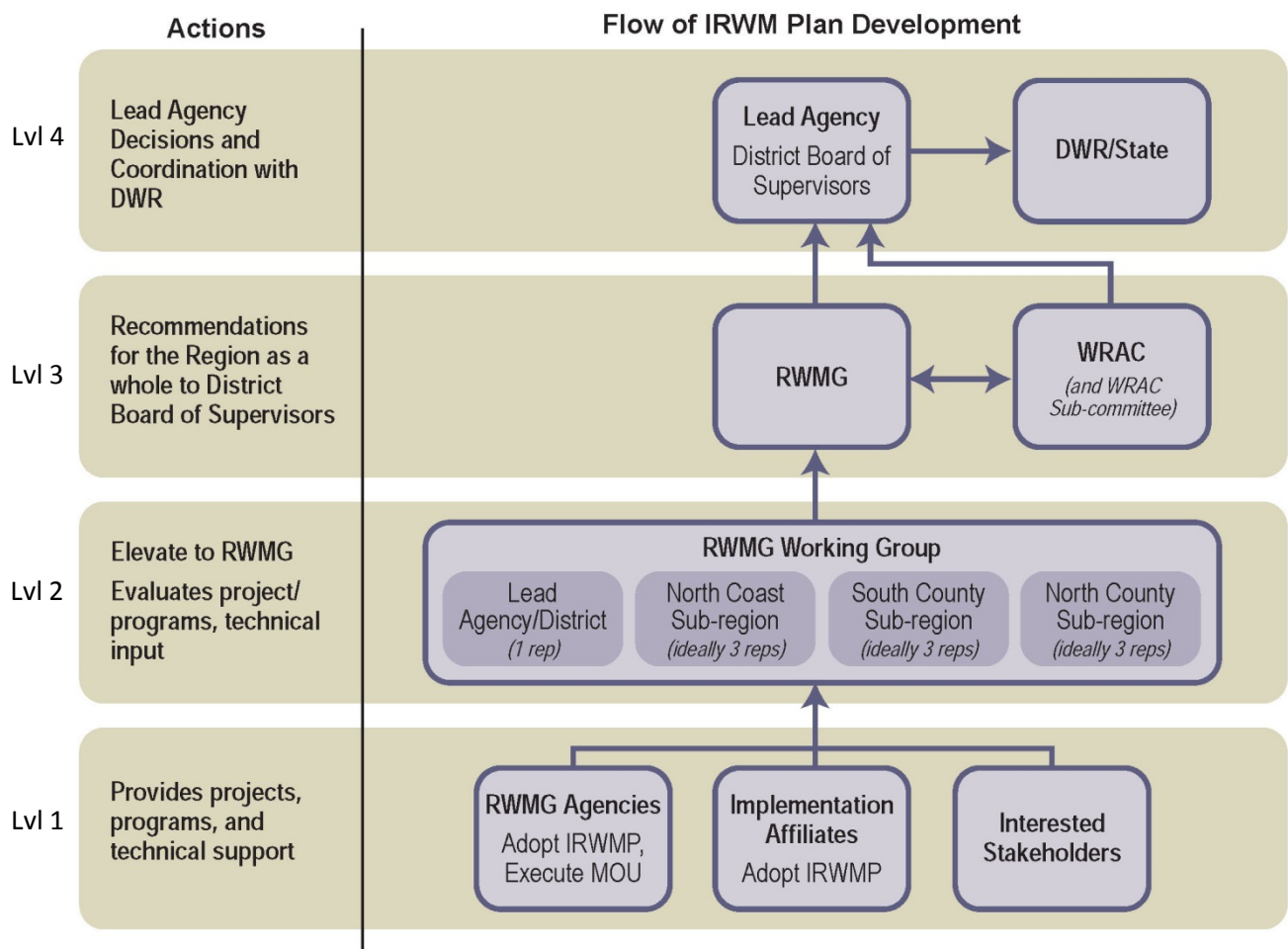


Figure B-3. IRWM Program Governance Structure



Starting at the bottom level (Lvl 1) of **Figure B-3**, three categories are provided to capture the entire population of stakeholders and interest groups. Information filters up to the Lead Agency decision-makers through a “bottom-up-approach,” where stakeholders and individual agencies/organizations provide input to a RWMG Working Group (Lvl 2) at the sub-regional level. This is done through a number of communication conduits, described in **Section B.3.2** below. This group of RWMG representatives then uses stakeholder input to draft IRWM Plan section updates and refine the IRWM program.

The second level from the top (Lvl 3) of **Figure B-3** focuses on regional review and decision making for the IRWM program. Via public meetings, the RWMG considers draft IRWM Plan sections, documents, and recommendations. The RWMG provides a regional perspective, as compared to the RWMG Working Group focused on each distinct Sub-Region. Because of its broad stakeholder composition and direct link as advisors to the Lead Agency’s Board of Supervisors, the WRAC provides review of content and at key decision points of the IRWM Plan. The RWMG will seek WRAC support of its recommendations at key decision points (e.g., for IRWM Plan approval and adoption by the District Board of Supervisors). Once the IRWM Plan is approved (Lvl 4) and adopted by the District Board of Supervisors (Board of the Lead Agency) and San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, other RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates will adopt the IRWM Plan. As a final step, the District will submit the IRWM Plan to DWR for approval.

The Communications and Outreach Plan ensures that all relevant communications are elevated from the RWMG Working Group and Sub-Region discussions to the RWMG for consideration. The RWMG members will consider all comments and concerns recorded from these discussions, and weigh them during their review of the IRWM Plan. The Communications and Outreach Plan defines processes for interactions between participant tiers, which is further described in **Section B.4.1**.

### ***B.3.2 Decision Making Process***

Decisions are made by simple majority vote at the RWMG meetings and then elevated to the Lead Agency Board of Supervisors as needed for final approval and coordination with DWR. Decision-making protocol defined in the MOU states:

*The RWMG shall develop IRWM program materials and will make recommendations to the Lead Agency at key decision points of the IRWM program. Written input from the member representatives will be sought between the RWMG members in the event the need for a decision arises that cannot be brought forth to the RWMG before a decision needs to be made. The*



*District, by way of its Public Works Department, shall notify the RWMG agencies of recommendations being taken to the District's Board of Supervisors for action.*

The Communications and Outreach Plan further defines the RWMG quorum as a simple majority of the RWMG representatives attending any meeting. Decisions are made by a simple majority vote of the RWMG member representatives present at a meeting. Of course, consensus is the goal and will be achieved whenever possible. Stakeholders are invited to attend and provide input at all RWMG meetings; however, decision making votes will only include RWMG member representatives.

If decisions cannot be made, the governance structure allows for a public hearing process to consider the differing perspectives, as stated in the MOU:

*The District's Board of Supervisors may approve, alter, or return any said recommendation of the RWMG. Furthermore, if the District's Board of Supervisors intends to alter an item or proposition approved by the RWMG, the District's Board of Supervisors shall set forth in writing its findings, after which the Board will hold a public hearing. The RWMG agencies shall have the right to appear and address the District's Board of Supervisors.*

#### **B.4 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESSES**

Public and stakeholder involvement have been integrated into the decision-making process in a manner that ensures education, awareness, balanced opportunity to participate, and clear communication conduits. One of the goals of the public and stakeholder involvement is to strengthen overall regional capacity to move forward toward the goals of IRWM over a longer term planning horizon.

*It is the expressed aim to both fortify the core group of active and engaged regional and sub-regional representatives, i.e., the WRAC, who are motivated and equipped to meet the formidable challenges involved in planning for increased water reliability, water sustainability, flood management, water quality, water supply, environmental benefits, among others within the context of a rapidly changing climate, increased political pressure, and diminishing resources as well as stretch the membership and extend meaningful stakeholder participation.*

Apart from building relationships and capacity, stakeholder involvement facilitates overall assimilation of information to achieve a more water-aware culture that moves beyond

traditional alliances to a more comprehensive vision which is realistic in relation to the watersheds in which we live and the water resources we share. As of the most recent census, San Luis Obispo County had just over a quarter of a million people (just over 274,000<sup>5</sup>), all of whom consume water and all of whom are stakeholders. While it unrealistic to reach every single person in the county, the IRWM Plan takes into account each and every person in its inclusive Planning process, particularly in recognition of the fact that the majority of water consumption is in rural areas.

#### ***B.4.1 Communications and Outreach Plan***

The first task undertaken in the IRWM Plan Update as it related to Stakeholder Involvement was the development and generation of a Communications and Outreach Plan. This Plan was developed over a number of months with the participation of the WRAC as well as stakeholders and the public. It was reviewed at several public meetings, augmented and finally adopted by the RWMG in May, 2013.

One of the two IRWM governance guidance documents is the Communications and Outreach Plan. The Communications and Outreach Plan is a simple guide on how communication will flow and be managed through the life of the IRWM Program.

*The purpose of the Outreach Plan is to satisfy DWR outreach requirements and build a solid, inclusive, and representative agency, stakeholder, and DAC base that is supportive of the aims of the IRWM Plan.*

The Communications and Outreach Plan is built upon the MOU (See **Appendix B**) and identifies the IRWM Program Participants (RWMG, WRAC, RWMG Working Group, Implementation Affiliates and stakeholders) involved in the IRWM Plan Update, and describes the planned and periodic communications to occur between the entities. The Communications and Outreach Plan is not intended to prescribe new protocols for the entities, i.e., the Communications and Outreach Plan does not establish communication guidelines for the WRAC, but instead characterizes what types of communication are used and how communication proceeds to facilitate the overall goals of the IRWM Plan Update.

*The Communications and Outreach Plan also discussed:*

- Scheduled written and oral communications and forums
- Responses to requests for information
- Open questions to the IRWM entities and questions that come up in the work groups

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<sup>5</sup> <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06079.html>>

- Frequency of scheduled communications
- Responsible person(s) for providing information

The Communications and Outreach Plan identifies the procedures to be used to manage communication for the project. The Communications and Outreach Plan focuses on formal communication elements. Other communication channels exist on informal levels and enhance those discussed in the Communications and Outreach Plan. This Communications and Outreach Plan was not intended to limit, but rather to enhance the exchange of information. Open, ongoing communication among actively engaged stakeholders is critical to the success of the overall IRWM.

#### ***B.4.2 Program Management Team (PMT)***

The PMT provides oversight and coordination of the IRWM Plan development. The PMT includes District staff, consultants (as needed), and Sub-Region leads. The roles and responsibilities of the PMT includes scheduling RWMG meetings, directing tasks, setting milestones and reviewing progress, providing resources, forming work groups, sponsoring workshops, managing internal and external IRWM Plan communications, and ensuring that DWR IRWM Plan requirements are met.

#### ***B.4.3 RWMG Working Group and Workshops***

The purpose of the RWMG Working Group is to coordinate technical resources, agency staff, and stakeholders for addressing specific topics or assignments, and to provide draft findings and recommendations to the RWMG (and WRAC). All RWMG members and interested parties are given an opportunity to participate or invite others to participate at Working Group-led workshops. RWMG Working Group activities may include:

- defining the project review process and criteria
- reviewing and defining water resources management strategies, etc.

Workshops in each of the three IRWM Sub-Regions are convened to engage community members who have relevant expertise and/or an interest in water resources management. Initially, workshops served as an outreach function to inform stakeholders and other organizations about the IRWM Plan and program. Other workshops purposes included:

- obtain data,
- identification of issues and opportunities related goals and objectives development, and project review process,
- review of draft findings on resource management strategies and on Sub-Region project review solicitation and prioritization,

- review of draft findings on Sub-Region project review solicitation and prioritization, and/or
- to provide input to the PMT and RWMG.

To ensure that the IRWM Plan remains relevant and includes current information, future workshops will be held to review and update the project/program list, and review changes in State Guidelines relative to the IRWM Plan.

#### ***B.4.4 Public Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)***

The IRWM Region has four (4) designated DACs as follows:

**Community of San Miguel  
Community of San Simeon**

**Community of Oceano  
City of San Luis Obispo**

All four DACs are signatories to the MOU and are represented in the RWMG. All public outreach and communication efforts include and support the involvement of the SLO IRWM Region's DACs. Targeted outreach was conducted with DACs as well as rural water users, ranchers, and other water users within agriculture and agricultural-related industries.

Targeted Visioning Workshops were organized in March 2013 to kick-off workshops organized for sub-regional participation. As such, the targeted outreach was organized and executed to accomplish the following goals:

- To inform the public about the existence of the IRWM Program, its history and benefits
- To re-engage and activate the public and stakeholders in the IRWM Plan Update, encouraging participation by new stakeholders and members of the public

Targeted outreach to DACs, rural and agricultural communities has presented its own set of challenges and opportunities because water use and usage patterns differ greatly from uses in urban centers. Typical barriers to DAC participation in the IRWM planning process are different from other communities and extend well beyond just technical issues to include economic, cultural, and social considerations. In recognition of this, each workshop/focus group was geographically distributed within the Sub-Region to ensure the ability of the largest number of DAC stakeholders to participate. The first step was to identify DACs that had an interest and stake in the planning outcome. This is accomplished by developing and maintaining a comprehensive listing of DAC representatives, and as applicable, community organizations, environmental stewardships organizations, and advocacy groups as part of the overall project stakeholder list. Newly identified stakeholders are then added to the existing list of environmental and community stakeholders.

The RWMG was active in organizing and assisting in leading these workshops. The sub-regional meetings were conducted in a manner consistent with the needs of the Sub-Region and a minimum of two Visioning Workshops were conducted in each of the Sub-Regions, for a grand total of seven public and DAC Visioning Workshops. The workshops were located in familiar venues, such as community centers and other locations frequented by local groups, and the meeting scheduling and arrangements were designed to maximize participation. The RWMG worked with trusted community partners, including community organizations, homeowners associations, schools and advocacy groups who assisted in grassroots participation in the workshops. The anticipated outcome of the workshops was the education of the DAC communities and public about the IRWM program, the opportunities for participation, and the need for on-going engagement. The workshops were well-promoted, well-attended, and resulted in a great amount of public comment, dialogue, and information exchange that ultimately assisted in the formation of sub-regional goals and priorities.

As an additional outreach task, a presentation of the IRWM Plan was given to the San Luis Obispo County Cattlemen's Association in September 2013. The purpose was to engage and solicit input from a group of stakeholders that had historically not been active in the IRWM process.

#### ***B.4.5 IRWM Plan Update Administration***

The District, as the Lead Agency, provides consultant contract administration and program management, as well as overall grant contract administration. This includes issuing task orders to consultants, acting as liaison to the State, reviewing consultant's work, managing project budget and schedule, and coordinating with agencies, neighboring IRWM regions, and other stakeholders.

The District is the submitting agency for selected grant applications. Additionally, the District is acting as fiduciary agent during IRWM Plan development, as well as acting as the Project Proponent for the Proposition 84 Plan Update Planning Grant awarded in 2012.

#### ***B.4.6 Public Information - Logo, Website, Brochures***

The District staff coordinates and facilitates regional outreach and public relations functions. Through this process, presentations and briefing materials are developed for use by RWMG members at regularly scheduled stakeholder business meetings. The District periodically provides public notice in local newspapers inviting all members of the public to attend outreach meetings that are being held.

A San Luis Obispo IRWM Plan logo (right) was selected to create brand recognition for the IRWM Plan effort.




A variety of media is used for the public outreach efforts to publicize the IRWM process and encourage participation, including the development of the IRWM Plan website.<sup>6</sup> The website (**Figure B-4**) is maintained by the District and used to publish meeting announcements and notes, presentations, briefings, and draft and final technical work products, including the draft and final IRWM Plan. Contact information is posted on the website so the public may contact with comments, questions, and concerns.

Brochures and documents used to raise awareness are prepared intermittently (e.g., to address frequently asked questions, to provide a status report). The RWMG members are encouraged to use their agencies' newsletters to publicize the IRWM activities and IRWM Plan development.

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<sup>6</sup><<http://www.slocountywater.org/site/Frequent%20Downloads/Integrated%20Regional%20Water%20Management%20Plan/>>

**San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management**



The 2013/14 IRWM Plan Update is underway!

Click [HERE](#) to view draft documents for the 2013/14 SLO County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update.

Click [HERE](#) for the 2007 IRWM Plan.

What is the IRWM?	Upcoming IRWM Meetings	Regional Water Management Group
<p>Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries</li> <li>▪ Involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups</li> <li>▪ Addresses regional issues and differing perspectives of all the entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions.</li> <li>▪ Develops multi-benefit solutions</li> </ul>	<p>Join the RWMG for its upcoming workshops and meeting focused on updating the Region's IRWM Subregional Priorities and Project Review Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>TBD RWMG Meeting Agenda (tentatively March 2014)</b> in San Luis Obispo</li> </ul> <p>For past meetings and workshops click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>San Luis Obispo County SLO Co Flood Control District California Men's Colony Cambria CSD City of Arroyo Grande City of Grover Beach City of Morro Bay City of Paso Robles City of Pismo Beach City of San Luis Obispo Central Coast Salmon Enhancement Coastal San Luis RCD Heritage Ranch CSD Land Conservancy Los Osos CSD Morro Bay National Estuary Program Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee Nipomo CSD Oceano CSD Templeton CSD San Miguel CSD San Simeon CSD S&amp;T Mutual Water Company Upper Salinas Las Tablas RCD</p>
<p><b>State News and Workshops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DRAFT ADDENDUM to State's 2012 IRWM Guidelines: IRWM Plan Review Process - <b>Comments to DWR by October 18, 2013</b></li> <li>▪ FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: Prop 84 Stormwater Grant Program for LID Projects - <b>Concept Proposals accepted by SWRCB Sept 9- Oct 17, 2013</b></li> <li>▪ PROPOSED WATER BOND: SB-42</li> </ul>	<p><b>2013/14 IRWMP Update: Latest Documents for Review</b></p> <p>We welcome comments on the following draft IRWMP Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Currently no draft sections are open for public comment. The compiled Draft IRWMP is slated to begin RWMG comment period in February 2014, and public comment in April 2014.</li> <li>▪ Click <a href="#">here</a> to view other draft or final sections for the 2013/14 SLO County</li> </ul>	

Figure B-4. San Luis Obispo IRWM Plan Website

### B.4.7 Public Meetings–Kickoff, Working Group Workshops, and RWMG Meetings

In an effort to provide opportunities for all stakeholders to give input to the IRWM Plan Update, all RWMG meetings and Sub-Region Workshops are open to the public. Interested members of the public have provided input throughout the IRWM Plan process at these public forums, and through written comments to District (acting as Lead Agency) staff and/or to the RWMG.

#### B.4.7.1 San Luis Obispo IRWM Plan Kick-off Meeting

A kick-off meeting<sup>7</sup> was held to increase public awareness of the proposed IRWM Plan, solicit input from the community, and describe the planning process and anticipated outcome. Invitations to the kick-off meeting were prepared to explain the IRWM planning process and the purpose of the RWMG. The meeting was publicly noticed and a press release was

<sup>7</sup> March 6, 2013, San Luis Obispo City Library

distributed (**Appendix D-1 – Notice of Public Meetings, Comments and Outreach Material, Public Meeting Notices**). The kick-off presentation described the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region and proposed IRWM Plan Update 2013/14 work plan, oversight, and established governance. The PMT and facilitator solicited input and addressed questions.

#### ***B.4.8 Use of Existing Organizations and Communication Channels***

In order for the District and RWMG to fairly and comprehensively represent the cities, communities, and agencies of the Region, it incorporated public outreach through existing programs and communication channels. Members of the RWMG relay information to their elected bodies and groups for further input. RWMG members are encouraged to continually inform their agencies/ organizations about IRWM Plan development activities. The list of contact information is updated periodically by the District, always maintaining a current list of contacts for outreach notices.<sup>8</sup>

##### **B.4.8.2 Environmental Justice**

Representation and communication from and to the five categories of resident-based contacts (i.e., special interest groups, water resources and environmental stakeholders, cities, and local communities) satisfy the need for the IRWM Plan’s recognition of Environmental Justice (EJ) in San Luis Obispo County, as it is defined in **Section I – Plan Benefits and Impacts**. Continued outreach using the list of contacts will ensure the highest level of interaction with potential residents affected by EJ issues.

##### **B.4.8.3 Tribal Councils**

The two prominent Native American Tribes of San Luis Obispo are the Salinan and Northern Chumash Indian tribes. The Tribal Councils both meet on a regular basis and encourage active involvement by their members in the land use, construction, and policy decision making taking place by the RWMG, WRAC, and County Board of Supervisors levels. Contact information can be found on their websites provided in **Section C – Region Description**.

## **B.5 LONG TERM IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IRWM PLAN**

The RWMG worked successfully throughout the IRWM planning process, encouraged stakeholder involvement and defined an effective decision making process. The RWMG will

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<sup>8</sup> The list is not posted on the SLO IRWM Plan website since many stakeholders request not to have their personal contact information made public.



continue to utilize the existing governance structure and decision process during implementation of the IRWM Plan.

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the IRWM Plan, the RWMG and IRWM Program Participants agree to monitor the IRWM Plan implementation (see **Section J – Plan Performance and Monitoring**). This combined with the adaptive nature of the IRWM program will allow changes to be made throughout the life of the program. If significant changes are necessary in the future, the RWMG and Lead Agency are required to follow the same steps as taken with this IRWM Plan to update and then re-adopt a revised IRWM Plan.

#### ***B.5.1 Notice of Intent to Prepare the IRWM Plan***

The Lead Agency, on behalf of the RWMG, published a notice of intention to prepare the IRWM Plan Update 2013/14 in accordance with Section 6066 of the Government Code.

#### ***B.5.2 Updating or Amending the IRWM Plan***

An adaptive management process creates a balance between a stable plan that guides action, and a flexible plan that allows for responding to changed circumstances. The approach to updating and amending the IRWM Plan is intended to ensure its effective implementation over time and to make the IRWM Plan a living document. The MOU differentiates between the need for formal IRWM Plan adoption *versus* interim changes as follows:

*Plan approval and adoption will be required of the governing bodies of RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates.*

*Plan updates to meet new State guidelines, add new RWMG Members, add or remove and evaluate regional projects and programs, or other updates to information do not require Plan re-adoption.*

*Significant changes to the Plan, including revised goals and objectives, revised methodologies (such as methodology for evaluating, ranking, and prioritizing projects and programs), revised regional boundaries, or other changes deemed significant by the RWMG and the Lead Agency, will require Plan re-adoption via the decision-making process described in MOU Section 4.5.*

**Figure B-5** delineates common revisions expected to the IRWM Plan over time, and whether they would constitute re-adoption or a simple interim update. The main difference will lie in whether the change is significant or not. If information can be updated under the IRWM Plan's

defined methodologies, then a simple process of convening the RWMG members and vetting updated information can be used.

For example, the RWMG will need to maintain a priority list of projects and programs over time. Updating the Project Priority list will follow the adopted methodology defined in **Section G Project Solicitation, Selection, and Prioritization** to publicly solicit for projects and programs, review project abstracts, and select the highest ranking of those projects for implementation in the IRWM Plan as project alternatives; further described in **Section H – Project Integration-Project Alternatives**, and **Section I – Plan Impacts and Benefits**.

Lastly, the Plan’s appendices are established by the RWMG as the mechanism for keeping the IRWM Plan current as reports are updated and baseline descriptive information changes over time. This keeps the Plan a living document after its adoption without having to re-adopt and republish the entire Plan with each reported change.

### ***B.5.3 IRWM Plan Adoption***

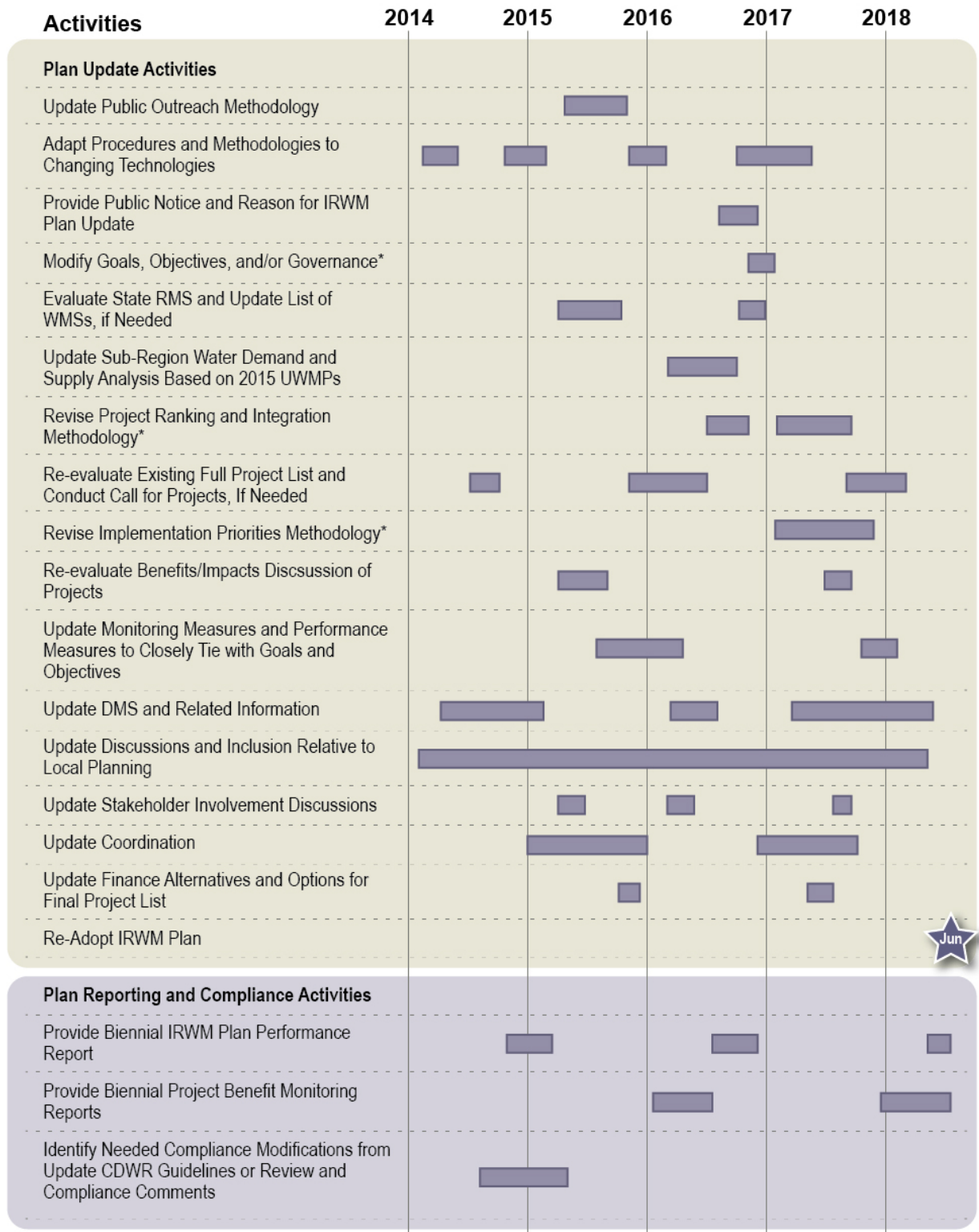
Pursuant to California Water Code 10543(c), upon completion of the IRWM Plan Update 2013/14, the Lead Agency, on behalf of the RWMG, will publish a Notice of Intention to adopt the plan in accordance with Section 6066 of the Government Code, and will adopt the plan in a public meeting with its governing board.

Once approved and adopted by the District Board of Supervisors (Lead Agency), other RWMG members, and Implementation Affiliates will adopt the IRWM Plan. As a final step, the District will submit the IRWM Plan to DWR for review and approval.

Future IRWM Plan updates will be noticed in accordance with the relevant California laws.

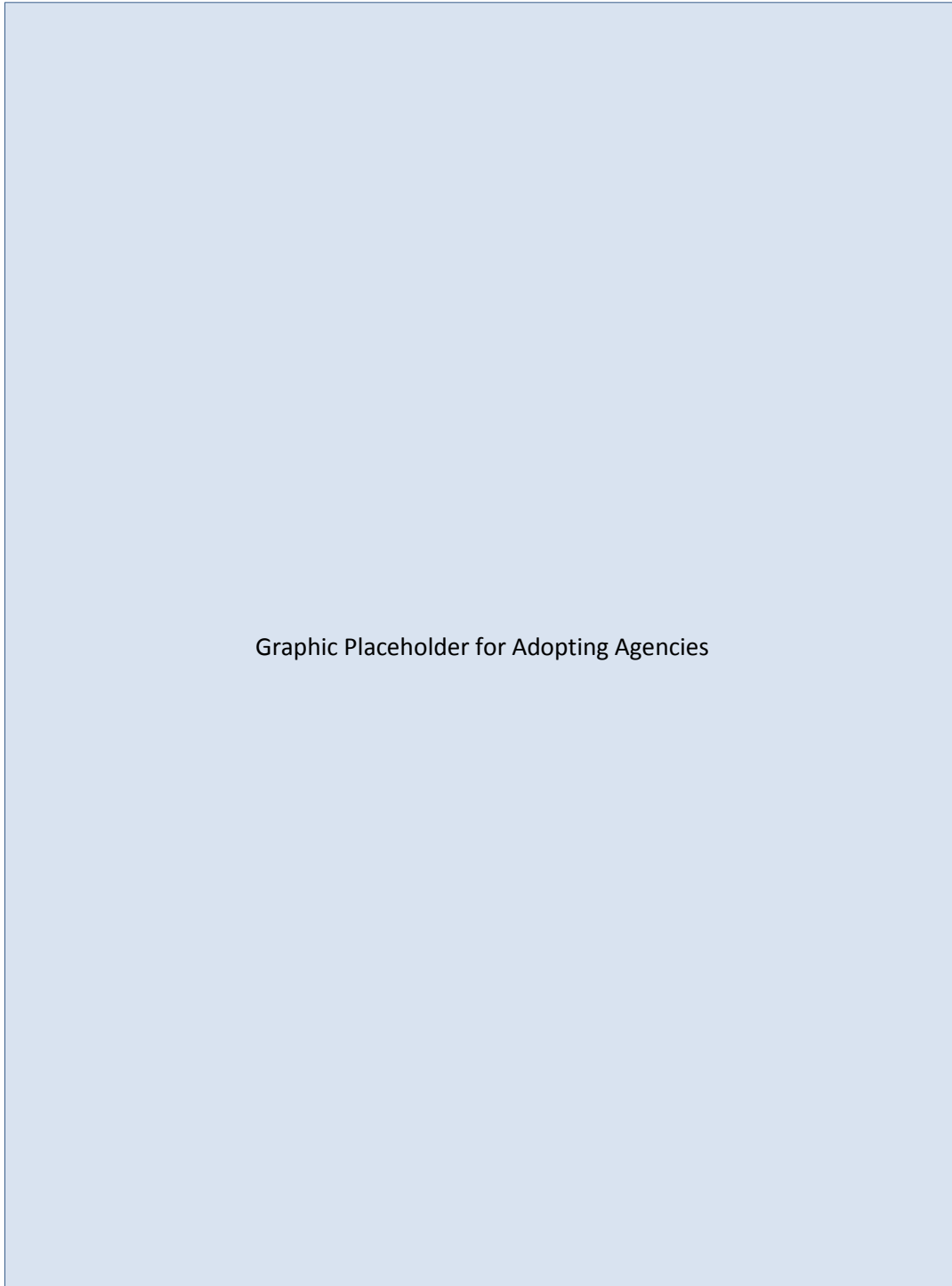
**Figure B-6** includes the RWMG Member Agencies and Implementation Affiliates who adopted the IRWM Plan in 2014. To be done at very end.

### IRWM Plan Update Schedule



\* Constitutes Plan Re-Adoption

Figure B-5. San Luis Obispo IRWM Plan Re-Adoption vs. Interim Updates



***Figure B-6. RWMG Member Agencies and Implementation Affiliates who Adopted the IRWM Plan (2014)***

#### ***B.5.4 Coordination with Neighboring IRWM Efforts and State and Federal Agencies***

The IRWM Program's success relies on internal and regional coordination and collaboration, as well as inter-regional and statewide coordination. To the extent feasible, the Lead Agency coordinates with neighboring IRWM Regions and state and federal agencies. This is further discussed in **Section O – Coordination**.

The SLO County IRWM Region is bordered by the Greater Monterey County IRWM Region to the north, the Santa Barbara County and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM Regions to the south, and the Kern County IRWM Region to the east. The Lead Agency participates in Roundtable of Regions conference calls and meetings throughout the year in order to keep apprised of current activities in other regions. As needed, water resources issues that overlap neighboring region's boundaries are either covered by existing cooperative water management plans, adjudication, and/or operational agreements, or have no defining water resources management issue. The RWMG will continue to coordinate with neighboring regions to address additional water resources issues and possible integrated water management strategies in our respective IRWM Plans.

On a broader scale, coordination with state and federal agencies allows the Region to seek input on the IRWM Plan and program. The RWMG coordinates with state and federal agencies as needed to form project partnerships, consider state and federal priorities and programs, and funding for IRWM projects. From a state and federal standpoint, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Resources Control Board, and State Department of Water Resources are all current stakeholders of the IRWM program. All of the agencies are invited to participate, and/or were involved to the degree time and resources would allow. As discussed below, even where the agencies were not able to be actively engaged in all the IRWM Plan meetings, the available information, data, and agency plans were consulted. The resource agencies like California State Department of Fish and Wildlife Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services are currently not actively engaged. If any of the IRWM projects require federal permit, use federal money or involve federal lands, then the individual agencies implementing the projects will seek early consultation with the appropriate state and/or federal agencies. This will ensure that requirements, impacts, and potential mitigations are identified during planning and allow local interests to anticipate mitigation costs into projects designs. This will also help avoid costly scheduling delays.





