

EXECUTIVE OFFICER SUMMARY REPORT
April 11, 2012

ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: Information Item: Update from the Three Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Groups (*Laurie Walsh*)

PURPOSE: To describe the integrated regional water management planning and implementation efforts of the three San Diego Region IRWM Groups.

RECOMMENDATION(S): This item is an informational item only. No action will be taken by the San Diego Water Board.

KEY ISSUES: None

DISCUSSION: This item provides an opportunity for representatives of the three IRWM planning groups in the San Diego Region to jointly present the status of planning efforts and projects aimed at developing long-term water supply reliability, improving water quality, and protecting natural resources.

The three IRWM planning groups in the San Diego Region are designated as follows:

- San Diego IRWM
- South Orange County IRWM
- Upper Santa Margarita IRWM

These IRWM planning groups were established pursuant to the *Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act of 2002 (Act)* which amended the Water Code to encourage local water management agencies in California to work cooperatively to manage local and imported water supplies to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of those supplies. To achieve this goal, the Act encourages local water management agencies to prepare and adopt IRWM plans aimed at promoting integrated regional water management to ensure sustainable water uses, reliable water supplies, better water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, protection of agriculture, and a strong economy.

As an additional incentive, California voters passed various propositions in 2002 and 2006 to fund competitive grants for projects to improve the quality, quantity, and reliability of water supplies consistent with an approved IRWM plan. The IRWM Grant Program, administered by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), is designed to encourage water management agencies to work cooperatively towards improving the quality, quantity, and reliability of local and imported supplies through integrated water resources planning and implementation projects.

The IRWM Grant Program currently manages General Obligation Bond funds from Proposition 84, *Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006*. Proposition 84 appropriated \$1 billion dollars for IRWM projects and of this amount, \$91 million dollars was subsequently allocated to the San Diego Region to fund viable projects proposed by the three IRWM planning groups. During the first round of funding in 2011, DWR awarded San Diego Region IRWM planning groups \$1,457,416 dollars for planning projects and \$20,222,222 for implementation projects. This grant funding will be used to fund projects throughout the San Diego Region related to sustainable landscaping, regional recycled water use, invasive species removal, nutrient management, water conservation, and water data management.

Additional information can be found on the IRWM planning group websites at:

San Diego IRWM - www.sdirwmp.org.

South Orange County IRWM - http://www.ocwatersheds.com/wma_IRWM.aspx

Upper Santa Margarita IRWM - <https://www.ranchowater.com/irwmp.aspx>

LEGAL CONCERNS:

None

PUBLIC NOTICE:

This item was listed in the April 11, 2012 Board Meeting agenda notice that was mailed to the San Diego Water Board's agenda mail list of interested persons.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

