



**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Charles W. Ebeling, P.E., T.E., Public Works Director

**CONTACT:** Michael Winnewisser, Assistant Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Resolution adopting the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update 2019

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution No.19- \_\_ entitled "A Resolution of the City of Council of the City of Goleta, to adopt the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Update 2019."

**BACKGROUND:**

The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) began in 2005 and is a collaborative program to promote and practice integrated regional water management strategies to ensure sustainable water uses, reliable water supplies, better water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, and protection of agricultural and watershed awareness on a regional scale. Santa Barbara IRWM Region is coterminous with jurisdiction boundaries of Santa Barbara County. Santa Barbara IRWM is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Cooperating Partners. Cooperating Partners consists of approximately 30 agenciescounty wide (water, wastewater, and community services districts; all incorporated cities; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO); the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, and the County of Santa Barbara. The Santa Barbara IRWM Region is part of the Central Coast Funding Area (CCFA), which includes five (5) other IRWM Regions for a total of six (6) IRWM regions:

1. San Luis Obispo County IRWM
2. Greater Monterey County IRWM
3. Monterey Peninsula IRWM
4. Pajaro River Watershed IRWM
5. Santa Cruz County IRWM

The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Prop 50), required the development of regional water management plans in order to access funding for a wide range of water-related projects. In response to this,

Cooperating Partners in the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region developed a MOU to outline decision-making and cost-sharing for the IRWM program and development of the Region's IRWM Plan. Subsequently, the Region's first IRWM Plan was completed in 2007.

In November 2006, California voters approved Proposition 84 (Prop 84), the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, which provided additional funding for IRWM planning and projects. Participation in the IRWM Prop 84 Round I application for funding in 2010 resulted in the City being awarded \$1.2 million in funding for the San Jose Creek Capacity Improvement and Fish Passage Project (9009).

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1) provides additional IRWM funding including approximately \$8.5 million in project funding for the Santa Barbara IRWM region. The Santa Barbara IRWM Region received more than \$800,000 in funding in 2017 from the IRWM program under the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant, which funded projects within the City of Guadalupe and the Cuyama Valley. Project funding from the DWR through the IRWM program will be dispersed in two funding rounds. The draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Prop 1 first round funding was released by DWR in October 2018. The final PSP is expected in the winter of 2019, with application deadlines for first round funding expected in the spring/summer of 2019.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City has been a participant in the Santa Barbara Region IRWM program since 2007 and in May 2018 the most recent MOU was approved by the City Council for the City's ongoing participation as a Cooperating Partner. Per the MOU, the Cooperating Partners pay a portion of the funding required to implement the IRWM program. This cost varies from year to year depending on activities, such as revisions to the IRWM Plan. Each year the County of Santa Barbara pays 50 percent of the IRWM program costs and the other 50 percent is split between the remaining Cooperating Partners. Last year the City's contribution to the IRWM program was \$3,535.20. In order to be eligible for funding through the IRWM program, the City must participate in the MOU and adopt the IRWM Plan Update 2019. It is Public Works' recommendation that Council adopt this resolution to adopt the IRWM plan update 2019 and remain eligible for future funding through the IRWM program.

As a Cooperating Partner, the City participates in regular meetings and takes part in decisions pertaining to the IRWM planning process, project finances, consultant selection, revision of the IRWM Plan, and planning grant proposals. Cooperating Partners are also eligible to submit projects to the IRWM program for review and potential inclusion in an application for IRWM project implementation funding. It was through this process that the City received \$1.2 million for the San Jose Creek Capacity and Fish Passage Project.

In order to remain eligible for future funding, the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan required updates to conform to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2016 IRWM Guidelines. These updates resulted in the creation of the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update 2019 (IRWM Plan Update 2019). The IRWM Plan Update 2019 is a comprehensive update of the 2013 IRWM Plan, which was originally produced in 2007.

The key changes to the plan include the following: discussion of the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act within the region; a review and reassessment of climate change vulnerabilities in the context of recent events, including extended drought, wildfires, flooding, and a catastrophic debris flow, as well as new information; a review and update of the Plan's Resource Management Strategies; and content resulting from three subcommittees: the Water and Culture Subcommittee, the Climate Change Subcommittee, and the Disadvantaged Community and Vulnerable Communities Subcommittee; as well as revision to the Project Selection Process and revision to the Data Management System. The Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan Update 2019 and the Executive Summary are included as Attachments.

The City of Goleta is one of four Cooperating Partners in the Goleta area. The other three agencies are the Goleta Water District, the Goleta Sanitary District, and the Goleta West Sanitary District. The Isla Vista Community Services District (IVCSD), Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Committee and the University of California, Santa Barbara are stakeholders, but not Cooperating Partners.

The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update 2019 is available to view on the City of Goleta website located at <https://www.cityofgoleta.org/home/showdocument?id=21698>.

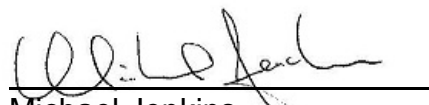
#### **FISCAL IMPACTS:**

There is no additional fiscal impact in adopting this resolution that adopts the IRWM Plan Update 2019.

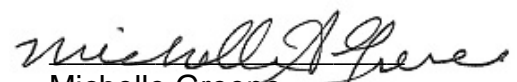
#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The Council may choose not to adopt the proposed resolution adopting the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update 2019. If the City were to elect not to adopt the IRWM Plan Update 2019, the City would no longer be eligible for future funding through the program.

#### **Legal Review By:**

  
Michael Jenkins  
City Attorney

#### **Approved By:**

  
Michelle Greene  
City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, California, to Adopt the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Update 2019
2. Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update 2019 – Executive Summary

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Goleta, to Adopt the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Update 2019



## **RESOLUTION NO. 19-XX**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA, CALIFORNIA, TO ADOPT THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, UPDATE 2019**

**WHEREAS**, in 2002 Senate Bill 1672 created the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Act to encourage local agencies to work cooperatively to manage and improve water supply reliability and water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002 California voters passed Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act, which provided \$500 million to fund competitive grants for projects consistent with an adopted IRWM Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005 Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Water Agency), along with 29 cities, special districts, joint powers authorities, non-governmental organizations, and water companies (Cooperating Partners) created a process to promote and practice integrated regional water management strategies through the development and adoption in 2007 of an IRWM Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, which provided \$5.388 billion statewide of which \$1 billion was allocated for IRWM; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013 the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan was updated in accordance with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2012 IRWM Plan Standards and Guidelines used to implement the Proposition 84 grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Agency acts as the single eligible grant recipient responsible for administration of IRWM grants, functioning as a pass-through agency between DWR and local project proponents; and

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of the Cooperating Partners, the Water Agency applied for and has been granted over \$30 million for 27 water related plans and projects within the Santa Barbara County IRWM region through Propositions 50 and 84; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2014 California voters passed Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act, which provides \$510 million

in IRWM funding for Implementation, Planning and Disadvantaged Community Involvement efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of the Cooperating Partners, the Water Agency applied for and has been allocated through Proposition 1, \$865,207 for Disadvantaged Community Involvement efforts and approximately \$6.3 million for Implementation projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan update 2019 was completed in accordance with DWR's 2016 IRWM Plan Standards and Guidelines used to implement the Proposition 1 grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Agency, on behalf of the Cooperating Partners, prepared a Notice of Exemption in accordance with CEQA for preparation of the 2019 IRWM Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the IRWM Plan Update 2019 is recommended for adoption by the City of Goleta.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GOLETA, AS FOLLOWS:**

That the City Council of the City of Goleta approves the following:

**SECTION 1.** The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Update 2019 in the form presented to the City Council on March 5, 2019, is hereby adopted.

**SECTION 2.** The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PAULA PEROTTE  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH S. LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL JENKINS  
CITY ATTORNEY



STATE OF CALIFORNIA                    )  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA        )       ss.  
CITY OF GOLETA                        )

I, DEBORAH S. LOPEZ, City Clerk of the City of Goleta, California, DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 19-\_\_ was duly adopted  
by the City Council of the City of Goleta at a regular meeting held on the \_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 by the following vote of the Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH S. LOPEZ  
CITY CLERK



## **ATTACHMENT 2**

Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update  
2019 – Executive Summary



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE 2019 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Prepared for :

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY IRWM COOPERATING PARTNERS







# **INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**UPDATE  
2019**

## ***Executive Summary***

*Prepared by:*

**DUDEK**

621 Chapala Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101





# Santa Barbara County IRWM Region

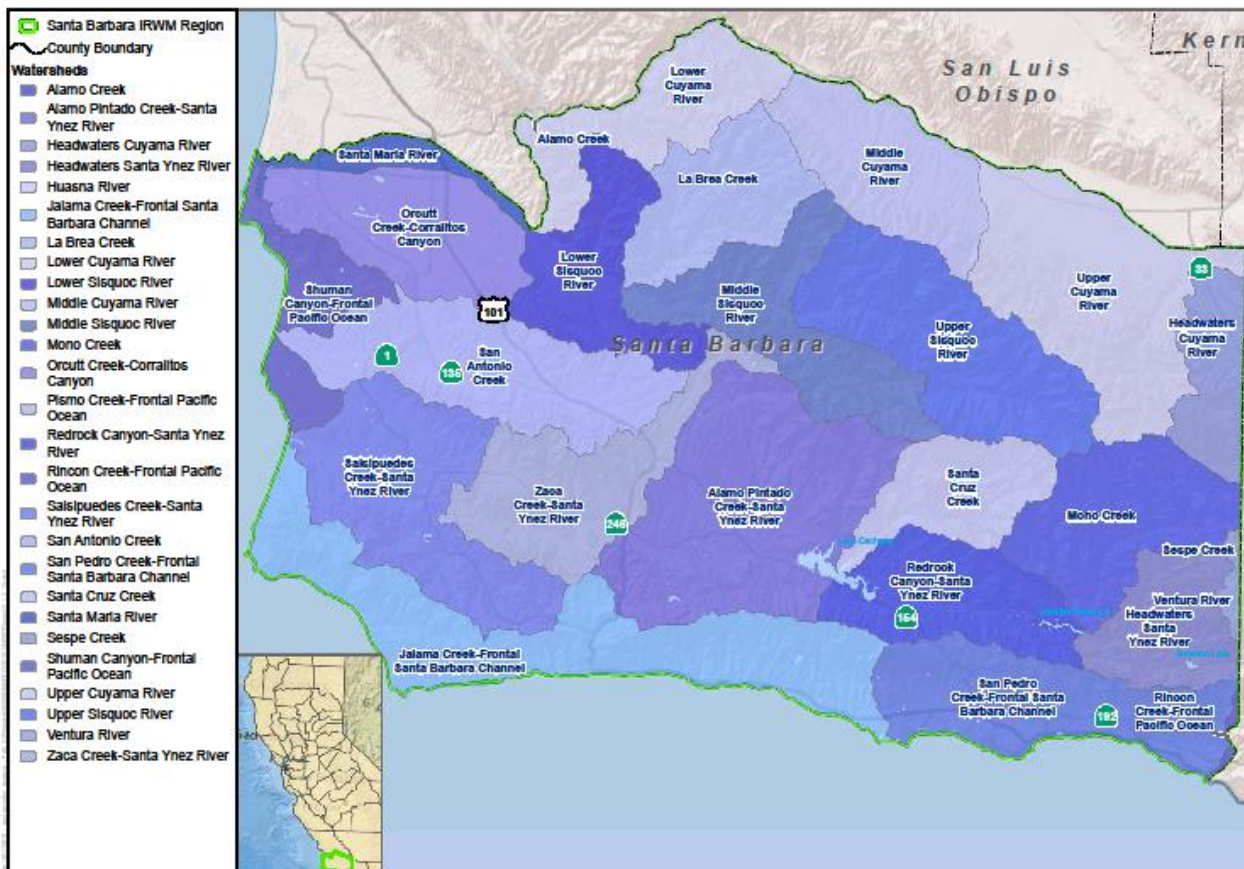
## IRWM Plan Update 2019

### Executive Summary

## THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT REGION

The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan has been prepared for the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region (Region), the boundaries of which are conterminous with the Santa Barbara County (County) boundaries. The Region includes a population of more than 446,000 residents as of July 1, 2016 (U.S. Census Bureau 2016b). The Region spans 2,745 square miles and includes eight incorporated cities: Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, Lompoc, Buellton, Solvang, Guadalupe, and Santa Maria. Combined, these cities occupy approximately 70 square miles. In addition to the incorporated areas, the Region has 21 different and distinct unincorporated communities and tremendous geographical diversity. The Region has five major watersheds and 100 miles of coastline (see Figure 1, Santa Barbara County IRWM Region and Watersheds). Elevations range from sea level to the highest peak of Big Pine Mountain at 6,828 feet, and there are 215,000 acres of Los Padres National Forest in the Region.

**Figure 1. Santa Barbara County IRWM Region and Watersheds**



# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

## **IRWM Plan Update 2019**

### ***Executive Summary***

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The regional boundaries for the Region were proposed by the Cooperating Partners of the Santa Barbara County IRWM and approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through the Regional Acceptance Process in 2009. The county jurisdictional boundary was determined to be appropriate for multiple practical management purposes and for maximizing the opportunities for integration of water management activities, including the following:

- Different sub-regions within the County share water supplies and infrastructure, and water is managed as an interconnected system within the County's boundaries.
- Water and wastewater management entities must address issues and challenges that are specific to the Region and that would benefit from integrated management.
- Many of the entities within the County have a long history of working together to resolve water issues, and a framework already exists for addressing key issues related to water resource management.
- The County is largely geographically separate from neighboring counties. The County abuts Kern County only along its sparsely populated northeast corner. The portions of the Rincon Creek watershed shared by Ventura County and the Cuyama River watershed shared by Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties have very low population densities, are smaller in size, and have no shared water infrastructure.

## **ABBREVIATED SANTA BARBARA COUNTY IRWM HISTORY AND SUCCESSES**

The Santa Barbara County IRWM program began in 2005 following the passage of Proposition 50, The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002. Chapter 8 of Proposition 50 authorized the legislature to appropriate \$500 million for IRWM planning, the intent of which was to encourage agencies to develop plans using regional water management strategies for water resources and to develop projects using these IRWM strategies to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. The Santa Barbara County IRWM developed and then adopted its first IRWM plan in 2007, and under Proposition 50 received \$25 million for 14 countywide projects (see Figure 2, IRWM Funding History). The IRWM Plan was updated under the Proposition 84 Guidelines in 2013. The Region is now updating the IRWM Plan under the Proposition 1 Guidelines. In 2018, the Region was awarded

# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

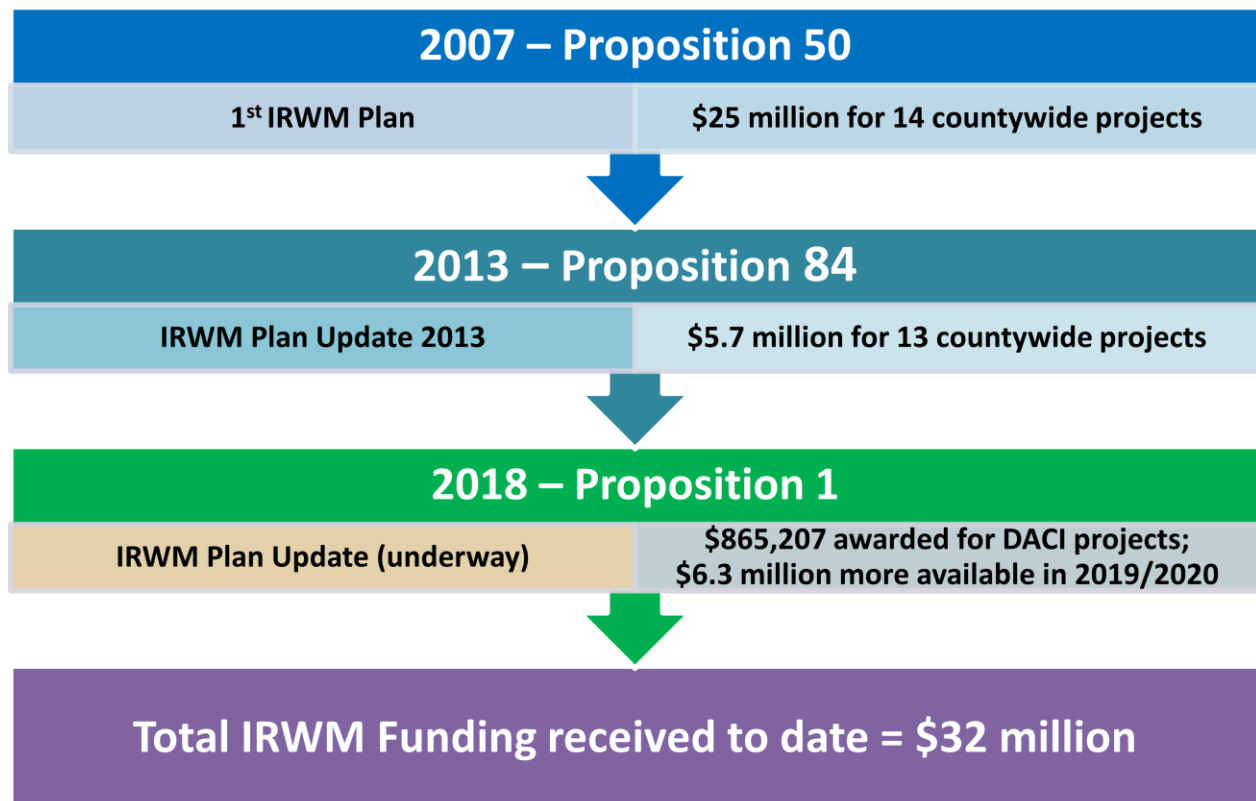
## **IRWM Plan Update 2019**

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almost \$900,000 in direct funds to disadvantaged communities (DACs), and the Region will be applying for further implementation funds (up to \$6.3 million) in spring 2019.

**Figure 2. IRWM Funding History**



## **IRWM PLAN UPDATE 2019**

The IRWM Plan Update 2019 was prepared in conformance with the DWR 2016 IRWM Guidelines, Volume 2, which contains the IRWM Plan Standards and related guidance. The Proposition 1 IRWM Grant Program provides funding for projects that help meet the long-term water needs of the state, including the following:

- Assisting water infrastructure systems adapt to climate change.
- Providing incentives throughout each watershed to collaborate in managing the Region's water resources and setting regional priorities for water infrastructure.

# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

## **IRWM Plan Update 2019**

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- Improving regional water self-reliance, while reducing reliance on Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Only regions that update their IRWM Plans to the 2016 DWR Plan Standards and receive approval from the DWR are eligible for grant funding; hence, the creation of the IRWM Plan Update 2019. The update process and the IRWM Plan represent the work of many dedicated water, wastewater, and stormwater professionals and members of the public. Over the course of a 2-year update process, including targeted outreach, subcommittees meetings, public workshops, and Cooperating Partners meetings, an IRWM Plan has been developed to be responsive to the changing conditions and needs of the region in these challenging times. Projects to implement the IRWM Plan are developed in response to newly identified needs and are updated on an ongoing basis in the project database. As new, relevant planning documents are developed in the Region, they are added as appendices to the IRWM Plan. Objectives, priorities, and resource management strategies are revisited as necessary to respond to the changing conditions in the Region and in response to new state-mandated requirements.

In summary, the IRWM Plan Update 2019 addresses the deficiencies of the IRWM Plan that were identified by the DWR in the 2013 Plan Update, and conforms to the 2016 IRWM Planning Standards. Significant changes to the IRWM Plan as part of this update include the following:

- **GOVERNANCE:** Updates to the governance section to reflect changes in the Cooperating Partners and the inclusion of newly formed entities.
- **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT:** Updates to the regional description to reflect the outcome of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the formation of groundwater sustainability agencies.
- **ISSUES AND CHALLENGES:** Updates to the issues and challenges identified and evaluated during the IRWM Plan Update 2019 have been carried forward from the IRWM Plan 2013.
- **SUB-REGIONS:** In the 2013 IRWM Plan, the Region was characterized with five sub-regions based on distinct watersheds. This IRWM Plan Update 2019 recognizes the distinct character and watershed areas of the five regions; however, for efficient, effective, collaborative, and synergistic project planning and implementation, the Santa Ynez River Watershed and San Antonio Creek Watershed Planning sub-regions have been merged into the Mid-County IRWM Sub-Region.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE:** Climate change vulnerabilities were first prioritized for the IRWM Plan 2013. As part of the IRWM Plan Update 2019, the Cooperating Partners

# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

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revisited the prioritization in the context of recent events, including extended drought, wildfires, flooding, and a catastrophic debris flow, as well as new climate change impact assessments. The Cooperating Partners completed a survey in which the vulnerabilities were assigned a ranking of high, medium, or low. The results of this survey were then discussed in a countywide stakeholder meeting during which it was determined that a very high vulnerability category was needed. This category was created in response to vulnerabilities that agencies are facing now that require immediate and targeted response. In addition to reprioritization, the Cooperating Partners also identified an additional vulnerability and recharacterized two vulnerabilities that were previously sub-vulnerabilities to larger issues. For water quality, “poor water quality in groundwater” was added to the vulnerability list, and “increased constituent concentrations” and “increase in treatment needs and costs” were made sub-vulnerabilities to both “poor water quality in groundwater” and “poor water quality in surface waters.”

- **CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE:** A section was added on climate resilience as well as a discussion of the challenges, opportunities, and work going on within the Region.
- **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES:** The list of resource management strategies developed for the IRWM Plan 2013 was reviewed, and additional resource management strategies from the California Water Plan Update 2013 (DWR 2013, Chapter 26, Sediment Management; Chapter 29, Outreach and Engagement; and Chapter 30, Water and Culture) and two from the 2009 California Water Plan Update that had not been included in the IRWM Plan 2013 (DWR 2009, Chapter 29, Other Resource Management Strategies: Crop Idling for Water Transfers and Irrigated Land Retirement) were reviewed for relevance.
- **WATER AND CULTURE AND DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES:** Three subcommittees, the Water and Culture Subcommittee, the Climate Change Subcommittee, and the DAC/Vulnerable Communities Subcommittee were formed and convened for the purpose of updating specific areas of the IRWM Plan. Participation in the meetings was open to the Cooperating Partners and stakeholders. Sections were then generated to reflect the outcome of the work of the subcommittees and the areas where opportunities have been identified.
- **DATA MANAGEMENT:** The Data Management section of the IRWM Plan was rewritten and updated to include the new County-hosted database that was developed to replace the OPTI (Online Project Tracking and Integration) system used briefly in the Proposition 84 process, and a deeper discussion was developed in relation to the data needs related to the passage of Assembly Bill 1755, The Open and Transparent Water Data Act.

# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

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- **Central Coast Funding Area:** The section related to inter-regional coordination was updated and re-written to reflect the significant increase in coordination and collaboration within the Central Coast Funding Area.
- **PROJECTS IN THE PLAN AND PROJECT SELECTION:** A section related to project selection was updated to more accurately reflect the practice and process by which projects are included in the IRWM Plan.
- **SENATE BILL 1000:** Although not explicitly required to be addressed by the DWR's Guidelines, Senate Bill 1000 does require cities and counties of California to include an environmental justice element in their General Plans. The Santa Barbara IRWM Plan has already characterized DAC communities and qualitatively and quantitatively aggregated their needs. Therefore, this IRWM Plan will inform work required by Planning and Development for conformance to Senate Bill 1000.
- **UNSHELTERED POPULATIONS;** Although not required by the 2016 Guidelines, the Region discussed impacts on water quality and flood control as they relate to unsheltered populations. Moreover, people who are homeless are particularly at risk during events such as fires, heavy rainfall, and flooding. During the Thomas Fire, homeless populations were at increased risk of air quality concerns due to inability to leave the area, lack of shelter, and lack of masks. Subsistence activities, including fishing, are also impacted by extreme weather events.

## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY IRWM GOVERNANCE**

Sections 10530–10546 of the Water Code state that preparation of an IRWM plan must be guided by a regional water management group composed of three or more local public agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply, formed by means of a joint powers agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other written agreement that is approved by the governing bodies of the local public agencies. In the Region, the regional water management group is referred to as the Cooperating Partners.

The Cooperating Partners (see Table 1) are made up of a broad Region-wide group that includes water and wastewater districts, community service districts, city departments, county divisions, and a non-governmental organization. Table 1 provides a list of the Cooperating Partners and those entities' key water management issues.

**Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**  
**IRWM Plan Update 2019**  
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**Table 1**  
**Cooperating Partners Key Water Management Issues**

| Cooperating Partner                            | Key Water Management Issues  |
|--|--|
| <i>Cities and County Entities</i>              |  |
| City of Buellton                               | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, stormwater management, water quality, flood control, water use efficiency, water conservation                               |
| City of Carpinteria                            | Stormwater management, water quality, flood control  |
| City of Guadalupe                              | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, stormwater management water quality, flood control, water use efficiency, water conservation, salt and nutrient management  |
| City of Goleta                                 | Stormwater management, water quality, flood control  |
| City of Lompoc                                 | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, stormwater management treatment and infiltration, water use efficiency, water conservation, flood control                   |
| City of Santa Barbara                          | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, stormwater management, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation, flood control                               |
| City of Santa Maria                            | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, stormwater management, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation, flood control, salt and nutrient management |
| City of Solvang                                | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, stormwater management, flood control, water use efficiency, water conservation, water quality                               |
| <i>Joint Powers Agencies</i>                   |  |
| Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board        | Water supply   |
| <i>Non-Governmental Organization</i>           |  |
| Heal the Ocean                                 | Water quality  |
| <i>Community Services Districts</i>            |  |
| Cuyama Community Services District             | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, water quality   |
| Los Olivos Community Services District         | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, water quality   |
| Vandenberg Village Community Services District | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation, salt and nutrient management                                       |

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**Table 1**  
**Cooperating Partners Key Water Management Issues**

| <b>Cooperating Partner</b>   | <b>Key Water Management Issues</b>   |
|--|--|
| Santa Ynez Community Services District                                   | Water supply, water treatment, sewer and wastewater treatment, water quality   |
| <i>Sanitary Districts</i>  |  |
| Carpinteria Sanitary District  | Wastewater treatment, water quality  |
| Goleta Sanitary District   | Wastewater treatment, water quality  |
| Goleta West Sanitary District  | Wastewater treatment, water quality  |
| <i>Special Districts (Independent and Dependent)</i>                     |  |
| Laguna County Sanitation District (Dependent)                            | Wastewater treatment, water quality, salt and nutrient management, discharge capacity  |
| Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Dependent)                            | Regional water use efficiency and conservation, County-wide hydrologic data and development of hydrologic models, County-wide groundwater conditions, stormwater, administration of regional water supply projects |
| Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (Dependent)                  | Flood control and stormwater   |
| <i>Water Districts</i>   |  |
| Carpinteria Valley Water District  | Water supply, water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation   |
| Goleta Water District  | Water supply, water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation   |
| Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District                             | Water supply, water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation   |
| Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District No. 1 | Water supply, water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation   |
| Montecito Water District   | Water supply, water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation, water reuse, water supply reliability  |
| La Cumbre Mutual Water Company   | Water supply, water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency, water conservation   |



# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

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#### ***Memorandum of Understanding***

The Region has been governed through a series of memoranda of understanding that have been continually updated as recently as 2018. All of the Cooperating Partners are responsible for implementing the IRWM Plan and have signed a memorandum of understanding as required for participation in the IRWM program and process. The memorandum of understanding commits most of the Cooperating Partners to a financial contribution for supporting the IRWM program costs, which include staff, consultants, materials, data management, and other costs, but do not include the cost of regional grant applications. Under some circumstances, financial contribution can be waived and replaced with in-lieu contributions upon request to and approval of the Cooperating Partners.

Decision making for the IRWM program is outlined in the memorandum of understanding, which describes the purpose of the program; guiding principles for IRWM planning; and the roles and responsibilities of the lead agency, Cooperating Partners, project proponents, subcommittees, workgroups, and stakeholders.

The lead agency is the single point of contact for the IRWM program and is liaison between all entities involved in the program. The lead agency must be a Cooperating Partner. As an agency that has IRWM Region-wide governance and geographic coverage, Santa Barbara County Water Agency has been the lead agency since the program's inception in 2005. The lead agency keeps the Cooperating Partners apprised of the principles and makes recommendations to ensure adherence to the principles. The lead agency also ensures that public outreach and opportunities to participate in IRWM Plan development and implementation are adequately supported and addressed.

#### ***IRWM Projects and Project Selection***

The IRWM Plan is always open to accepting eligible projects at any time. At a minimum, an annual call for projects for the IRWM Plan is released to the stakeholders, public, and Cooperating Partners. Eligible projects will then be adopted into the IRWM Plan by a simple majority. On an annual basis, the project list will be updated to remove old, inactive, or completed projects. In addition, a separate call for projects will be released to the stakeholders, public, and Cooperating Partners in relation to a specific project solicitation package from the DWR for a specific funding round. Projects related to a funding round must conform to the IRWM Plan and the goals of the project solicitation package. Projects competing for funding are required to adhere to a separate scoring rubric and will be prioritized and selected by a

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subset of the Cooperating Partners as an ad-hoc subcommittee. Project selection presentations and scoring meetings or workshops are open to the public and subject to public comment.

## **ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE IRWM PROCESS**

Each entity discussed above has the ability to attend IRWM meetings and make comments on the IRWM Plan, projects, and the project selection process. All meeting notes and materials are available on the IRWM website (<http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/irwmp.sbc>). All Cooperating Partners meetings and workgroup meetings are open to the public, providing any public stakeholder an opportunity to participate in development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. A forum for public comment is provided at each Cooperating Partners' meeting.

Stakeholders are defined as all interested parties in the Region who are not directly participating in the IRWM process as a Cooperating Partner. Broad outreach has been conducted to diversify stakeholder participation. Outreach has been initiated to the following stakeholder categories: wholesale and retail water purveyors, including a local agency, mutual water company, or a water corporation as defined in Section 241 of the Public Utilities Code; wastewater agencies; flood control agencies; municipal and county governments and special districts; electrical corporations, as defined in Section 218 of the Public Utilities Code; Native American tribes that have lands within the Region; self-supplied water users, including agricultural, industrial, residential, park districts, school districts, colleges and universities, and others; environmental stewardship organizations, including watershed groups, fishing groups, land conservancies, and environmental groups; community organizations, including landowner organizations, taxpayer groups, and recreational interests; industry organizations representing agriculture, developers, and other industries appropriate to the Region; state, federal, and regional agencies or universities with specific responsibilities or knowledge within the Region; DAC members and representatives, including environmental justice organizations, neighborhood councils, and social justice organizations; and any other interested groups appropriate to the Region.

### ***Disadvantaged Community Outreach and Involvement***

The Region includes a number of DACs (see Figure 3, Santa Barbara County Disadvantaged Communities). There has been significant outreach, project development, and implementation of projects within DACs over the course of the last 12 years. Additionally, there is a current effort being funded by a grant secured by the Santa Barbara County IRWM through Proposition 1 IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant funds. The grant includes targets to

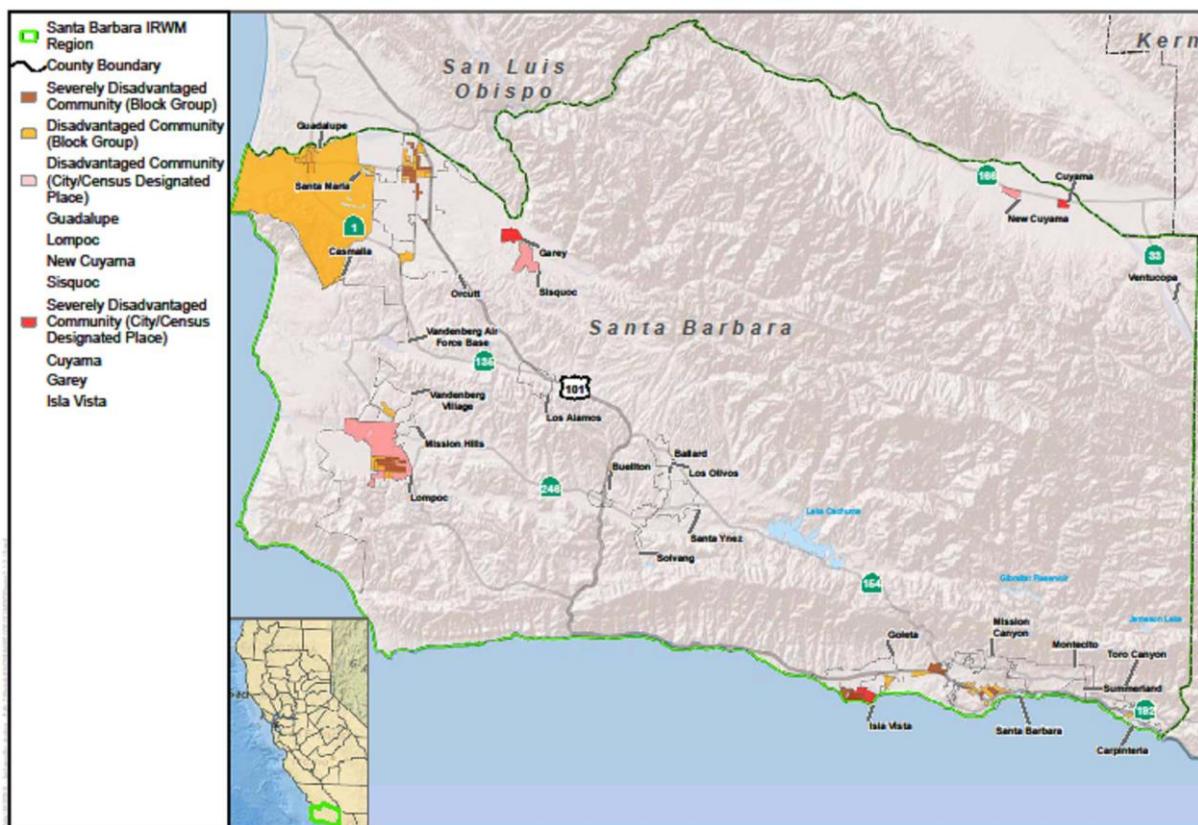
# Santa Barbara County IRWM Region

## IRWM Plan Update 2019

### Executive Summary

continue and increase involvement of DACs, economically distressed areas, severely disadvantaged communities, and underrepresented communities in IRWM planning efforts. One goal of the funding is to increase engagement by DACs in the IRWM process, including in identifying issues, setting priorities, and developing objectives and management strategies for the Region. In addition, the IRWM program offers resources for capacity development and access to funding to support DACs in addressing local issues and challenges.

**Figure 3. Santa Barbara County Disadvantaged Communities**



# **Santa Barbara County IRWM Region**

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#### ***Tribal Communities***

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians receives all communications regarding IRWM meetings, project opportunities, and IRWM Plan updates and participates in IRWM meetings. The Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office has stated that it is particularly interested in topics related to the Santa Ynez River Watershed, since the Zanja de Cota Creek, a tributary to the Santa Ynez River, runs through the Santa Ynez Reservation. The Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office has ongoing projects working on riparian efforts to remove invasive species and protect wetlands.

#### **SUMMARY OF BENEFITS**

Water is one of the most fundamental resources in the Region and every single person interacts with water every day. Water is necessary for the life and health of humans and ecosystems, for the success of our food systems and our economic systems, and for our security. Integrated regional water management encompasses all of these sectors of communities and economies and provides a framework for the most efficient use, management, and replenishment of our precious water resources.

Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 funding made important water, wastewater, stormwater, agricultural water, and ecosystem-related projects possible. The IRWM Plan and process has also created a series of important dialogues and actions aimed at positioning the Region to better deal with current and future challenges of water supply, water reliability, water resources diversification, and drought and hazards. The Region, and some of its most vulnerable populations, have also benefited through the DAC Involvement grant under Proposition 1, and the Cooperating Partners are discussing implementation projects for further Proposition 1 funds through DWR's IRWM allotment.

IRWM has stood the test of time in the Region and has endured for over 13 years. All of the innovative project work, hard discussions, well-developed strategies, and collaboration on projects have yielded benefits because of the dedication of all the Cooperating Partners and stakeholders who value the rigor and integrity of the IRWM process and who look to the IRWM Plan as a useful tool to guide better regional water management.





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