

What is the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)?

The Lompoc City Council approved the City's participation in the Santa Barbara Countywide Memorandum of Understanding to update a countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan on April 7, 2009. The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is the Santa Barbara Countywide integrated planning document prepared for the State Water Resource Control Board's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program. The intent of the locally generated planning document is to promote and practice 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.

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 (Prop 50), provided approximately \$380 million for two types of competitive grants for the IRWM Grant Program, planning and implementation. The Planning Grants fostered development or completion of IRWM Plans or components thereof, to enhance regional planning efforts, and to assist more applicants to become eligible for Implementation Grant funding. Implementation Grants funded projects that met one or more of the program objectives of protecting communities from drought, protecting and improving water quality, and improving local water security by reducing dependence on imported water.

The City of Lompoc participated in the first Countywide IRWMP that was generated over a space of years and included a series of public workshops, stakeholder meetings and generation of the IRWM Plan. The IRWM Plan was completed in 2007 and served as the foundation upon which the Santa Barbara Region was successfully awarded \$25 million for a variety of water and wastewater projects, programs and infrastructure upgrades.

In September 2008, SB 1 (Perata, Stats. 2008, Ch. 1; eff. March 1, 2009) was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. SB1 contains the "Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act", CWC §10530 et seq. The IRWM Planning Act provides a general definition of an IRWM plan as well as guidance to DWR as to what IRWM program guidelines must contain. CWC §10541 (f) states that the guidelines shall include standards for identifying a region for the purposes of developing or modifying an IRWM plan.

Proposition 84

Proposition 84 Chapter 2 and Proposition IE Article 4 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program, administered by DWR (Department of Water Resources), provides funding for projects that assists local public agencies to meet long term water needs of the state including the delivery of safe drinking water and the protection of water quality and the environment. DWR is currently in the initial phases of the funding implementation.

Under the leadership of the County Water Agency, the 27 agencies, cities, water districts, sanitary districts, community services, districts and joint power authorities cooperating as "Cooperating Partners" prepared the document required for the RAP (Regional Acceptance Process).

The RAP is a component of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Guidelines. It presents the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Region Acceptance Process (RAP) that will be used to evaluate and accept an IRWM region into the IRWM grant program, California Water Code (CWC) §1 0541 (f) (effective March 1, 2009). Acceptance and approval of the composition of an IRWM region into the IRWM grant program is required before any region can submit an application for IRWM grant funds. The Santa Barbara Countywide RAP Application was sent to the State DWR for evaluation on April 27, 2009 and was recommended for approval.

Proposition 84 Project Selection Meeting/Workshop Schedule

The following is a list of Proposition 84 Workshops that are scheduled for the Santa Barbara Countywide Region. All members of the public are welcome at these meetings/workshops. Projects will be proposed and discussed beginning at the October 28, 2009 session. Workshops/meetings will be held in various locations throughout Santa Barbara County to enable Santa Barbara county residents to attend.

1st Workshop

Wednesday, September 23, 2009-A workshop was held in Goleta City Hall to discuss the Proposition 84 process for the Santa Barbara County-wide Region. Upcoming workshops are important for members of the public who would like to be informed about the Proposition 84 process and understand projects that will be proposed for the Santa Barbara County-wide region.

Project Building Session

Wednesday, October 28, 2009
9:00 am-12:00 pm
Buellton City Hall, 107 West Highway 246, Buellton, CA 93427

2nd Workshop

Thursday, November 12, 2009
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
CCWA, 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, CA 93427

Public Workshop

Thursday, December 10, 2009
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Recreation Center/Gymnasium, Buellton, CA 93427

3rd Workshop

Monday, January 11, 2009
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, City of Solvang, 1644 Oak St., Solvang, CA 93463

4th Workshop

Thursday, February 11, 2009
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
CCWA, 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, CA 93427

For Further Information contact:

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Also additional information is provided on the following link to the Santa Barbara County website:
<http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx?id=3580>