

SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

517B



FROM: General Manager-Chief Engineer

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Approve Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (Plan) and Adopt Resolution F2014-11 Supporting the Plan; (\$0); Exempt Pursuant to CEQA; District One & Three/District One & Three

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Plan is exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15061, 15262, and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Adopt Resolution F2014-11 in Support of the Plan;
3. Adopt the 2014 Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan; and
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to deliver the Notice of Exemption to the office of the County Clerk and the State Office Planning and Research for filing within five (5) working days of this Board hearing.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

In 2002, the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Act (SB 1672) was chaptered into law, establishing the basis by which the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) would administer the State's IRWM Program. Propositions 50 and 84 were approved by the voters in 2002 and

DK:JU:bjp

Warren D. Williams
WARREN D. WILLIAMS
General Manager-Chief Engineer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	
NET DISTRICT COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>

SOURCE OF FUNDS: The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)	Budget Adjustment: No
	For Fiscal Year: n/a

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE
BY: *Steven C. Horn*
Steven C. Horn

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

On motion of Supervisor Tavaglione, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone and Benoit
Nays: None
Absent: Ashley
Date: May 20, 2014
xc: Flood, Recorder

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: *Kecia Harper-Ihem*
Deputy

(Comp. Item 3-6)

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 1,3/1,3

Agenda Number:

11-10

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: *Aaron C. Gettis*
AARON C. GETTIS
DATE: 5-8-14

Departmental Concurrence

- A-30
- Positions Added
- Change Order
- 4/5 Vote

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

160666

FORM 11: Approve Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan and Adopt Resolution F2014-11 Supporting the Plan; (\$0);
Exempt Pursuant to CEQA; District One & Three/District One & Three

DATE: May 20, 2014

PAGE: Page 2 of 3

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

2006 respectively, authorizing a total of \$1.5 billion of State grant funds statewide for IRWM Planning and Programs. Additionally, Proposition 1E was approved by the voters in 2006, authorizing an additional \$300 million in grant funding for stormwater flood management projects that are identified in IRWM Plans. The development of an IRWM Plan is required for regional eligibility for IRWM State grant funds.

In 2007, Rancho California Water District (RCWD), Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), and the County of Riverside signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by which the three agencies agreed to form a Regional Watershed Management Group (RWMG) to cooperate and work collaboratively with other stakeholders in the Region toward the completion of an IRWM Plan for the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed. The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed covers Temecula, parts of Menifee, Murrieta and Wildomar, and the unincorporated County.

A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) representing entities and stakeholders significant to water resource planning in the region, including those having the institutional and fiscal capacity and systems to carry out IRWM planning and implementation efforts, was formed to facilitate development of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Plan (Plan). The Plan was completed and adopted in 2007 according to the guidelines of Proposition 50 Chapter 8. The 2007 Plan has since provided the framework and procedures used to govern, collaborate, and plan IRWM activities, as well as pursue state funding opportunities, within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Region.

In 2009, the RWMG for the Plan entered into a groundbreaking MOU with its counterparts in San Diego and south Orange Counties to coordinate IRWM programs within the broader Proposition 84 San Diego Funding Region. Through this agreement, the Proposition 84, Round 5 funds for the San Diego Region were distributed among the IRWM based on a formula considering land use and population. The agreement streamlined future grant applications for each RWMG by predetermining each IRWM Plan's funding share. The Plan was allocated \$8.2 million under the MOU. The RWMG has been awarded approximately half of the grant funds to date. The balance is expected to be received as part of the 2015 Proposition 84 Round 3 solicitation.

In 2012, the Region received a Proposition 84, Round 2 Planning Grant to update the 2007 Plan in accordance with new program guidelines issued by DWR in 2012. The Plan was updated in 2014 to better reflect the Region's current issues, objectives, and strategies, as well as to satisfy the requirements of DWR's Planning Grant award and the November 2012 DWR Guidelines.

The 2014 Plan update process built upon and enhanced the Region's collaborative efforts to identify integrated and regional opportunities to develop a sustainable water supply through more efficient use of water, promote conjunctive use of existing local water supplies, protect and improve water quality, and promote environmental stewardship. The 2014 Plan is a living document that is expected to be updated periodically to adapt to changes in needs, regulations, resources, and climate. The success of the updated 2014 Plan relies on the continued collaboration of stakeholders in the IRWM Program throughout the 25-year planning horizon. The complete plan can be viewed at <http://www.ranchowater.com/index.aspx?NID=259>.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

160666

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DATE: May 20, 2014

PAGE: Page 3 of 3

BACKGROUND:

Summary (continued)

The Plan itself does not lead directly to the implementation of any specific project and does not bind the various stakeholders to any particular course of actions; as a result, the Plan is exempt from CEQA under the following provisions:

- Statutory Exemption (15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies)
- Categorical Exemption 15061 Review for Exemption; 15306 Information Collection)

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Adopting the updated 2014 Plan will allow the County and District to request funding through Proposition 84 for future water quality projects. Implementation of the projects and strategies identified in the Plan will benefit residents and businesses in the Region and improve quality of life and natural resource management.

Attachments:

1. Resolution F2014-11
2. Notice of Exemption
3. Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Executive Summary
(The complete Plan has been distributed in a digital format. Printed copies are available at the Clerk's and District offices)

DK:bjp

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. F2014-11

**SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE UPPER SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Rancho California Water District, County of Riverside and Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District have partnered by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG); and

WHEREAS, working with the stakeholders and partners of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed (USMW), the RWMG has prepared an update to the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan); and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Plan in no way commits a participating agency to a financial or any other regulatory obligation and does not legally bind the agency to any future activities or specific projects; and

WHEREAS, the Plan represents all entities significant to water management planning in the region in addressing water resources as well as other interested stakeholders and has provided the framework and procedures used to govern, collaborate, and plan activities, as well as pursue funding opportunities within the Plan program; and

WHEREAS, the agencies, partners, and stakeholders are committed to integrated planning efforts in an open, accessible process and have acted in good faith in planning and implementing the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan will help secure significant funding for resources in the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) (Public Resources Code section 75001 *et seq.*), and other funding sources through the Plan process; now, therefore,

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: RS 5-8-14 DATE
AARON C. GETTIS

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BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in regular session assembled on May 20, 2014 herby adopts the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and supports the submittal of the updated Plan to DWR for the benefit of the residents of the entire Upper Santa Margarita Watershed.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone and Benoit
Nays: None
Absent: Ashley

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board
By Kaleu Bostan
Deputy

Notice of Exemption **California State Clearinghouse Handbook** **Form D**

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 222
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Riverside County Flood Control District
 1995 Market Street
 Riverside, CA 92501

County Clerk
 County of Riverside
 2724 Gateway Drive
 Riverside, CA 92507

Original Negative Declaration/Notice of
 Determination was routed to County
 Clerks for posting on.

5/21/14
 Date

KD
 Initial

Project Title: Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Plan Update

Project Location – Specific:

The IRWM Project includes the upper portion of the San Mateo Watershed within Riverside County in addition to the portion of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed within Riverside County. See attached regional map.

Project location – City: N/A

Project Location – County: Riverside

Project Description:

The proposed project includes the adoption of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed 2014 IRWM Plan Update (IRWM Plan). The IRWM Plan identifies potential projects and priorities for a watershed region to manage the water resources for the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed. The IRWM Plan was updated in 2014 to further enhance the Region's efforts to facilitate sustainable water supplies by evaluating opportunities to develop coordinated, regional approaches to water resource management including the identification of more efficient water use, conjunctive use of local water sources, protection and improvement of water quality, and environmental stewardship. The plan is intended to be utilized as a tool by the Region's stakeholders to deal with various water resources challenges of the Region. The IRWM Plan does not bind the various agencies to any specific projects or actions and will not legally bind any future activities related to water resources. However, the IRWM Plan does help create a framework and procedures to collaborate for future water management planning, identify opportunities for collaboration, as well as helping secure new funding resources for potential future activities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Rancho California Water District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15306 – Information Collection; Sec. 15061 – Common Sense Exemption
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA specifically by the State CEQA Guidelines as identified below. The project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of the categorical exemptions as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. The project will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive environments. Further, no unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create an environmental impact. The project as proposed only includes the approval and adoption of the updated 2014 IRWM Plan, which acts as a long-range planning tool for future water management practices; no environmental impacts are anticipated to occur.

- Section 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption. CEQA does not apply to feasibility or planning studies that will not have a legally binding effect on any future activities. The IRWM Plan is intended to create improved processes and a framework for how to improve water management practices. It is effectively a planning study that will not, either directly or indirectly, lead to any physical environmental impacts.
- Section 15306 – Information Collection Categorical Exemption. This Categorical Exemption allows for informational gathering purposes that will not have a serious or major disturbance on any environmental resources. As discussed previously, the proposed adoption of the updated 2014 IRWM Plan creates a framework for future water management planning that will help aid in improving water resources and supplies throughout the Region. The project will not cause any environmental disturbances and will not lead to any direct or indirect environmental impacts.
- Section 15061 (b) (3) – Common Sense Exemption. With certainty, there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment. The updated 2014 IRWM Plan creates a framework for future water management planning that will potentially help aid in improving water resources and supplies throughout the region. It would not lead to any direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impacts. Therefore, in no way would the project as

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proposed have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and the project is exempt from further CEQA analysis.

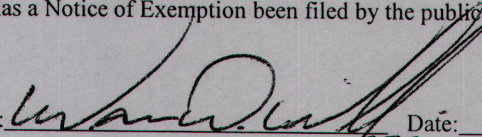
Based upon the identified exemptions above, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District hereby concludes that no physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur and the project as proposed is exempt under CEQA. No further environmental analysis is warranted.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mike Wong **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 951.955.1233

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 5/12/14 Title: General Manager-Chief Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Date received for filing at OPR: _____

Attachment

JDS:rlp:mcv

IRWM Plan Regional Map



Preface

The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region's (Region) open spaces, beautiful landscapes, and treasured biological resources make up a region of unique character. The Region is a model of opportunity for planners, managers, and leaders to invest in sustainable water management strategies that will preserve and protect these valuable resources for future generations.

The Region's growing population and housing needs challenge water resources managers to work collaboratively to meet increasing demands while protecting water resources. Achieving a balance between support for a rapidly growing economy and preservation of the rural character and unique sense of place requires a careful strategy to integrate diverse priorities and gain support from stakeholders and the public. In 2007, the Region developed its first IRWM Plan to develop local water supply sources while addressing the need for water quality, environmental protection, and recreational and open space opportunities. As a result of the development of the IRWM Plan, the region was awarded a Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Grant in 2011 for implementation of the following projects: Vail Lake Stabilization and Conjunctive Use Project, Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program, Water Quality Enhancements in Riverside County, and Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed – Phase 1. Collectively, the project benefits include more than 6,000 acre-feet per year in conserved water, water quality enhancements, and sustainable agriculture. In addition, the Region's stakeholders continued to meet as a part of the IRWM Program to coordinate planning efforts on a Regional level.

In 2012, the Region received a Proposition 84, Round 2 Planning Grant to update its 2007 IRWM Plan in accordance with new Plan guidelines and standards issued by DWR in 2012. The 2014 IRWM Plan Update was prepared to better reflect the Region's current issues, objectives and strategies, as well as to satisfy the requirements of DWR's Planning Grant award and the November 2012 IRWM Proposition 84 and 1E Program Guidelines. The 2014 IRWM Plan Update documents the current IRWM Program and processes that have evolved since the 2007 Plan was developed, and is organized according to the table on the next page.

The 2014 IRWM Plan Update process built upon and enhanced the Region's collaborative efforts to ensure a sustainable water supply through more efficient use of water, protect and improve water quality, and promote environmental stewardship by accomplishing the following:

- Include the newly added portion of the San Mateo Watershed in the Region's planning
- Enhance and improve outreach to disadvantaged communities and Tribal stakeholders to help the Region to develop an increased understanding of the needs and interests of these communities
- Increase overall stakeholder participation in the IRWM Plan Update
- Improve the IRWM Program website to facilitate Regional information sharing
- Increase inter- and intra-regional collaboration through integrated project development

- Update and refine Regional needs, goals and objectives
- Improve understanding of Regional climate change vulnerabilities and identify adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Refine and enhance project development, selection and prioritization
- Establish a better understanding of the Region’s water resources through implementation of technical studies

DWR Plan Standard	2014 IRWM Plan Update Chapter
Governance	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Region Description	Chapter 2: Region Description
Objectives	Chapter 3: Objectives and Priorities
Resources Management Strategies	Chapter 4: Regional Water Management Strategies
Integration	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination Chapter 5: Projects
Project Review Process	Chapter 5: Projects
Impacts and Benefits	Chapter 4: Regional Water Management Strategies
Plan Performance and Monitoring	Chapter 6: Implementation
Data Management	Chapter 6: Implementation
Finance	Chapter 6: Implementation
Technical Analysis	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Relation to Local Water Planning	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Relation to Local Land Use Planning	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Stakeholder Involvement	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination
Coordination	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination Chapter 6: Implementation
Climate Change	Chapter 1: Regional Planning, Governance, Outreach and Coordination Chapter 2: Region Description Chapter 3: Objectives and Priorities Chapter 4: Regional Water Management Strategies Chapter 5: Projects Chapter 6: Implementation

The 2014 IRWM Plan Update is intended to be used as a tool by the Region's stakeholders to take on the challenge of turning the opportunities provided by this unique Region into sustainable water management practices. Implementation of the projects and strategies identified in the Plan will benefit residents and businesses in the Region and improve quality of life and natural resource management. The 2014 IRWM Plan Update is a living document that is expected to be updated periodically, and allows the Region to adapt to changes in needs, regulations, resources and climate. The success of this Plan relies on the continued participation of stakeholders in the IRWM Program throughout the 25-year planning horizon.

ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH
THE CLERK OF THE BOARD