

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

518B



**FROM:** General Manager-Chief Engineer

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
May 20, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Approve 2014 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (Plan) and Adopt Resolution F2014-12 Supporting the Plan; Exempt Pursuant to CEQA; (\$0); Districts Four & Five/Districts Four & Five

**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 F2014-12 in Support of the Plan;
3. Adopt the updated 2014 Coachella Valley 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

WARREN D. WILLIAMS  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

Departmental Concurrence

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

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

**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: [Signature]  
Deputy

(Comp. Item 3-4)

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

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: 4,5/4,5 | Agenda Number: 11-11



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

**FORM 11:** Approve 2014 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Watershed Management (CVIRWM) Plan and Adopt Resolution F2014-12 Supporting the Plan; Exempt Pursuant to CEQA; (\$0); Districts Four & Five/Districts Four & Five

**DATE:** May 20, 2014

**PAGE:** Page 2 of 2

**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. To date, more than \$10 Million of IRWM grant funds have been allocated to the Coachella Valley Region.

The Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) is led by the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG), established by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2008. The CVRWMG was formed to coordinate water resource planning activities among the five signatories which include the City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, City of Indio/Indio Water Authority, and Mission Springs Water District. The purpose of CVRWMG is to foster collaboration among water resource managers and develop and implement the Plan, which was first developed in 2010.

Since 2011, the CVRWMG has been working with stakeholders throughout the region to update and refine the Plan. The 2014 update to the Plan built upon previous planning processes and collaborative efforts to ensure a sustainable water supply through the more efficient use of water, the protection and improvement of water quality, outreach to disadvantaged communities, and the promotion of environmental stewardship. The success of the Plan update relies on the continued participation of stakeholders in the Coachella Valley region throughout the 25-year planning horizon. The complete plan can be viewed at <http://www.cvrwmg.org/library.php>.

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 Plan will allow the County of Riverside and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to request funding through Proposition 84 for future water quality projects. Implementation of the projects and strategies identified in the updated Plan will benefit residents and businesses in the region and improve quality of life and natural resource management.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution F2014-12
2. Notice of Exemption
3. Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan Executive Summary  
(The complete Plan has been distributed in a digital format. Printed copies are available at the Clerk and District's offices.)



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. F2014-12

SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE 2014 COACHELLA VALLEY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, water resources planning in the Coachella Valley is of the utmost importance to sustain the area's residents, businesses, and agriculture in a desert climate; and

WHEREAS, the State of California encourages integrated water resource planning on a regional basis through Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plans and by conditioning certain existing and possibly future grant funding programs – including Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resources Code section 75001 *et seq.*) – to activities contained in IRWM Plans; and

WHEREAS, the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWVG) was formed as a collaboration of the five Coachella Valley public water agencies: City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, City of Indio/Indio Water Authority, and Mission Springs Water District; and

WHEREAS, the CVRWVG partners have committed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to developing a Coachella Valley IRWM Plan that coordinates and shares information concerning water supply planning and projects; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the 2014 update to the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan update (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 Coachella Valley stakeholders have worked collaboratively to identify water related issues and needs, establish regional goals and objectives, develop a project submittal and prioritization process, and provide recommendations on the projects and programs included in the Plan; now, therefore,

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: AARON C. GETTIS 5-3-14 DATE



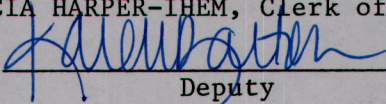
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**BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED** by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in regular session assembled on May 20, 2014 hereby adopts the 2014 Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and is committed to continued development and implementation of the Plan, to help address the critical water related the needs of Coachella Valley.

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  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

KB  
Initial

**Project Title:** Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Plan

**Project Location – Specific:**

The Coachella Valley IRWM region is chiefly the same as the Whitewater River Watershed, also known as the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley IRWM region is about 65 miles long on a northwest-southeast trending axis and covers approximately 1,402 square miles within Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. See attached regional map.

**Project location – City:** N/A

**Project Location – County:** Riverside/San Bernardino/San Diego

**Project Description:**

The proposed project includes the adoption of the updated 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan. The Coachella Valley IRWM Plan was updated in 2014 and identifies potential projects and priorities for a watershed region to manage the water resources for the Coachella Valley IRWM Region. The Coachella Valley IRWM Plan presents an integrated regional approach for addressing water management issues through a process that identifies and involves water management stakeholders from the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley IRWM Plan does not bind the various agencies to any specific projects and will not legally bind any future activities related to water resources through this plan. However, the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan does help create a framework and procedures to collaborate for future water management planning, 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:** Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group

**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 CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15306 – Information Collection; Sec. 15061 – Common Sense Exemption  
 Statutory Exemptions. 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 2014 Coachella Valley 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 Coachella Valley 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 prior, the proposed adoption of the Coachella Valley 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 Coachella Valley 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 proposed have the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and the project is exempt from further CEQA analysis.

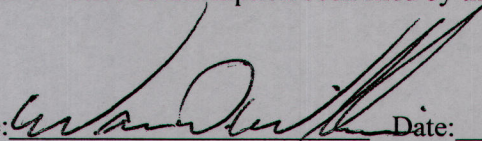
Based upon the identified exemptions above, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District hereby concludes that no physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur and the project as proposed is exempt under CEQA. No further environmental analysis is warranted.

**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

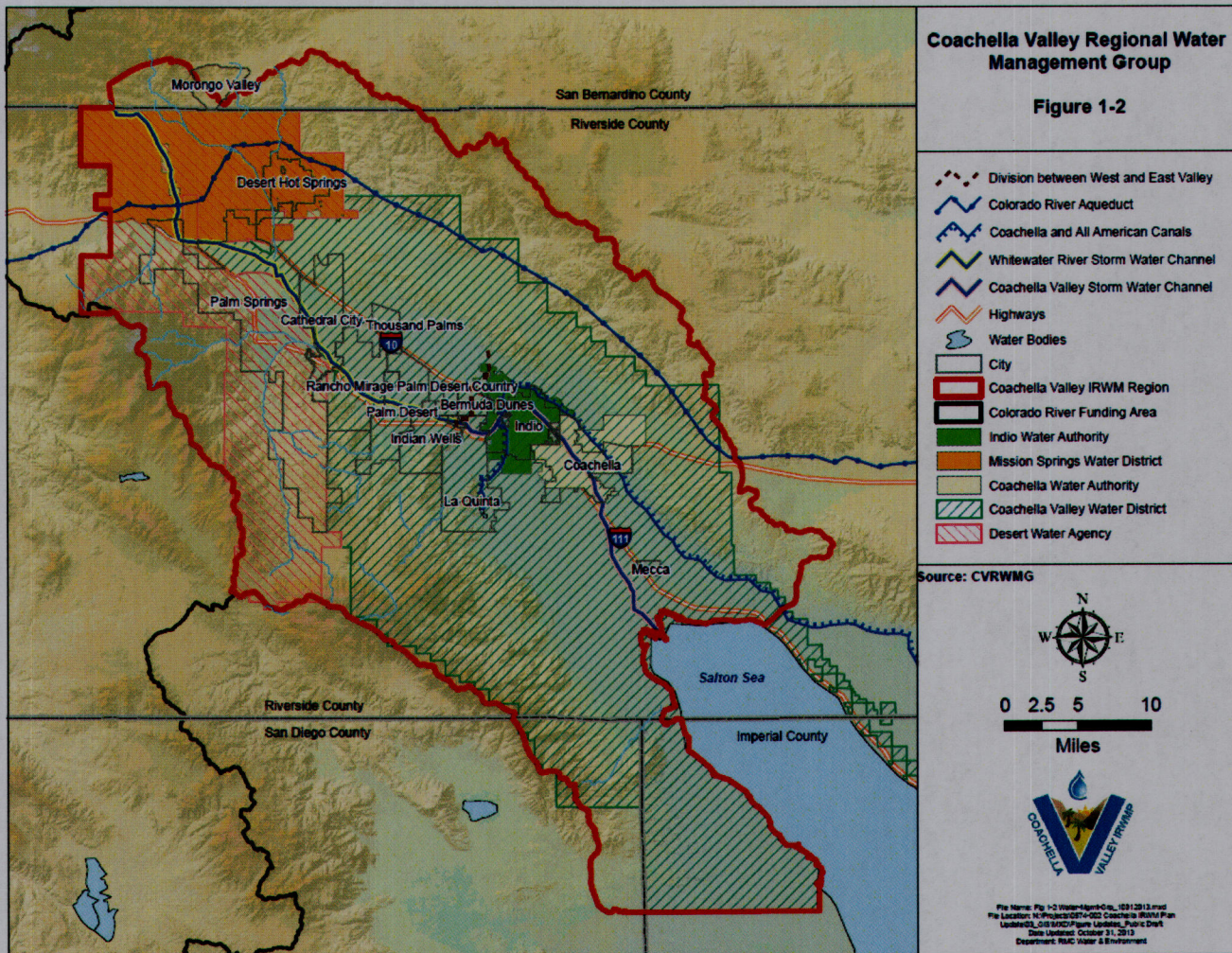
Date received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment

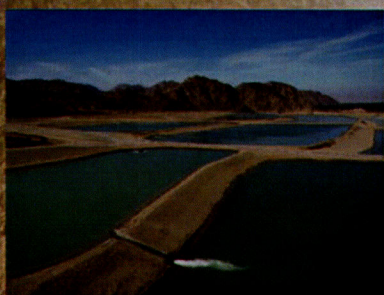
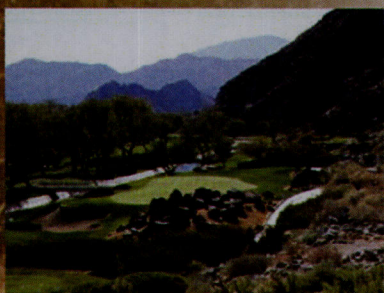
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# IRWM Plan Regional Map







**Final**

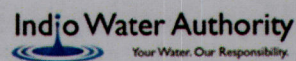
# **Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update**

**February 2014**

Prepared by:

**Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group**

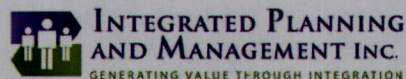
*In collaboration with the Planning Partners*



With Support from:



and





# 1 Introduction

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program is a local water resources management approach directed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). It is aimed at securing long-term water supply reliability within California by first recognizing the inter-connectivity of water supplies, and then encouraging the development and implementation of projects that yield combined benefits for water supplies, water quality, and natural resources. Based on the *California Water Plan Update 2009* (Volume 1, Chapter 7, Objective 1: Expand Integrated Regional Water Management):

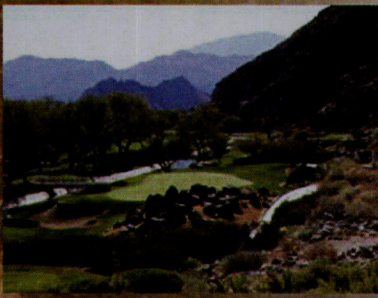
*“The broad purpose of IRWM is to promote a regional planning and implementation framework to comprehensively address water supply, quality, flood, and ecosystem challenges and to implement integrated solutions through a collaborative multi-partner process that includes water managers, tribes, non-governmental organizations, State, federal, and local governments, and disadvantaged communities.”*

The Coachella Valley IRWM Plan presents an integrated regional approach for addressing water management issues through a process that identifies and involves water management stakeholders from the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley IRWM Plan:

- Defines the Coachella Valley IRWM Region and water systems,
- Identifies regional water management goals and objectives,
- Establishes objectives and measurable targets for the Region,
- Identifies water management issues and needs,
- Identifies stakeholder involvement and agency coordination processes,
- Identifies and evaluates resource management strategies,
- Assesses the integration of projects based on objectives,
- Establishes a project evaluation and prioritization process based on regional priorities, and
- Establishes a framework for implementation of projects.

While the Plan presents an opportunity to collaborate at a regional level, it does not duplicate previous planning efforts throughout the region, but rather synthesizes them and allows stakeholders to collaborate more effectively.

According to Section 15262 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, this IRWM Plan qualifies as a planning study that identifies projects and programs for possible future actions, but does not have a legally binding effect on the participating agencies. As such, programmatic environmental analysis under CEQA is not required. Similarly, the IRWM Plan is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15306 (Class 6) because the Plan consists of basic data and information collection and evaluation of water management activities. Prior to construction or implementation of all projects listed within this Plan, environmental review will be performed in accordance with CEQA.







## 1.1 Background

The Coachella Valley IRWM region is chiefly the same as the Whitewater River watershed, also known as the Coachella Valley (see **Figure 1-1**). The Region is about 65 miles long on a northwest-southeast trending axis and covers approximately 1,420 square miles. The area is drained primarily by the Whitewater River that flows southward to the Salton Sea at an elevation of approximately 220 feet below sea level. The Region's watershed boundaries to the north and northwest are the rugged and barren mountain ranges of the Colorado Desert, the San Bernardino Mountains, Little San Bernardino Mountains, and Mecca Hills. The watershed boundaries to the east and south are Mortmar, the Salton Sea, and Travertine Rock. This eastern boundary is defined by the watershed that encloses all surface drainage emptying into the north end of the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is not within the IRWM Region. The southernmost boundary turns west from the Salton Sea and follows the Salton Community Services District political boundary to the watershed divide. The watershed boundaries to the south and west are the high, precipitous Santa Rosa Mountains and San Jacinto Mountains, which create an effective barrier against the easterly moving coastal storms. The western boundary is composed of a political line that separates Desert Water Agency and Mission Springs Water District from San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

The Coachella Valley IRWM region currently faces multiple potential water supply and quality issues, including increasing water demands, groundwater overdraft, stormwater capture and management, groundwater quality, surface water quality (particularly in the last 17 miles of the stormwater channel), flooding, and regulatory constraints that may be associated with any of these issues (see *Chapter 3, Issues and Needs* for a more detailed description of each issue). Thus, the IRWM Plan promotes collaborative water management efforts and outlines strategies for addressing the current water management issues within the Coachella Valley.

## 1.2 Regional Water Management Group

The Coachella Valley IRWM program is led by the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG), whose purpose is to foster collaboration among water resource managers, develop and implement the IRWM Plan, and to enable the Coachella Valley region to apply for grants tied to DWR's IRWM program. The CVRWMG is a partnership composed of the five Coachella Valley water purveyors (see **Figure 1-2**). Each of the water purveyors and their statutory authority over water is described below.

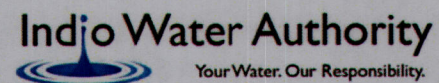
- **Coachella Water Authority (CWA)** is a joint powers authority formed by the City of Coachella and Coachella Redevelopment Agency to deliver water to the City of Coachella. CWA has statutory authority over water supply. The City of Coachella also manages the Coachella Sanitary District which includes a wastewater treatment facility. The City also manages stormwater as a co-permittee in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for stormwater discharges.







- **Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)** is a public agency of the State of California organized in 1918 and operating under County Water District Law, California Water Code §30000, et. seq. and Coachella District Merger Law, Water Code §33100, et seq. As a State Water Project contractor and Colorado River contractor empowered to import water supplies to its service area, CVWD has statutory authority over water supply. In 1937, CVWD merged with the Coachella Valley Stormwater District and assumed stormwater and flood protection authority. CVWD also operates six water reclamation plants within its service area. The water-related services provided by CVWD include irrigation water delivery and agricultural drainage, domestic water delivery, wastewater reclamation and recycling, stormwater protection, and groundwater recharge.
- **Desert Water Agency (DWA)** is an independent special district created in 1961 by a special act of state legislature contained in Chapter 100 of the appendix of the California Water Code. DWA is a State Water Project contractor empowered to import water supplies to its service area, replenish local groundwater supplies, and collect assessments necessary to support a groundwater replenishment program as provided for in the Desert Water Agency Law. DWA has statutory authority over water supply. DWA also collects treated sewer effluent from its service area and operates a water recycling plant to provide non-potable water to golf courses, parks, and schools for irrigation.
- **Indio Water Authority (IWA)** was formed in 2000 and operates a Joint Powers Authority of the City of Indio and the Indio Housing Authority to deliver potable water to the City of Indio. As legislative and policy entity responsible to the residents of Indio for all municipal water programs and services, IWA has statutory authority over water supply. The City of Indio also manages stormwater as a co-permittee in the NPDES permit for stormwater discharges.
- **Mission Springs Water District (MSWD)** is a County Water District formed in 1953 (originally named Desert Hot Springs County Water District) under §30000 et seq. of the California Water Code. MSWD has statutory authority over water supply and provides water services to residential and commercial customers through three independent distribution systems. MSWD also operates a sewer collection system and two wastewater treatment plants.





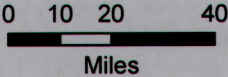


**Coachella Valley IRWM Region**

**Figure 1-1**

- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Coachella and All American Canals
- Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
- Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
- Highways
- Water Bodies
- Colorado River Funding Area
- Coachella Valley IRWM Region
- County Lines

Source: CVRWMG; National Atlas of the United States and the USGS 2005

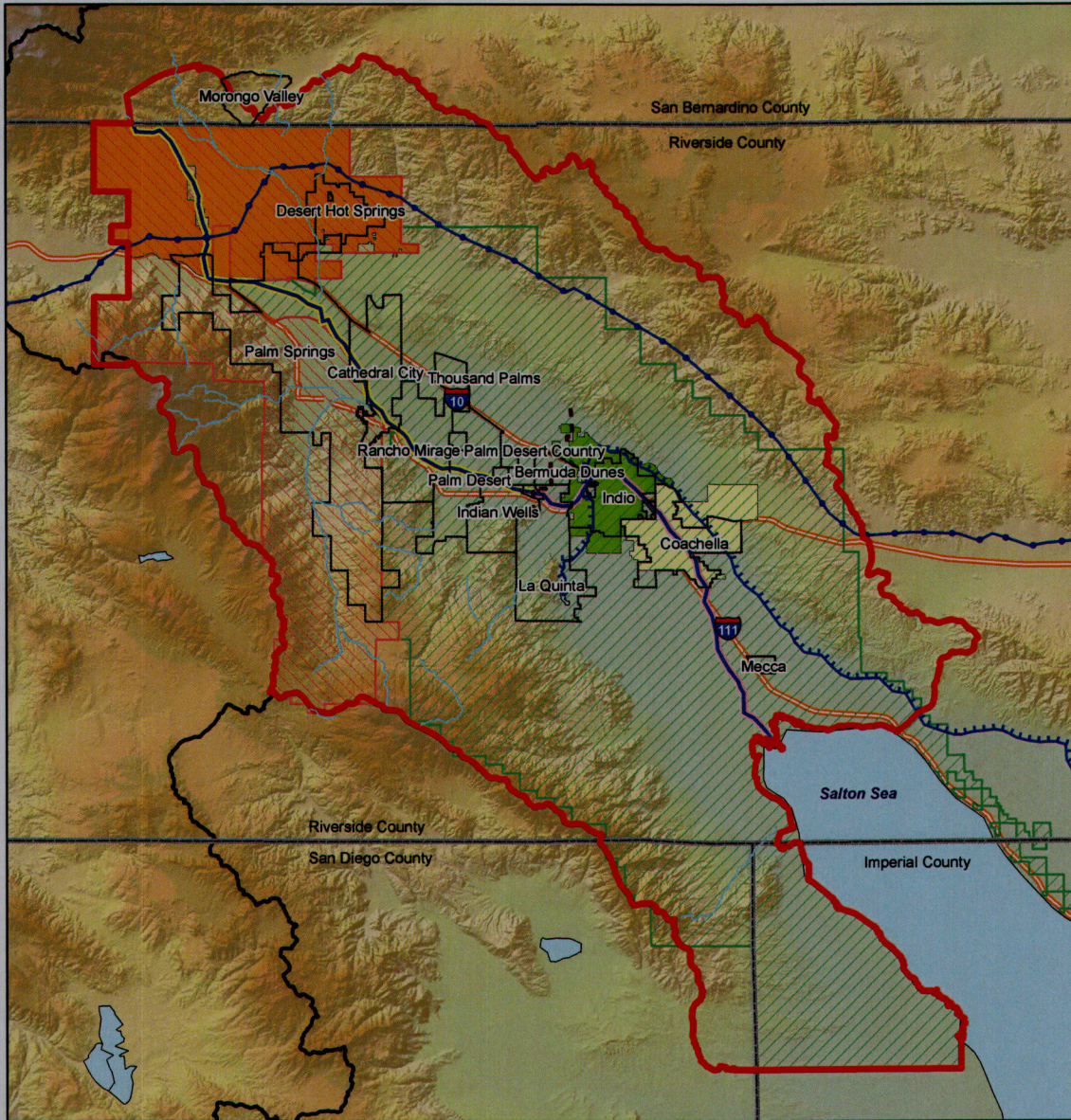


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 V3\_GIS\MXD\Figure Updates\_Public Draft  
 Department: RMC Water & Environment



# Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group

## Figure 1-2



- Division between West and East Valley
- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Coachella and All American Canals
- Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
- Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
- Highways
- Water Bodies
- City
- Coachella Valley IRWM Region
- Colorado River Funding Area
- Indio Water Authority
- Mission Springs Water District
- Coachella Water Authority
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Desert Water Agency

Source: CVRWMG



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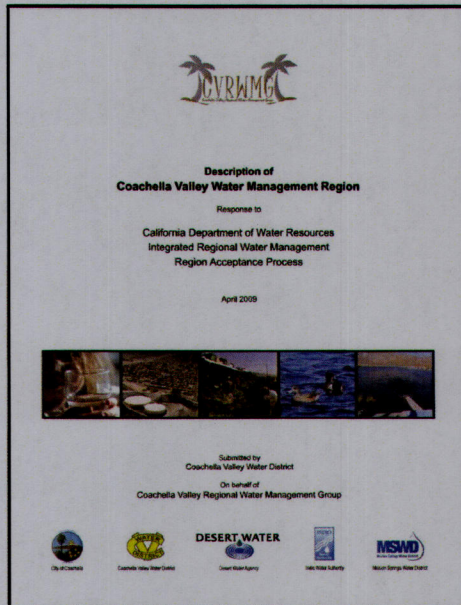


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 File Location: N:\Project\0574-002 Coachella IRWM Plan  
 Update\03\_GIS\MXD\Figure Updates\_Publi Draft  
 Date Updated: October 31, 2013  
 Department: RMC Water & Environment



## 1.3 Coachella Valley IRWM Program History

### Region Acceptance Process and Formation of the CVRWMG



*The Coachella Valley Region Acceptance Process documentation, produced by the CVRWMG in 2009, was the first step in developing an IRWM Program to make the Coachella Valley Region eligible for state funding through Proposition 84*

The preliminary discussions around forming an IRWM Region in the Coachella Valley began in 2004, and continued through 2007. In September 2008, members of the CVRWMG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalized their partnership and authorized the development of an IRWM Plan. Through the MOU, the CVRWMG agencies agreed to coordinate and share information, prepare and adopt an IRWM Plan for the Region, and to implement projects and programs that address issues of common interest: water supply programs and projects that improve water supply reliability or water quality, coordination of water supply planning, development of regional approaches to problem solving and issues resolution. The MOU further defined the types of projects the program should consider, and outlined the level of involvement expected of CVRWMG members.

After formalization of the CVRWMG via MOU, the group prepared and submitted a Region Acceptance Process (RAP) document to DWR in April 2009. The RAP provided for the structure, organization, and governance of the Coachella Valley IRWM Program – a collaborative, consensus-seeking process that formalized the CVRWMG’s fiduciary responsibility and authority for the planning process. The Program is currently run under the general structure outlined in the RAP, and detailed in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder*

*Involvement.* The RAP also defined the Region and described the relationships and coordination efforts with neighboring IRWM regions.

The CVRWMG continues to work together to implement the IRWM Program, prepare grant applications for IRWM funding, implement IRWM-funded projects, and conduct a variety of IRWM-related planning activities. The CVRWMG MOU has been supplemented four times since its adoption in 2008 to refine roles and responsibilities and ensure effective and efficient governance of the CVRWMG’s continual IRWM efforts. The four MOU amendments include:

1. 2010 amendment to authorize hiring a consultant to assist in development of the 2010 IRWM Plan;
2. 2012 amendment to authorize preparation and submittal of a Proposition 84–Round 1 Implementation Grant application;
3. 2012 amendment to authorize the use of a Proposition 84 IRWM Planning Grant to update the 2010 IRWM Plan to be consistent with the 2012 DWR Guidelines and to authorize use of a second grant for outreach to disadvantaged communities (DACs); and
4. 2013 amendment to authorize hiring a consultant for implementation of the IRWM-funded IRWM Plan Update and DAC outreach efforts.



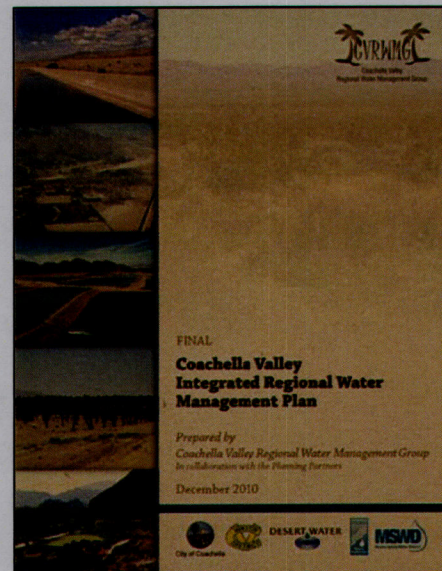
The IRWM Program milestones and activities that required the CVRWMG to update their MOU are described in further detail below. As indicated in the above list of CVRWMG amendments, the Coachella Valley IRWM Program has been highly successful in bringing funding to the Region to support regional and local water and wastewater improvement projects and planning efforts. As of the time of this writing, the Region has been awarded \$5.5 million in funding for the IRWM Program and associated projects, and has been preliminarily awarded an additional \$5.2 million for further project implementation.

### **2010 IRWM Plan**

Following formation of the CVRWMG and the formal recognition of the Region by DWR through the RAP, the Coachella Valley IRWM Program developed the Region's first IRWM Plan in 2010. The 2010 IRWM Plan was developed between 2009 and 2010 with input from stakeholders (as described in detail in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement*), thorough review of relevant planning documents, and consultation amongst water agencies in the Region. During this process, the Planning Partners (the Region's stakeholder advisory group) provided frequent feedback on the proposed plan, helping to guide and shape the direction and goals of the IRWM Program. The Region's first IRWM Plan was approved by the Planning Partners in December 2010, and formally adopted by the governing bodies of the five CVRWMG member agencies. Adoption of the 2010 IRWM Plan, together with approval of the RAP, made the Region eligible to apply for IRWM funding opportunities, specifically Proposition 84 Implementation Grants.

### **IRWM Implementation Grant – Round 1**

Proposition 84 Implementation Grants are made available for projects that are included in adopted IRWM Plans, and must be applied for through a regional IRWM Program. These projects must address a water resource management issue in the applicable IRWM Region, and meet the goals and objectives of the respective IRWM Plan. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), who administers the grant program, has estimated that Proposition 84 funds will be distributed in three rounds, with money pre-allocated to designated funding areas, within which may exist multiple IRWM Regions. In 2010, the Coachella Valley IRWM Region applied for funding under the first round of Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Funding for four projects that would implement conservation measures to meet statewide water conservation goals, protect water quality by replacing septic systems with sewer system connections, and provide onsite potable water treatment to economically disadvantaged communities in the Region. Although the Coachella Valley competed for Implementation Grant funding with the Mojave IRWM Region, the Coachella Valley Region's grant application was successful, and the Region was awarded the full grant request of \$4 million to implement these projects.



*The Coachella Valley IRWM Region was awarded \$4 million in Proposition 84 Funding for four high-priority implementation projects*

Through the projects funded via the Proposition 84– Round 1 Implementation Grant, Coachella Valley residents in portions of the Region, including Desert Hot Springs, will be converted from septic systems to sewer, while naturally-high arsenic levels will be treated with onsite reverse osmosis systems in DACs within the eastern portion of the Region, and future groundwater demands will be reduced through a



regional water conservation program. These projects implement much needed improvements in the Region, helping to protect human and environmental health, protect natural resources, and improve the Region's water supplies.

### **IRWM Planning Grant**

As the Coachella Valley IRWM Program has evolved, and additional IRWM guidelines and grant opportunities have been released by DWR, an update to the 2010 IRWM Plan was deemed necessary. To fund this update, the Region applied for, and was awarded, a \$1 million Proposition 84 Planning Grant. The Proposition 84 Planning Grant funded efforts being undertaken to produce this 2014 IRWM Plan, including increasing regional outreach efforts, incorporating updated information into the 2010 IRWM Plan, conducting technical studies in support of IRWM Plan development and goals, and developing necessary updates to ensure that the 2014 IRWM Plan is consistent with updated DWR IRWM Guidelines. The updated IRWM Plan will ensure that the Region is applicable to receive future rounds of IRWM Implementation Grant funding.

### **IRWM DAC Outreach Efforts**

In 2012, the Coachella Valley IRWM Region received a \$500,000 grant from DWR to develop and implement a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Outreach Demonstration Program. Through this program the CVRWMG developed and implemented methods to improve DAC participation in the IRWM Plan, and will assist DWR to develop a model DAC Program for similar areas in California. The DAC Program grant funded efforts to improve characterizations of DACs in the Region, expand outreach to DACs, identify projects that benefit DACs, and assist in development of engineering and project management plans for DAC projects. The DAC Outreach Program, which is anticipated for completion in December 2013, is described in further detail in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement* and *Chapter 4, Disadvantaged Communities*.



*DAC Outreach Efforts included workshops in the East Valley in June of 2013 to directly gather input from DAC stakeholders*

### **IRWM Implementation Grant – Round 2**

In 2012, the CVRWMG sent out a call-for-projects to all regional stakeholders, announcing solicitation of projects to include in the Region's second Implementation Grant application to DWR. In the Proposition 84 – Round 2 Implementation Grant cycle, \$5.24 was made available to the Colorado River Funding Area, which includes four IRWM regions that compete for the available funding: Coachella Valley IRWM Region, Mojave IRWM Region, Imperial IRWM Region, and Borrego IRWM Region. The CVRWMG and Planning Partners together executed the project prioritization and selection process outlined in the 2010 IRWM Plan, and selected five IRWM projects for inclusion in the grant application. The projects included in the Round 2 grant application will expand the Region's non-potable water use, ensure that the Region can continue to use recycled water through compliance with the Recycled Water Policy, implement two priority sewer extension programs within DACs, and complete necessary planning and design work to connect an economically disadvantaged tribal community to the municipal water



system. Final grant awards were announced by DWR in January 2014 and the Coachella Valley was recommended to receive its full \$5.24 million grant request.

## 1.4 Overview of Stakeholder Involvement

Building understanding and support for the Coachella Valley IRWM Program and grant application processes among key stakeholders, as well as the general public continues to be critical to ensuring the IRWM Plan reflects local needs, promotes the formation of partnerships, and encourages coordination with state and federal agencies. The CVRWGMG has taken a proactive approach to implementing public outreach and information sharing since 2009, and this effort has generated broad-based support for the IRWM Program. Regional outreach and stakeholder involvement efforts are described in detail in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement*. For the 2014 IRWM Plan, targeted outreach was implemented to address the stakeholder participation gaps identified by the Coachella Valley IRWM Program. The following sections present an overview of the variety of outreach mechanisms used to improve the general awareness of, and participation in, the Coachella Valley IRWM Program.

### 1.4.1 Stakeholder Coordination and Public Involvement

The goal of the stakeholder coordination effort is to provide a means for the region's various entities with interests and/or authority over water management in the region to be actively involved in the IRWM Program and implementation of the IRWM Plan. *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement* contains a detailed description of the various stakeholders involved in the IRWM program.

The goal of public involvement is to increase awareness, understanding, and support for the Coachella Valley IRWM planning effort among the general public. The benefits of keeping the general public informed of the IRWM program and subsequent IRWM Plan implementation include educating constituents and politicians about the importance and interrelation of water management strategies, increasing regional and local support for projects, and generating broad-based support for continued regional coordination.

Various outreach activities were undertaken to solicit public involvement in the development of the 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan. These outreach activities are described in detail in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement, Section 7.4, Balanced Access and Opportunity for Participation*.



*The Coachella Valley Planning Partners have been an integral in developing the 2010 IRWM Plan, 2014 IRWM Plan, and other IRWM Program components*

### Planning Partners

The Coachella Valley IRWM Program is supported by the Planning Partners, who serve an advisory role to the CVRWGMG for IRWM Program activities such as the development of the 2010 and 2014 IRWM Plans, implementation of the DAC Outreach Program, and submittal of IRWM-related grant applications to DWR. The Planning Partners include representatives from various governments and organizations including local cities and communities, the County of Riverside, tribal governments, disadvantaged community representatives, regulatory agencies, and other local water management stakeholders. As



described in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement*, Planning Partners meet on a quarterly basis, and support the CVRWMG with the following tasks:

- Reviewing and contributing to IRWM Plan updates, and identifying changes in the Region since the 2010 IRWM Plan;
- Providing guidance on how to engage key stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities and tribes;
- Contributing to agenda and content for public workshops; and
- Reviewing and contributing to funding application content.

### **DAC Outreach**

As described in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement* and *Chapter 4, Disadvantaged Communities*, the Coachella Valley IRWM Program has engaged in extensive, targeted outreach to disadvantaged communities since 2009. In addition to general outreach efforts, which aim to ensure that the needs and concerns of DACs are incorporated into IRWM planning documents, and encourage increased participation of DACs in the IRWM Program, the Coachella Valley IRWM Program has provided increased technical, engineering, and grant support for DACs applying for IRWM grant opportunities. During both rounds of Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funding, DACs were invited to submit projects for consideration in the Region's application package, and assistance was provided to DACs to ensure that their project submittals were complete and competitive. Of the nine total projects selected for inclusion in the Region's two Proposition 84 Implementation Grant packages, five of those projects would help to meet a critical water supply or water quality issue of a DAC.

Through the DAC Outreach Program, additional planning and engineering support was provided to DAC projects. This task aims to address an issue expressed to the CVRWMG by several of the Region's DACs regarding complexity of IRWM grant applications. The intention of this additional DAC support was to help DAC projects become more competitive for the third and final round of IRWM funding, anticipated in late 2014. Detailed information about project support and other targeted DAC outreach efforts conducted through the DAC Outreach Program are provided in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement* and *Chapter 4, Disadvantaged Communities*.



*The CVRWMG used outreach meetings in June of 2013 to connect with disadvantaged communities regarding their water resources-related issues and needs*

The extensive outreach conducted with DACs resulted in a new chapter for the 2014 IRWM Plan, *Chapter 4, Disadvantaged Communities*, which, with the input of DAC residents and stakeholders, characterizes DACs in the Region. This characterization includes detailed mapping of DACs and identification of DAC needs and issues. Through collaboration with DAC organizations, participation and input from DACs that contributed to this chapter was high, and provided great insight into the needs of DACs and the types of projects that should be prioritized.





## **Tribal Outreach**

The goal of engaging the Region's tribal governments is to better understand their critical water resources issues and needs. Through targeted outreach, the CVRWMP learned more about the major water-related concerns facing the tribes so that long-term implementation of the IRWM Plan may be responsive to those needs. The Coachella Valley IRWM Region includes six federally recognized Native American Tribal Reservations, with a seventh located along the western boundary (denoted with an asterisk "\*"). Five of these Tribes expressed interest in participating and staff from the tribes were engaged one-on-one during outreach conducted for the IRWM Program, and one tribe decided not to participate (denoted with two asterisks "\*\*"):

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Mission Indians
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians\*
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians\*\*
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Additionally, meetings were conducted with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services to gain a better understanding of tribal needs from a regional perspective. The extensive outreach conducted with the Region's Tribal Nations resulted in a new chapter for the 2014 IRWM Plan, *Chapter 5, Tribal Water Resources*, which, with the input of tribal stakeholders, characterizes the Region's tribes, tribal water resources, and tribal issues pertaining to water resources in the Region. Various outreach activities that were conducted to solicit Tribal members and solicit input from tribes in the development of the 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan are described in further detail in *Chapter 7, Stakeholder Involvement, Section 7.6 Tribal Outreach and Coordination*.

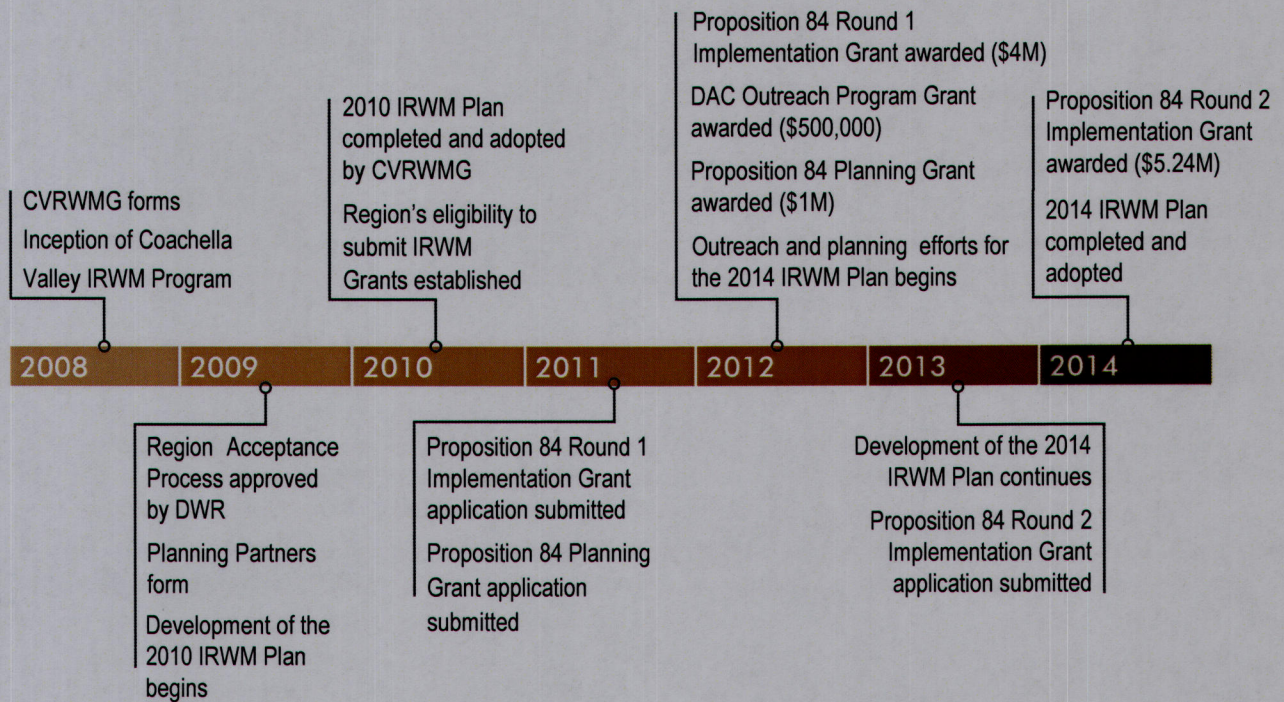
## **Public Outreach**

In order to ensure that all potential stakeholders interested in water resources management have been informed about and given the opportunity to contribute to the IRWM Plan, the CVRWMP conducted a series of public outreach meetings to the following groups:

1. Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Technical Advisory Committee
2. Coachella Valley Association of Governments, Energy/Environmental Resources Workgroup
3. Riverside County Planning Commission
4. Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River
5. MS4 Co-permittees, Stormwater Desert Task Force
6. Coachella Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition
7. Desert Valley Builders Association, Legislative Affairs Forum
8. Coachella Valley Housing Review Committee



**Figure 1-3: IRWM Program Milestones, 2008-2014**





## 1.5 2014 IRWM Plan Development

The 2014 IRWM Plan was developed by various stakeholders in collaboration with the CVRWMG, Planning Partners, and consulting team. Through a series of meetings and public workshops, updated water resource needs, issues, and conflicts were identified; regional goals and objectives were reviewed and revised; and projects that contribute to Plan objectives were identified.

This IRWM Plan is organized in accordance with IRWM Plan Standards established in **Section IV** of DWR's IRWM Grant Program Guidelines (November 2012). **Table 1-1** cross-references the IRWM Plan Standards with relevant sections of the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan. **Figure 1-4** provides a conceptual graphic illustrating the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan framework. **Appendix VI-A** explains in detail how the 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan meets the standards established in DWR's IRWM Grant Program Guidelines. The appendix details the requirements in each standard, how the IRWM Plan meets those requirements, and which section of the IRWM Plan addresses each requirement and standard.

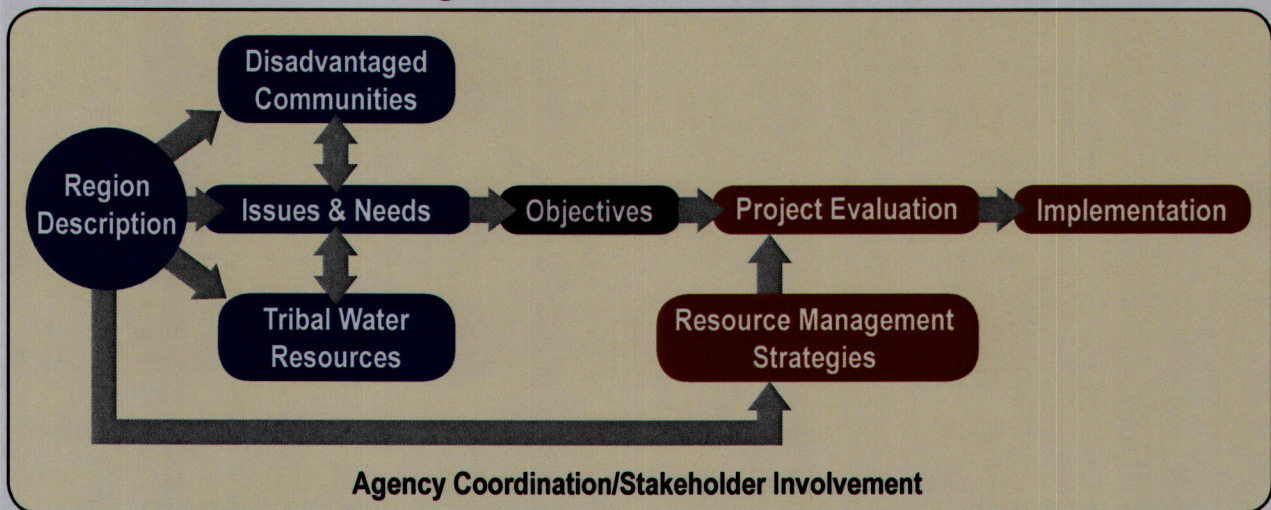
**Table 1-1: Organization of IRWM Plan**

IRWM Plan Standards	Location in 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan
Governance	Stakeholder Involvement (Chapter 7) Agency Coordination (Chapter 10) Framework for Implementation (Chapter 11)
Region Description	Region Description (Chapter 2) Disadvantaged Communities (Chapter 4) Tribal Water Resources (Chapter 5) Agency Coordination (Chapter 10)
Objectives	Issues and Needs (Chapter 3) Disadvantaged Communities (Chapter 4) Tribal Water Resources (Chapter 5) Objectives (Chapter 6)
Resource Management Strategies	Resource Management Strategies (Chapter 8)
Integration	Resource Management Strategies (Chapter 8)
Project Review Process	Project Review and Prioritization Process (Chapter 9)
Impact and Benefit	Framework for Implementation (Chapter 11)
Plan Performance and Monitoring	Framework for Implementation (Chapter 11)
Data Management	Framework for Implementation (Chapter 11)
Finance	Framework for Implementation (Chapter 11)
Technical Analysis	Issues and Needs (Chapter 3)
Relation to Local Water Planning	Agency Coordination (Chapter 10)
Relation to Local Land Use Planning	Agency Coordination (Chapter 10)
Stakeholder Involvement	Disadvantaged Communities (Chapter 4) Tribal Water Resources (Chapter 5) Stakeholder Involvement (Chapter 7)
Coordination	Disadvantaged Communities (Chapter 4) Tribal Water Resources (Chapter 5) Stakeholder Involvement (Chapter 7) Agency Coordination (Chapter 10)
Climate Change	Region Description (Chapter 2) Resource Management Strategies (Chapter 8)



As demonstrated in **Figure 1-4**, the chapters included in the 2014 IRWM Plan are inter-related and build upon one another. This graphic also indicates that information in the Agency Coordination (Chapter 10) and Stakeholder Involvement (Chapter 7) chapters are connected to every chapter in the IRWM Plan; because stakeholder information was solicited for all IRWM Plan chapters. The 2014 IRWM Plan and its Appendices are presented in **Volume I**, while the DAC Outreach Program (see *Chapter 4, Disadvantaged Communities*) and supporting materials are presented in **Volume II**.

**Figure 1-4: IRWM Plan Framework**



The overall direction and development of the IRWM Plan was provided by the CVRWMG and Planning Partners. The CVRWMG were assisted in preparing plan documents by:

- RMC Water and Environment
- Integrated Planning and Management, Inc.



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