

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
 BY: GREGORY P. PRIAMOS DATE: 7/14/15

Departmental Concurrence

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
 REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT  
 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

638



**FROM:** Regional Park and Open-Space District

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
 July 14, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Resolution 2015-9 Supporting and Adopting the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan); [\$0]; CEQA Exempt; Districts One & Three

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Directors:  
 1. Find that the Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 15262, and 15306;  
 2. Adopt the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan;  
 3. Adopt Resolution 2015-9 Supporting and Adopting the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan;  
 4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to deliver the Notice of Exemption to the County Clerk and the State Office of Planning and Research for filing within five (5) working days of approval by this Board.

**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.

(Cont. on page 2)

2015-002D

*[Signature]*  
 KYIA BROWN  
 Parks and Recreation  
 Chief - Recreation

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: Alex Gann  
 Alex Gann  
 County Executive Office Signature

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On motion of Director Tavaglione, seconded by Director Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Benoit and Ashley  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: None  
 Date: July 21, 2015  
 xc: Parks, Recorder  
 Kecia Harper-Ihem  
 Clerk of the Board  
 By: [Signature]  
 Deputy District

Prev. Agn. Ref.: District: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Agenda Number: **13-1**

A-30  
 Positions Added  
 4/5 Vote  
 Change Order

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT,  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FORM 11:** Adopt Resolution 2015-9 Supporting and Adopting the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan); [\$0]; CEQA Exempt; Districts One & Three

**DATE:** July 14, 2015

**PAGE:** Page 2 of 2

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary (continued)**

Propositions 50 and 84 were approved by the voters in 2002 and 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.

In 2007, Rancho California Water District (RCWD), Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD), 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 and parts of Menifee, Murrieta, Wildomar, and the unincorporated County. On August 31, 2010, the County of Riverside (Item #3.14) and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Item #11.3) approved and renewed the MOU originally approved in 2007 to continue its continued efforts to update the Plan. In 2014, the Plan was updated to enhance the collaborative efforts to identify integrated and regional opportunities for the development of a sustainable water supply through more efficient use of water, to promote conjunctive use of existing local water supplies, to protect and improve water quality and to promote environmental leadership. The complete updated Plan can be viewed at <http://www.ranchowater.com/index.aspx?NID=259>

A Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) representing entities and stakeholders significant to water management planning in the region, and have 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 IRWM Plan has since provided the framework and procedures used to govern, collaborate, and plan activities, as well as pursue state funding opportunities, within the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Program.

As a prominent natural resource management agency in the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed, the District desires to support and participate in the Plan's objectives, in the RWMG's stakeholder collaboration efforts, and related funding opportunities – for which adoption of the Plan is an eligibility requirement.

Adoption of the Plan itself does not lead directly to the implementation of any specific project; as a result, the IRWM Plan is exempt from CEQA. The following provisions of the State CEQA Guidelines apply:

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

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

Adopting the USMW IRWM Plan will allow the County and RCFC&WCD 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 2015-9
2. Notice of Exemption
3. Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Executive Summary (The complete USMW IRWM Plan has been distributed in a digital format. Printed copies are available at the Clerk's office & RCFC & WC District office).

2  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 2015-9

4  
5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**  
6 **RIVERSIDE COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN-SPACE DISTRICT**  
7 **SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE UPPER SANTA MARGARITA WATERSHED**  
8 **INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

9 **WHEREAS**, on August 31, 2010, the Rancho California Water District, County of Riverside, and  
10 Riverside County Flood Control and Wastewater Conservation District have partnered by entering into a  
11 Memorandum of Understanding forming a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG); and

12 **WHEREAS**, working with stakeholders and partners of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed,  
13 the RWMG has prepared a 2014 update of the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Integrated Regional  
14 Water Management Plan (Plan); and

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

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

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

25 **WHEREAS**, the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District desires to support  
26 regional water conservation and interagency cooperation by supporting and adopting the Plan; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the Plan will help secure significant funding for resources in the Upper Santa  
28 Margarita Watershed through the California Department of Water Resources, The Safe Drinking Water,

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: *Sybil M. Guinzel* 7-14-15  
DATE: 7-14-15  
SYBIL M. GUINZEL





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

SCOTT BANGLE Parks Director/General Manager  
KYLA BROWN Chief - Parks & Recreation  
KEITH HERRON Chief - Resources & Planning  
BRANDE HUNE Chief - Business Operations

7/29/15 KB  
Date Initial

Riverside County  
Regional Park and Open-Space District

California Environmental Quality Act  
Notice of Exemption

July 7, 2015

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

From: Riverside County Regional Park and  
Open-Space District  
4600 Crestmore Rd  
Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

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

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

**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 updated 2014 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 Regional Park and Open-Space 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 CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15306 – Information Collection; Sec. 15061 – Common Sense Exemption.
- Statutory Exemptions. State CEQA Guidelines Sec. 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies.

JUL 21 2015 13:10

4600 Crestmore Road, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509  
Tel: 951.955.4310 • Fax: 951.955.4305 • www.RivCoParks.org  
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED AGENCY

**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.

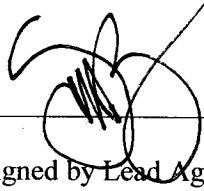
- Section 15262 – Feasibility and Planning Studies Statutory Exemption. CEQA does not apply to feasibility or planning studies that will not have a legally binding effect on any future activities. The IRWM Plan is intended to create improved processes and a framework for how to improve water management 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 prior, 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 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 County of Riverside 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:** Marc Brewer **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 951-955-4316

**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: 7/7/15 \_\_\_\_\_

Title: General Manager

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

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

## 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.