

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM
3.6
(ID # 7289)

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Approval of San Gorgonio Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) and Adoption of Resolution 2018-125 Supporting the Plan, CEQA Exempt, (Companion Item to MT 7273), District 5. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the San Gorgonio Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is exempt from CEQA according to Sections 15061, 15262 and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines; and
2. Adopt Resolution 2018-125 in support of the Plan; and
3. Adopt the Plan for the County of Riverside; 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.

ACTION: Policy


Scott Bruckner 6/8/2018

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Ashley, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: June 19, 2018
xc: EO, Recorder, State

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	17/18

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: [CEO use]

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The State of California's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program began in 2002 with the passing of the Regional Water Management Act (Senate Bill 1672); the IRWM Program is managed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Since 2002, California voters have approved Propositions 50, 84 and 1, which have provided \$1.5 billion to fund the IRWM Program. Proposition 1 allocates \$22.5 million in IRWM grant funding to the Colorado River Funding Area, which encompasses the eastern arid regions of Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Imperial Counties. Colorado River Funding Area funds are allocated to IRWM Regions within the Funding Area through competitive grants for planning and implementation projects that address critical water resource needs within each IRWM Region. The development of an IRWM Plan is required for regional eligibility for IRWM State Grant funds.

The San Gorgonio River Watershed was one of the last watersheds within the Colorado River Funding Area without an IRWM Program. In October 2016, the City of Banning, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, Cabazon Water District, High Valleys Water District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding to form a Regional Watershed Management Group to cooperate and work collaboratively with stakeholders toward the completion of an IRWM Plan for the region. On December 1, 2016, the San Gorgonio IRWM Region received a \$1 million Proposition 1 Planning Grant to develop the IRWM Plan in accordance with 2016 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines issued by DWR.

The proposed San Gorgonio IRWM Plan is the result of a lengthy and collaborative effort among water retailers, water wholesalers, wastewater agencies, stormwater and flood managers, watershed groups, the business community, tribes, disadvantaged communities and non-profit stakeholders to improve water resources planning in the San Gorgonio Region. The Plan: provides an approach for coordinating, refining and integrating existing planning efforts within a comprehensive regional context; identifies specific regional and watershed-based priorities for implementation projects; and opens the door for future state funding of plans, programs and projects of agencies and stakeholders. The complete plan can be viewed at www.sgirwm.org.

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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 action. The Plan acts as a long-range planning tool for future water management practices. No physical environmental impacts are anticipated to occur; as a result, the Plan is exempt from CEQA under the following provisions:

- Statutory Exemption: 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies
- Categorical Exemption: 15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption and 15306 Information Collection

County Counsel has approved the Resolution as to legal form. A companion item appears on the County Flood Control and Water Conservation District agenda this same date (MT Item No. 7273).

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Adopting the San Gorgonio IRWM Plan will allow County Departments to be eligible to receive state grant funding through Proposition 1 and future State water bond issues, to implement key projects for the region's water resources, communities and environment.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2018-125
2. Notice of Exemption and authorization to bill (Clerk of the Board to file)
3. Map of the San Gorgonio Integrated Regional Water Management Region
4. The complete Plan has been distributed in digital format. Printed copies are available at the Clerk and Flood Control District's offices.


Alex Gann 6/14/2018


Gregory L. Priamos, Director County Counsel 6/12/2018

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-125
SUPPORTING AND ADOPTING THE SAN GORGONIO
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City of Banning, Banning Heights Mutual Water Company, Cabazon Water District, High Valleys Water District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency have partnered by signing a Memorandum of Understanding forming a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG); and

WHEREAS, working with the stakeholders and partners of the San Gorgonio Region, the RWMG has prepared the San Gorgonio Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) using funding from a Proposition 1 Planning Grant; 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 of the significant water resource management entities in the region 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 San Gorgonio Region through the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1), and other funding sources.

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY:  6-11-18
DATE

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside in regular session assembled on June 19, 2018 hereby adopts the San Gorgonio Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and supports the submittal of the Plan to DWR for the benefit of the residents of the entire San Gorgonio Region.

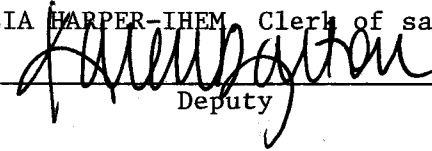
ROLL CALL:

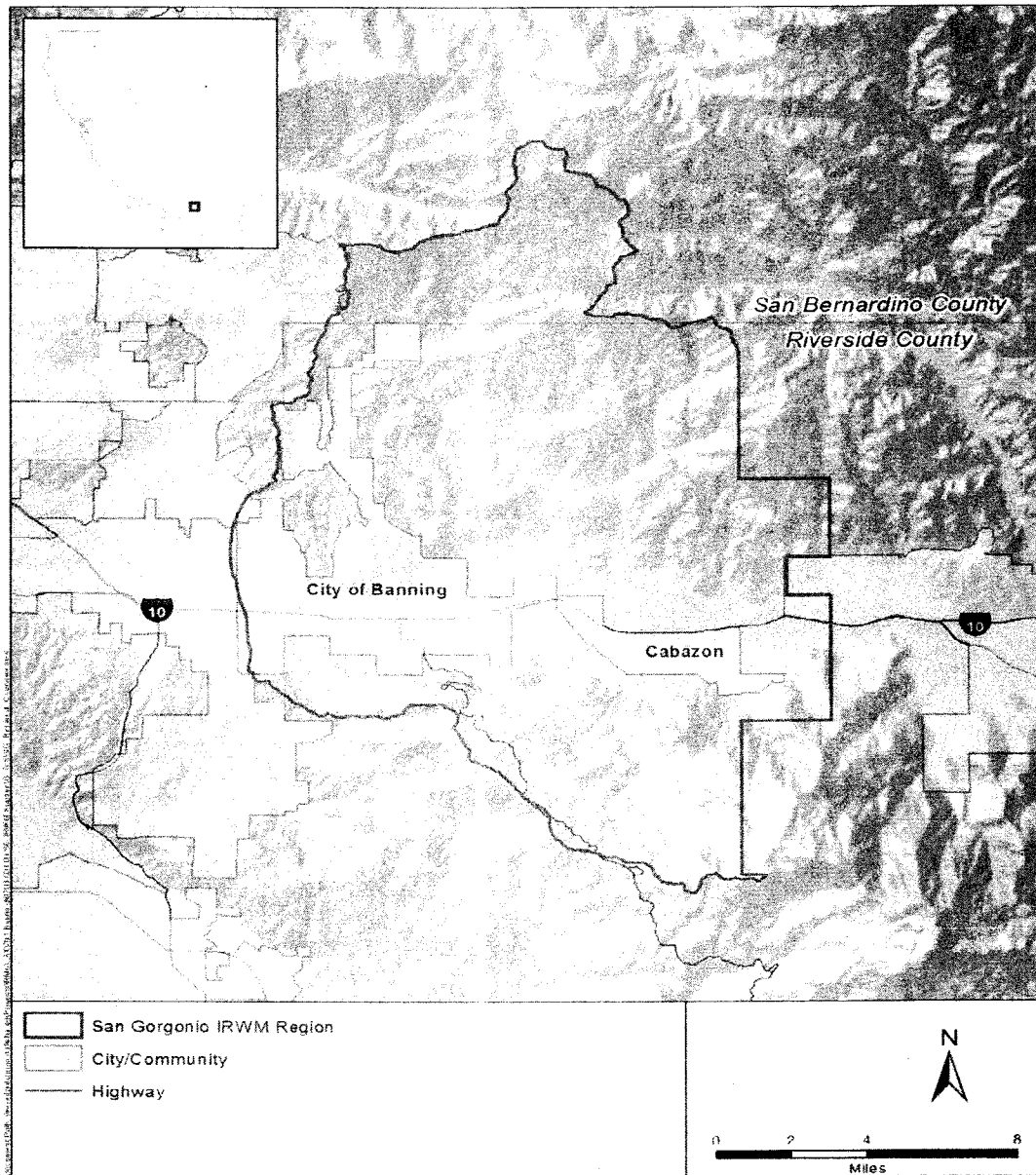
Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None

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



**SAN GORGONIO INTEGRATED REGIONAL
WATER MANAGEMENT REGION**

Notice of Exemption

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

From: County of Riverside
4080 Leona Street, 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
Original Negative Declaration/Notice of
Determination was routed to County
Clerks for posting on.

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

6/20/18 kb
Date Initial

Project Title: San Gorgonio Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan

Project Location – Specific: The San Gorgonio IRWM Plan is located within the eastern San Gorgonio Pass, a distinctive geographical area in southern California located between the San Bernardino Mountains to the north, the San Jacinto Mountains to the south, the desert areas of the Coachella Valley to the east, and the San Bernardino and Moreno Valleys to the west. The San Gorgonio IRWM Region is predominately located within Riverside County.

Project location – City: N/A **Project Location – County:** Riverside

Project Description: The proposed project includes the adoption of the 2018 San Gorgonio IRWM Plan (2018 Plan) that provides a pathway for agencies and stakeholders to collaboratively identify and implement water management solutions that provide multiple integrated benefits to the stakeholders and communities within the San Gorgonio IRWM Region. The San Gorgonio IRWM Region embarked on the development of this 2018 Plan to not only meet the requirements for participation in the statewide IRWM Program, but to also articulate the needs, goals, objectives, strategies and projects that are unique to this region. The San Gorgonio Region is relatively rural, with immense areas of open space that allow for continued growth and urbanization. This 2018 Plan provides opportunities for water resource planners, managers and leaders to invest and utilize sustainable water management strategies as the IRWM Region prepares for growing urban and rural populations. The 2018 Plan provides the framework and procedures used to govern, collaborate and plan activities, as well as to pursue statewide funding opportunities within the statewide IRWM Program.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Riverside

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Gorgonio Watershed IRWM Regional Water Management Group

Exempt Status: Categorical/Statutory Exemptions. State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061, 15262 and 15306

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA, by the State CEQA Guidelines 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 2018 Plan will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources or unique sensitive environments. Furthermore, no unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create an environmental impact. The project as proposed includes the approval and adoption of the 2018 Plan, which acts as a long-range planning tool for future water management practices; no environmental impacts are anticipated to occur.

- **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 2018 Plan provides a pathway for agencies and stakeholders to collaboratively identify and implement water management solutions. It will 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.
- **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 2018 Plan is intended to create improved processes and pathways to collaboratively identify and implement water management solutions. 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 2018 Plan creates a framework for future water management planning that will help aid in improving water resources and supplies throughout the region. The 2018 Plan will not cause any environmental disturbances and will not lead to any direct or indirect environmental impacts.

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: County of Riverside

Contact Person: Scott Brockner **Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** 951.955.1110

Signature: Alex Jann Date: 6/11/18 Title: Deputy County Executive Officer

JUN 19 2018 3.0

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

**AUTHORIZATION
TO BILL
BY JOURNAL VOUCHER**

Project Name: Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Management Plan

Accounting String: 523350-10000-1105000000

DATE: June 11, 2018

AGENCY: County of Riverside

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO BILL FOR FILING AND HANDLING FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENT(S).

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: 2

**AUTHORIZED BY: Scott Bruckner, Senior Management Analyst, Executive Office
951-955-1110**

Signature:



**PRESENTED BY: Melissa Noone, Management Analyst, Executive Office
951-955-1110**

-TO BE COMPLETED BY COUNTY CLERK-

ACCEPTED BY: -

DATE: -

RECEIPT # (S): -