

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

The Lompoc City Council approved the City's participation in the Santa Barbara Countywide Memorandum of Understanding to update a countywide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan on April 7, 2009. The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is the Santa Barbara Countywide integrated planning document prepared for the State Water Resource Control Board's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program. The intent of the locally generated planning document is to promote and practice integrated regional water management to ensure sustainable water uses, reliable water supplies, better water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, protection of agriculture, and a strong economy.

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

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

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

## **Proposition 84**

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

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

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

## **Proposition 84 Project Selection Meeting/Workshop Schedule**

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

**PROPOSITION 84 PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS  
WORKSHOP SCHEDULE and AGENDAS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Workshop**

**September 23, 2009; 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Goleta City Hall, 130 Cremona Drive, Goleta 93117**

Agenda Items: chartering (team vision, purpose goals, team member responsibilities, operating guidelines); background on multi-decision making; scoring approach: identify regional conflicts, needs, objectives; and project information forms

**Project Building Session**

**October 28, 2009; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Buellton City Hall, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton 93427**

Agenda Items: review Proposition 84 guidance; review regional needs and objectives; select appropriate water management strategies; review list of regional projects submitted to date; discussion of developing projects to better meet criteria; potential for integration of projects; potential for meeting the project goals with an alternative project/modified project; identify follow-up actions to continue developing projects; review “long” project information form

**2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop**

**April 13, 2010; 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., City of Solvang, City Chambers; 1644 Oak Street, Solvang, CA 93463**

Agenda Items: Overview of DWR Guidelines; review project long-form information/proponents discuss projects; review project master list; review and agree on criteria weighting by Steering Committee; present draft project ranking; conduct sensitivity analysis; agree on draft project list; review appeals process; Central Coast Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) collaboration

**Public Workshop**

**April 20, 2010; 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Buellton Recreation Center, Room A; 301 Second Street, Buellton, CA 93427**

Agenda Items: review DWR Guidelines and project selection process; review previous Workshops and seek feedback on regional conflicts, needs, objectives, criteria; review project list and seek feedback; present criteria weighting and draft project ranking; discuss future schedule for workshops and timetable; Central Coast IRWM collaboration

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**Also additional information is provided on the following link to the Santa Barbara County website:  
<http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx?id=16852>**