

SECTION 3

Planning Coordination
and
Integration



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3. PLANNING COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION

This section describes stakeholder involvement and coordination efforts related to the development and implementation of the American River Basin (ARB) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). It outlines the processes that were used to solicit and coordinate stakeholder involvement in plan development, which includes water stakeholders, the public, disadvantaged communities (DAC) and tribes. The section also describes the relationship between the IRWMP effort and efforts of local water and land-use planning, neighboring Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) regions, and state of California (state) and federal planning.

3.1. Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder participation is an integral part of the local and regional planning process; including development of the ARB IRWMP. Stakeholder involvement has provided a forum for collaboration, data sharing, and soliciting feedback from interested or affected individuals and agencies in the ARB Region. Collaborative efforts have helped to ensure that diverse interests of the Region are represented during the development and implementation of the ARB IRWMP. These efforts have also led to the development of partnerships that have assisted in the resolution of many of the Region's water management issues.

3.1.1. History of Regional Cooperation

Stakeholder involvement and participation in the ARB IRWMP is built upon the Water Forum's foundation of collaborative planning. The Water Forum process was the initial effort in the ARB Region that focused on developing collaborative, consensus-based solutions and a broad involvement process. The practices pioneered in the 1993 to 2000 Water Forum process have since become accepted standards and norms for conducting stakeholder interaction and collaboration in the Region.

The current stakeholder participation process takes advantage of the knowledge and stakeholder relationships developed over more than 20 years in the Sacramento region. The Water Forum successfully joined together urban public agencies and municipalities along with water supply, industrial, agricultural, agricultural-residential, environmental, flood, businesses, and other community interests in an agreement to secure the future of the Sacramento region water supply to the year 2030. Signed by 40 stakeholder organizations in April 2000, the Water Forum Agreement (WFA) helped launch key programs that help maintain the long-term sustainable yield of the North and Central Area groundwater basins (current jurisdictions of Sacramento Groundwater Authority [SGA] and Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority [SCGA]), conserve municipal and industrial water use, and protect fish and other public trust assets in the lower American River.

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The ARB IRWMP effort began in April 2004, prior to initial California Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidelines for IRWMPs and their subsequent modifications to broaden the list of recommended stakeholders. As a result, the effort that led to the adopted 2006 ARB IRWMP focused primarily on water supply-related agencies and their projects to implement the WFA. Therefore, the initial group of potential participants in the IRWMP was composed primarily of the water suppliers involved in the Water Forum process, with limited involvement from other stakeholder groups. Ultimately, 16 agencies directly participated in the 2006 IRWMP effort.

The 2013 ARB IRWMP continues to build on the relationships developed among water supply interests and water purveyors during the Water Forum and 2006 IRWMP; while greatly expanding the involvement of flood managers, environmental groups, community-based organizations, stormwater experts, and water quality interests. The increasing focus on a broad and balanced representation of the water community significantly contributed to the richness and relevance of the regional planning process.

3.1.2. Stakeholder Outreach Process

This section describes the process for facilitating stakeholder involvement in the ARB IRWMP process.

3.1.2.1. Stakeholder Identification and Notification

Past outreach efforts included, but were not limited to, Regional Water Authority (RWA), Freeport Regional Water Authority, South Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA), SGA, and the Water Forum Successor Effort. Outreach efforts to include stakeholders in this ARB IRWM process built on the foundation of these programs, and the 2006 ARB IRWMP. Participants in this Region have a well-established tradition for meaningful stakeholder involvement and public information. In the past, a variety of strategies and tactics were employed to initiate engagement of stakeholders; including studying regional industry and association membership lists, advertisements in publications and periodicals (local, regional, and statewide), focus groups, and hiring public outreach consultants.

The 2013 update process has employed multiple public outreach mechanisms and processes to notify and encourage involvement from interested stakeholders in the planning effort, including:

- Posting to the IRWMP page on the RWA Web site (www.rwah2o.org)
- Publishing updates on the IRWMP in the RWA newsletter, which is sent to more than 700 individuals representing many local and state public agencies and elected officials
- Briefing the Water Forum Successor Effort. This effort regularly convenes the diverse interest groups involved in the Water Forum process operated continuously since 1993.

- Individual outreach to targeted groups and representatives (e.g., DACs, Native tribes, agencies familiar with agricultural interests in southern Sacramento County, watershed management groups)

Stakeholders involved in the 2013 ARB IRWMP are shown in **Table 4.1** of **Section 4**. Other stakeholders beyond that list may be involved with participation in public meetings and other outreach conducted throughout the ARB IRWMP implementation process. New stakeholders will continue to be identified and invited to participate in the future.

3.1.2.2. Stakeholder Participation

The ARB IRWMP offers a variety of ways for interested stakeholders to engage in the planning process; including the Planning Forum, various work group meetings, and a dedicated Web portal also known as “Opti.” The Planning Forum integrates members of the previously outlined Stakeholder Forum. The consolidation of these two bodies reflects the high degree of participation from regional stakeholders, and is described in detail in **Section 4**.

The Planning Forum is open, accessible, and ongoing, where stakeholders can voice concerns or make suggestions about the plan and the process for its development. The approach used is flexible and responsive. Interested parties are continuously identified and encouraged to be involved in these meetings. Through the Planning Forum, RWA has convened 20 work group meetings and workshops with about 60 agency participants and over 120 distinct individuals for the development and refinement of ARB IRWMP vision, principles, goals, objectives, and strategies.

All of the public Planning Forum sessions were documented and summarized for posting to the public Web site. These summaries contain detailed descriptions of feedback received from meeting participants on the vision, goals, principles, objectives, and strategies developed by the Planning Forum. These summaries are available online at <http://www.rwah2o.org/rwa/programs/irwmp/planning/> (2013a).

Beginning in March 2011, RWA began facilitating a series of work groups intended to gain input to the IRWMP from a variety of perspectives. The work groups were open to all stakeholders, and meetings were scheduled around the availability of individuals with particular experience in a given area. Work groups assembled to date focused on topics including: public water supply, agriculture, flood, watersheds, stormwater, water quality, climate change, and environmental resources. Workgroups convened in January and February 2013 played a significant role in developing the plan strategies outlined in **Section 5**. Summaries of the work group meetings are available online at <http://www.rwah2o.org/rwa/programs/irwmp/workgroups/> (2013b).

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As also described in **Section 5**, ARB stakeholders assisted in collaboratively developing the Region's vision, goals, principles, objectives, and strategies. Several objectives and strategies under the goal of community stewardship address the Region's direction concerning stakeholder outreach in the coming years. These are:

- Objective 15: Increase awareness of the need for, benefits of, and practices for maintaining sustainable water resources.
- Objective 17: Increase sharing of information, studies, and reports to further advance integrated regional water management.
- Strategy CS2: Identify, summarize, and discuss the potential for partnering of existing regional outreach and education programs by 2015.

3.1.2.3. Web Portal

RWA developed a Web-based tool or Web portal to collect and disseminate information on projects proposed within the ARB Region. Having an Internet-based tool allows greater access to, and better control of, information. The Web portal, an application called Opti, supports collaboration and communication among stakeholders. The primary functions of Opti are:

- Sharing information
 - Opti provides a central location for sharing information about upcoming regional meetings, events, and progress of integrated planning and implementation.
- Collecting and displaying project information and data
 - Opti is the mechanism by which RWA collects project information. This information includes a project description, a point of contact, expected benefits, feasibility, costs and funding, status, and other considerations. The collected information will be used for evaluating and prioritizing the projects. Project information is displayed visually and geographically using a geographic information system. Projects on these maps are color-coded to show the primary benefit, such as water supply, water quality, environmental, flood/stormwater management, and community stewardship. Any vetted project prioritization scores will be visible as well. This project prioritization process is described in **Section 5.7**.
- Managing project data
 - Opti allows the ARB regional project database to be easily updated and maintained with the latest project information and data. The interface will also prove to be cost efficient over time, as the previous method of requesting and receiving projects through a fillable Portable Document Format (PDF) form had been labor intensive. Finally, the interface will ensure that regional planning is a living process by allowing for continued adding, evaluating, and prioritizing of projects.

- Building a community
 - With the sharing of information, Opti will foster collaboration and provide more opportunities for planning, project integration and identification of potential cost and resource sharing. Users are encouraged to add content to Opti, and they are given the option of receiving announcements from the Web portal about upcoming events or announcements as they are added to the site.

Opti can be accessed at <http://irwm.rmcwater.com/rwa/login.php>. Users sign up for access to the site. This feature allows for RWA to act as an administrator of the site and ensure that information is secure and shared appropriately. **Figures 3-1** and **3-2** are screenshots of Opti.

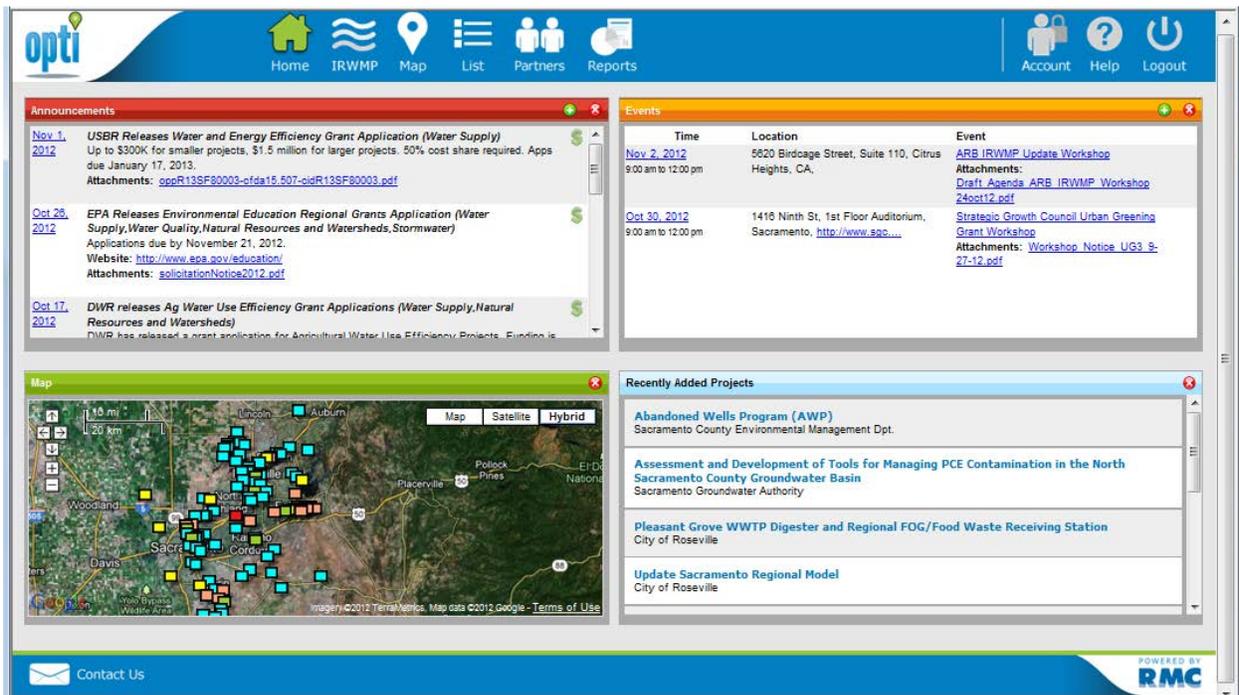


Figure 3-1. Opti Home Page

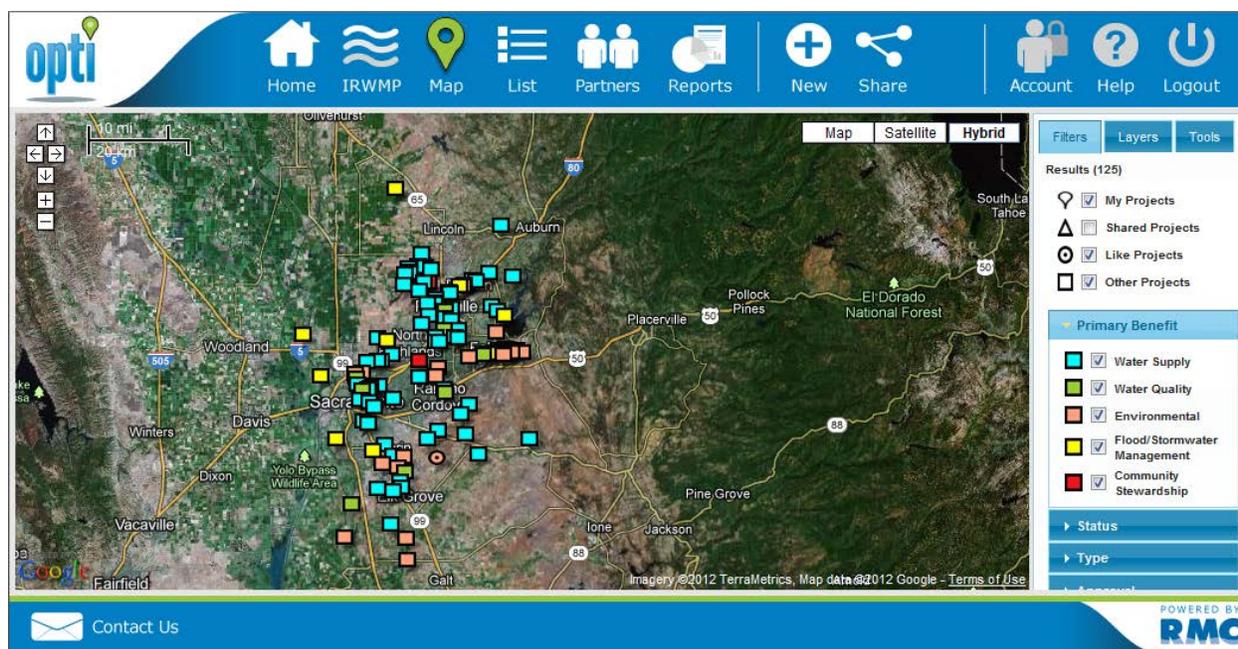


Figure 3-2. Opti Project Map Display

3.1.3. Public Outreach

The ARB IRWMP is an integral part of a comprehensive and coordinated water management program at a local and regional level. As such, more general outreach to the public and stakeholders on water issues, specific project proposals, and regional water conditions also serves the objectives of the IRWMP. RWA and other members of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) conduct or participate in dozens of outreach events and activities over the course of a year. Examples include:

- **Public Events:** Creek Week, Earth Day, Home and Garden Shows, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Get WET (Water Education Today), American River Salmon Festival.
- **Presentations to Community and Professional Groups:** American Basin Council of Watersheds, Sacramento Environmental Commission, McClellan Restoration Advisory Board, California Association of Park and Recreation Districts, Region II.
- **Web sites:** The RWA Web site disseminates information about the plan to the broader public and keeps participants informed between meetings. The Opti Web portal promotes active engagement of stakeholders in the ARB IRWMP community.
- **Regional Water Efficiency Program:** One of the most important water issues to engage the public in is water conservation. Through individual efforts of water purveyors and the Regional Water Efficiency Program, a comprehensive outreach campaign is conducted for the Region's residents to educate them on the importance of water efficiency to ensure a sustainable future.
- **Other:** RWA continually seeks opportunities to outreach to the public and stakeholders on water issues in general and the ARB IRWMP in particular. RWA staff and RWMG participants frequently address public bodies, including city councils and county boards of supervisors.

As with stakeholder outreach, several objectives and strategies under the goal of community stewardship also address the Region's direction concerning public outreach into the coming years. These are further described in **Section 5** and include:

- Objective 15: Increase awareness of the need for, benefits of, and practices for maintaining sustainable water resources.
- Strategy CS1: Increase availability and access to educational material on sustainable water resources.
- Strategy CS2: Identify, summarize, and discuss the potential for partnering of existing regional outreach and education programs by 2015.
- Strategy CS6: Increase engagement of community leaders (e.g. using community-based social marketing where applicable).

3.1.4. Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities

DAC is a term defined by the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 75005(g). "Disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income (MHI) less than 80% of the statewide average. "Severely disadvantaged community" means a community with a median household income less than 60 percent of the statewide average.

Related to DACs are environmental justice (EJ) concerns. As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

In many parts of California, DACs are underserved by water infrastructure or disproportionately impacted by negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. For that reason, special emphasis is placed on ensuring DACs and EJ communities have an opportunity for meaningful involvement in the IRWMP process.

The ARB DAC program includes all subregions within the planning area containing neighborhoods with a MHI below \$48,706. Outreach benefits DACs via improved understanding of what potential IRWMP projects may meet critical DAC needs. In general, delineation of DAC communities has been evaluated by Census tract, which is shown in Figure 2.10 along with the water supply agencies that serve those areas. Even so, the California PRC is not specific as to how DACs are delineated, so different methods of determining the boundaries of a DAC can be considered valid by DWR.

3.1.4.1. Key DAC/EJ Findings

Based on an analysis of the Census tracts and jurisdictional maps, and unlike some parts of the state, DACs in the ARB Region are generally not isolated communities with particular water supply or water quality concerns. In contrast, other regions have communities like Seville, where the average yearly income is \$14,000 and residents pay twice for water: once for the tap water they use only to shower and wash clothes, and once for the 5-gallon bottles they must buy weekly for drinking, cooking, and brushing their teeth due to severe contamination.

The water supply and water quality needs of DACs in the ARB Region are generally served effectively by water purveyor efforts to provide high-quality water supplies to their entire service area and through the regional planning efforts described in this document. Under this structure, DACs are continuously represented through their elected representatives to water district boards, city councils, and county boards of supervisors.

That said, some DACs or individuals that would be considered disadvantaged reside in very small pockets of the Region, served by a small water system and/or private wells. A small water system is defined as a water system for human consumption that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. This includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities. In addition to the classification as a small system, use-types are divided into the following:

- A **Community Water System** is a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-long residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-long residents of the area served by the system.
- A **Non-Transient-Non-Community Water System** is a public water system that is not a community water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons during 6 months of the year.
- A **Transient-Non-Community Water System** is a non-community water system that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons during 6 months of the year.

Areas of special consideration include schools serviced by these systems, due to the characteristics of the population at risk. Other special situations include facilities like truck stops or tourist locations where exposure to substandard water and sanitation may be minimal for most users, but not all. In the ARB Region, issues with small systems water supply and sanitation are generally related to substandard, aging infrastructure, rather than larger regional issues.

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department is involved with the permitting, inspection, and monitoring of 154 small public water systems. In Placer County, there are 158 small systems, which include many systems outside of the ARB Region in the Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) and Tahoe-Sierra regions. Some of those servicing mobile home parks and developments, particularly in the area of Auburn, are in DAC zones, with some additional ones being primarily isolated facilities, such as California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) rest stops or campgrounds. There are no reported problems from any of these locations in the ARB Region; however, monitoring will continue to determine if locations exist with specific issues that should be considered at the IRWMP level.

Regardless of specific issues, the Region recognizes the need for the DAC/EJ community to participate in the IRWMP process, and the Region has a continued commitment to collaborate with DAC/EJ members and advocates. For that reason, additional effort was made to identify specific options for direct DAC/EJ participation by community members or advocate organizations.

3.1.4.2. General DAC Outreach Approach

A general approach to DAC outreach was developed to support the ARB IRWMP effort.

1. Determine existing DAC interest and efforts within RWMG members (RWA members) and leverage efforts in support of the IRWMP.
2. Determine existing DAC interest and efforts within ARB stakeholder groups that can be leveraged to support outreach and involvement.
3. Prepare and maintain a DAC contact and mailing list to encourage participation.
4. Encourage ARB stakeholders and project proponents to identify project(s) with potential to address DAC needs.
5. Provide RWA staff and/or members as speakers for any interested community group that would like to know more about the IRWMP or DAC participation.
6. Invite DAC representatives to participate in stakeholder meetings and events.

Appendix E contains the DAC and EJ Outreach Report with the steps taken by the ARB Region to understand DAC/EJ concerns and conduct outreach.

3.1.5. Outreach to Tribes

The ARB IRWMP appreciates the importance of water from a physical and cultural perspective to tribal communities within the planning region. The ARB Region has two federally recognized tribes. These include the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) and the Wilton Rancheria. RWA contacted these tribes via invitation letter in June 2011 and extended an invitation to participate in the IRWMP development. Additionally, RWA contacted a consultant to discuss UAIC water resource-related issues in May 2011. No issues were identified at that time. RWA intends to continue direct outreach to these tribes to identify if opportunities to collaborate exist throughout implementation of the ARB IRWMP.

3.1.6. State Agency Assistance

DWR plays an important role in developing the IRWMP. DWR has participated frequently in the Planning Forum and work group process, providing clarifications on the state perspective for this IRWMP effort. A nonvoting DWR representative has been one of the five members on the ARB Advisory Committee; the committee's role is described in **Section 4.2.2**. The DWR representative will no longer serve on this committee after the IRWMP is adopted. DWR guidance has been also important for developing the "Resolution of Adoption" document, which each project proponent must sign if they wish to be a part of any funding opportunity.

3.2. Relationship with Local Water Planning

Many local agencies within the ARB Region have water supply, water quality management, wastewater collection and treatment, flood management/control, and stormwater management responsibilities. In **Section 4, Table 4-1** local agencies within the Region that have statutory water management responsibilities are shown. Not all agencies with local water management responsibilities are active participants in the IRWMP effort, but most of these agencies have coordinated with the RMWG in the past and are expected to do so in the future. This IRWMP provides a regional planning framework as described in **Section 5**, but it is not meant to supersede the autonomy or authority of any local agency. The planning framework includes a regional vision, principles, goals, objectives, and strategies, which were all developed with extensive stakeholder input.

Local plans refer to both plans that are developed and implemented by a single agency for their jurisdiction as well as multi-agency plans that cover larger areas. Jurisdictions of these local plans are relevant to the IRWMP, because local agencies ultimately implement the IRWMP through projects that are also in their local plans. Thus, the management tools and criteria in those local plans are naturally reflected in how this IRWMP is implemented, if not also in its development. This project implementation

preferably happens in collaboration with other local agencies. Local plan jurisdictions can also help identify opportunities for collaboration with neighboring IRWM regions (explained in **Section 3.4**), when a local agency boundary crosses IRWM region boundaries.

This IRWMP incorporates, and is consistent with, all known local water planning documents including: Urban Water Management Plans, climate action plans, water master plans, groundwater management plans (GMP), recycled water master plans, habitat conservation plans, stormwater management plans, and other water resources plans and studies. These planning documents provide important information on water supply and demands, local water management issues, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and environmental conditions. Reference to some of these documents can be found throughout **Section 2**.

The IRWMP ensures consistency with local planning efforts by having those local agencies directly participate and formulate the IRWMP. As local water planning efforts are undertaken or updated in the future, the RWMG will consider directly incorporating any relevant changes into the IRWMP. As explained in **Section 5.5**, the IRWMP framework strategies are especially meant to be adaptive at higher frequencies, and new strategies can be developed in line with changes in local plans. Conversely, local planning should also be consistent with the IRWMP. This coordination relationship is further assured by having the IRWMP Framework (described in **Section 5.1**) as part of the resolution for those organizations that adopt the 2013 ARB IRWMP. Collaboration and relationships that have developed and continue to develop through the IRWMP effort are also expected to increase integration and effectiveness among local planning agencies.

A list of local water plans and planning efforts that informed the development of the 2013 ARB IRWMP is included in **Appendix F**. This list is by no means exhaustive of every effort and plan completed in the ARB Region; rather, it identifies those entities and endeavors that are, have been, or are expected to become active in regional planning in the coming decade.

3.3. Relationship with Local Land-Use Planning

Land-use planning is an essential power and responsibility for incorporated cities and counties within the ARB Region that use general plans to achieve community land-planning objectives. Land use planning can often be improved by a careful review of the linkages between land use and development decisions and water supply availability and reliability. State laws passed in 2001 (Senate Bill (SB) 610/221) ensure the consideration of water supply in land use decision making. The availability of water supplies,

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protection of water resource features such as streams, wetlands and recharge areas, and policies and regulations about water quality, drainage and flooding all play a role in future development.

Land-use planning information is vital to water planning documents which inform the IRWMP, as land-use impacts water demands within the Region. Water resource planning efforts in the Region take into consideration land-use plans identified in the General Plans for each city/county. Land use planning documents and General Plans provide a primary basis for developing water supply projections and identifying habitat areas that will need to be protected against impacts associated with urban development. Land-use plans will continue to play an important role in developing effective projects to meet the objectives of the ARB Region and in adapting to the effects of climate change. ARB IRWMP participants will continue to be involved in their own respective city/county land use planning activities as well as coordinate with other regional planning agencies, such as the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to ensure the sufficiency of regional water supplies to accommodate planned land uses.

SACOG is an association of Sacramento region governments formed from the 6 area counties—El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba—and 22 member cities. SACOG provides transportation planning and funding for the Region, and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the Region’s long-range transportation plan, SACOG approves the distribution of affordable housing in the Region and assists in planning for transit, bicycle networks, clean air and airport land uses. As such, it has been a significant stakeholder in the IRWMP process. Further, since SACOG’s directors are chosen from the elected boards of its member governments it even shares some of the same governing bodies as the ARB IRWMP stakeholders.

Many land-use agencies are also active in aspects of water management within their jurisdiction. The following list shows agencies (organized by county) in the ARB Region with land use planning authority and responsibility. An asterisk (*) next to the organization indicates that a representative from a planning or related department participated in at least one workshop or work group meeting during the 2013 ARB IRWMP development process. An “R” indicates that the organization is a member of RWA.

- El Dorado County
- Placer County*^R
 - City of Auburn
 - Town of Loomis

- City of Rocklin*
- City of Lincoln*^R
- City of Roseville*^R
- Sacramento County*^R
 - City of Sacramento*^R
 - City of Rancho Cordova*
 - City of Folsom^R
 - City of Citrus Heights*
 - City of Elk Grove*
 - City of Galt

To help ensure a future proactive relationship between land use planning and water management, the ARB Region stakeholders developed principles, objectives, and strategies as described in **Section 5** that address land use and water management. A key ARB IRWMP objective developed by stakeholders is to "educate public officials on the need to more effectively integrate water resources planning with land use planning decisions." Specific strategies developed during the ARB IRWMP update that the RWMG will implement to achieve a stronger relation between land-use and water planning include:

- Strategy CS3: Identify natural recharge areas and relay that information to relevant land-use planning agencies by 2015.
- Strategy CS4: Promote the use of Low Impact Development methods, where appropriate.
- Strategy CS5: Provide annual updates to city and county governments and other local agencies on accomplishments and continued challenges of integrated water management.

Other strategies will likely be employed in the future, as this is intended to be an adaptive process. The process for developing and incorporating new strategies in the ARB IRWMP is described in **Section 5**.

3.4. Relation to Neighboring Regional Planning Efforts

The ARB Region is one of eight IRWM regions of the DWR designated Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA), and is adjacent to a total of six IRWM regions. Funding areas determine the total Proposition 84 funding that is available to a group of IRWM regions. Funding area delineations also follow the larger Sacramento River Hydrologic Region boundaries, creating common interests as well as a need for collaboration. Therefore, coordination and communication within the SRFA are described first in this

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section. Thereafter, the subsections describe the ARB Region’s relationships with each neighboring region, addressing areas of adjacent or overlapping geography and common interests. The southernmost portion of the ARB Region in Sacramento County is also with the San Joaquin River Funding Area. As shown in **Figure 2-8**, the ARB Region lies adjacent to the regions shown in **Table 3-1**.

Table 3-1. Neighboring IRWM Regions and Associated Funding Areas

IRWM Region	Proposition 84 Funding Areas
Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba IRWM Region	San Joaquin River Funding Area, Sacramento River Funding Area
Westside Sacramento IRWM Region	Sacramento River Funding Area
Northern Sacramento Valley IRWM Region	Sacramento River Funding Area
Yuba County IRWM Region	Sacramento River Funding Area
Eastern San Joaquin County IRWM Region	San Joaquin River Funding Area
Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras IRWM Region	San Joaquin River Funding Area

Key:
 IRWM = Integrated Regional Water Management

A small portion of southwestern Sacramento County is not within any IRWM Region, and is described in **Section 3.4.7**.

3.4.1. Sacramento River Funding Area

Proposition 84 IRWM funding for the ARB Region is tied to 11 funding areas throughout the state. The ARB Region straddles the SRFA and San Joaquin River Funding Area, but because the majority of the Region and most of the population falls within the SRFA, the ARB Region has been active in collaborating with the SRFA regions.

The SRFA currently consist of eight approved IRWM regions, which were determined through the DWR Region Acceptance Process. Representatives from regions first met in June 2008,¹ to discuss common interests and have met on many subsequent occasions. The meetings have been focused on communication and collaboration, and identification of joint projects and several specific objectives that include:

- Ensuring that adjacent or overlapping regions define an appropriate level of coordination.
- Recognizing the need for additional planning, and the need for state funding to support it, in all of the independent regions.
- Exploring the concept of an equitable funding distribution within the SRFA.

¹ At the time of this initial meeting, there were 10 regions within SRFA. Since the 2009 Region Acceptance Process, some of the region boundaries have been redrawn.

The various IRWMs in the region have developed specific agreements or understandings with adjacent regions with which they have a boundary overlap. Over the course of the SRFA meetings, the group has identified the specific planning needs of each IRWM region based both on the past and anticipated evolution of events within the area. Ongoing coordination throughout the SRFA is expected to continue into the future.

3.4.2. CABY IRWM Region

When the ARB Region began its IRWMP in 2004, the entire American River watershed was included within the plan boundaries. At that time, the RWA, as the RWMG, looked to the extent of the American and Cosumnes river watersheds as a boundary, which was included in the adopted May 2006 ARB IRWMP. In 2005, an effort began to develop an IRWMP in the upper watersheds of the Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba rivers, known collectively as the CABY IRWMP Region. Later in 2006, both RWA and members of the CABY Region discussed the boundary overlap and agreed that the upper watershed is sufficiently different from the lower watershed to justify the creation of a separate IRWMP for the upper reaches (above the Sacramento Valley floor) of these four river systems. The CABY IRWMP addresses interests in the upper elevation portions of the Cosumnes and American rivers. Both entities agreed that the CABY Region would be appropriate to organize planning efforts in the upper watershed and collaborate with the ARB RWMG on issues of mutual interest. This was first documented in a July 2007 letter to CABY's RWMG, which was included in the CABY Region's 2007 submittal for Proposition 50 implementation grant funding. DWR acknowledged this collaboration when the CABY Region was considered eligible for Proposition 50, Round 2 Funding.

CABY and ARB RWMGs continue to coordinate their efforts. Both organizations have members that attend the others' regular meetings, and Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) and El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), in particular, are involved in both IRWMP processes. In addition, the two regional bodies have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU formally presents the cooperation and collaboration between the two RWMGs. It specifies that "In the areas of coordination, the regions may partner to propose studies, projects, programs or other actions that benefit both regions."

The MOU process itself is a good example of the extent of collaboration between the two entities as it involved the governing bodies, staff, and stakeholders of both organizations in the development of both the underlying conceptual agreements as well as the language of the final version.

Stakeholders and areas of focus differ between the ARB and CABY regions. The key priorities in the ARB Region: providing water and wastewater services to primarily a growing urban population; maintaining and enhancing the environment and fisheries of the lower American and Cosumnes rivers;

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improving stormwater quality, groundwater basin sustainability, and flood protection in an urban area; and expanding recycled water use, do not all coincide directly with objectives in the CABY Region. Even when areas of interest coincide, the specific issues, objectives, and the interested stakeholders often differ. For these reasons, coordination on the common interests, rather than consolidation into a larger region, is the most effective and efficient approach to for IRWM.

Both regions agree with the goal of sound management of the entire American and Cosumnes watersheds for all beneficial uses, so a number of mechanisms have been developed to ensure coordination. The ARB and CABY regions have small areas of geographic overlap in parts of El Dorado and Placer counties (Figure 2.8). These areas are more urbanized than much of the rest of the CABY Region, and thus share common interests with the urban water suppliers in the ARB Region. Additionally, the communities in the overlap area are in close enough proximity to both Folsom Lake and the main groundwater basin to create opportunities for developing conjunctive use projects. Three water agencies participate in both the CABY and ARB IRWMP: EID, El Dorado County Water Agency, and PCWA. This common membership helps to ensure coordination on issues across the regional boundary.

As a result of ongoing coordination, the ARB and CABY regions have identified western Placer creeks habitats as a potential of coordination and joint project development. Improvement of the fisheries of the upper reaches of these streams is an objective within the CABY Region. However, removal of barriers on these streams in the ARB Region is critical to success. CABY and ARB stakeholders have met on several occasions to work on identifying issue and potential solutions.

3.4.3. Westside Sacramento IRWM Region

On the west, the ARB Region is bounded by the Westside-Sacramento (Westside-Sac) IRWM Region, which consists of Cache Creek and Putah Creek watersheds. The Westside-Sac Region combined the former Yolo County IRWM Region with the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region portions of Solano County, Lake County, and Napa County as part of the Regional Acceptance Process in 2009. The ARB and Westside-Sac regions have no overlap, but do share the Sacramento River as a common boundary and as a source of water supply.

Agency jurisdictions and organization membership across IRWM region boundaries help ensure coordination with Westside-Sac. The Westside-Sac RWMG includes the Water Resources Association (WRA) of Yolo County. WRA fully incorporates members of the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) Joint Powers authority. The WDCWA along with the City of West Sacramento (West Sacramento), are also full members in the RWA, although they participate in the Westside-Sac IRWMP.

The cities of Davis and Woodland have also independently participated in RWA-led water efficiency programs in the past.

The focus of the WDCWA is to implement and oversee a regional surface water supply project. This project will replace deteriorating groundwater supplies with safe, more reliable surface water supplies from the Sacramento River. Once complete, the project will serve more than two-thirds of the urban population of Yolo County. It will also serve the University of California Davis, a project partner. Primary project goals include providing a new water supply to help meet existing and future needs, improving drinking water quality and improving the quality of treated wastewater.

The latter is of particular interest to another ARB stakeholder and RWA member, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). SRCSD has served West Sacramento since 2008, and its board of directors represents West Sacramento and Yolo County in addition to the Sacramento region incorporated cities. SRCSD discharges to the Sacramento River and this activity is increasingly regulated. Improvements in the quality of treated wastewater and improving wastewater options will benefit, on many levels, both the ARB and Westside-Sac Region, as well as downstream users.

Flood management is a common issue on both sides of the Sacramento River. Both the ARB and Westside-Sac regions are a part of the Lower Sacramento/Delta North Region Regional Flood Management Plan process led by West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA). This effort, started in February 2013, is part of an overall approach to implementing the state's 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). DWR has provided local funding and support for development of Regional Flood Management Plans (RFMP). When completed, the RFMP will identify a list of priority regional flood projects, which can be incorporated into the Sacramento River Basin-Wide Feasibility Study being led by DWR, as well as the ARB and Westside-Sac region planning processes. In addition, beginning in March 2013, DWR also initiated a public engagement process for the CVFPP Basin-Wide Feasibility Study and Conservation Strategy. WSAFCA, and its counterpart, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), and other flood-related agencies have been closely coordinating through these and other flood planning efforts.

While collaboration is sought, the ARB and the Westside-Sac regions may have different goals for flood management efforts. Under the CVFPP, the Yolo Bypass is planned to be expanded west into current agricultural land in Yolo County. Discussion regarding changes to agricultural lands has created some tension in the Westside-Sac Region. Higher water stages in the Yolo Bypass could also potentially

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increase flood risk. For the ARB Region, however, an expansion of the Yolo Bypass creates benefits by allowing for efficient conveyance of flood waters from Sacramento's urban areas.

Other multi-regional efforts have occurred during the past 10 years with the completion of numerous Sacramento River Basin watershed assessments and watershed management plans. Both ARB and Westside-Sac regions are incorporating watershed projects into their plans, particularly those with the ability to affect conditions on the ground, i.e., implement actions to protect or improve watershed resources and overall watershed condition. Watershed improvement work is being done by locally directed management groups; by local, state, and federal agencies; and by other public and private entities. Planned projects are intended to benefit water quality, stream flow and aquatic habitat, fish passage, fire and fuels management, habitat for wildlife and waterfowl, eradication of invasive plant species, flood management, and watershed stewardship education. Support for this work has come from a broad spectrum of public and private sources.

In addition to projects and institutional arrangements, Westside-Sac and ARB regions jointly share stakeholders from the environmental, agricultural and business sectors as well as DAC representatives. Groups like The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have provided leadership as have representatives involved with resource conservation districts and farm bureaus.

3.4.4. Northern Sacramento Valley IRWM Region

The relationship of the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) and ARB IRWM regions is primarily the Sacramento River and the downstream portions of the Upper Bear and Upper Coon-Upper Auburn watersheds. The NSV Region boundary is adjacent to Placer and Sacramento counties in the ARB Region (Figure 2.8). Several local ARB agencies have jurisdictions that include the area east of the Feather River and south of the Bear River, which is in the NSV Region. A few of these common agencies with direct relationships to both plans are Natomas Central Mutual Water Company (NCMWC), South Sutter Water District, SAFCA, and Reclamation District 1000.

NCMWC, being an agricultural water supplier and a Sacramento River diverter, shares a host of common interests with the partners in the Sacramento Valley IRWM Region. However, NCMWC is a member of the SGA, for its service area in Sacramento County, and landowners within its boundary share an interest in a common groundwater subbasin.

South Sutter Water District overlies much of Sutter County and a small portion of western Placer County. South Sutter Water District is an agricultural supplier, and is served by the Bear River (rather than the

American), so it has limited common interests with the ARB Region. However, the district has been participated in stakeholder meetings during development of the ARB IRWMP.

SAFCA and Reclamation District 1000 are flood management agencies, and their jurisdictions span north of the ARB Region to the Cross Canal, which is a part of the NSV Region. Flood concerns in this area would be affected by the planning and implementation efforts of the NSV IRWMP.

The NSV and ARB regions also share the North American groundwater subbasin. The ARB Region, through the SGA, has actively coordinated with Sutter County on management of groundwater.

The remaining ARB stakeholders in the ARB IRWMP in Sacramento and Placer counties generally do not participate in the NSV IRWM Region. Even so, RWA and Northern California Water Association (NCWA) formally recognized the area of overlap and the need for coordination in December 2005, and a formal agreement was validated when ARB and NCWA staff met in March 2009 following release of the DWR Regional Acceptance Process Guidelines.

3.4.5. Yuba County IRWM Region

The Yuba County IRWM Region bounds the ARB Region to the north. ARB Region staff have met with Yuba County Water Agency staff and agreed that the boundary represents a natural division on which to base planning regions. The Yuba County IRWM area is generally served by water supplies from the Bear and Yuba rivers, as opposed to the American River, which serves much of the ARB Region. Likewise, flood control concerns for the urban areas in the regions are focused on the different river systems. Staff of the two regions will continue to meet, as a part of broader funding area meetings, and identify mutual interests as they arise.

3.4.6. Eastern San Joaquin County IRWM Region

On the south, the ARB Region is bounded by the Eastern San Joaquin County IRWM Region. The planning effort for that IRWMP was led by the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority (GBA) in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, including some ARB Region participants. Although the boundary between the two regions is set at the county line, it also represents a distinct division between two watersheds—the Upper Cosumnes and the Upper Mokelumne (see Figure 2.2).

The area of focus has been the Cosumnes groundwater subbasin, which spans both Sacramento and San Joaquin counties, and is a part of the larger San Joaquin Valley Basin. There has been significant information sharing and coordination with the ARB Region’s South Area Water Council (SAWC) on project development and groundwater modeling activities of the GBA. In this process GBA learned “the

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fate of the groundwater basin is linked not to a political jurisdictional boundary between Sacramento and San Joaquin County, but is linked through a hydrologic boundary that is impacted by the activities of water resource management in each area.”

Groundwater modeling completed during the planning process illustrates the nature of this hydrologic linkage in that future no action scenarios predict the joining of over-drafted groundwater depressions in both south Sacramento County and northern San Joaquin County into a larger groundwater depression.

The GBA has been included as stakeholders in the SAWC effort and participated in the development of an MOU for groundwater management by the six sponsoring agencies including:

- SSCAWA
- City of Galt
- Rancho Murieta Community Services District
- TNC
- Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA)
- DWR—Conjunctive Management Program

In particular, the MOU specifically recognizes the importance of better coordination with water management efforts in adjacent areas including San Joaquin County. The MOU will ensure appropriate communication and possible opportunities for collaboration on projects in the future.

Outside of the direct agreements related to groundwater, the interests of the Eastern San Joaquin Region, including mitigation of severe overdraft, saline water intrusion into the groundwater basin, and a myriad of issues reflecting their location in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), differ markedly from the ARB Region.

3.4.7. Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras IRWM Region

The ARB Region shares the southeastern border with the Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras (MAC) Region. The MAC Region encompasses the upper portions of Cosumnes, Mokelumne, and Calaveras river watersheds, extending east into the Sierra Nevada. A small portion of the South Fork American River is also a part of the MAC Region.

The ARB Region shares the Cosumnes and Mokelumne watersheds with the MAC Region, and the MAC Region stakeholder’s management of these rivers inherently affects the downstream areas. However,

these rivers cover a less developed area of either forest or private agricultural land, and integrated management of resources within these areas is still under development.

The MAC Region overlies and heavily relies on the Cosumnes groundwater subbasin, which is also an important resource for the southern ARB Region. The SAWC developed a GMP in 2011 to manage the portion of the subbasin within the ARB Region. Coordination and outreach to users within the MAC Region on matters of mutual concern are ongoing.

3.4.8. Southwestern Sacramento County

The only area adjacent to the ARB Region that is not included in an IRWM region is the southwestern “panhandle” of Sacramento County. This area is distinctly different from the ARB Region in a number of respects. First and foremost, it is located in the primary zone of the Delta; therefore, planning will be much more closely aligned with implementation of the 2008 Delta Vision Strategic Plan and the Delta Reform Act. This area is outside the American and Cosumnes river watersheds and does not rely on those watershed’s resources, which are the primary distinguishing characteristics defining the ARB Region. The area has no water infrastructure interconnections with the rest of the ARB Region. Finally, this area was specifically excluded from the Water Forum process, so it has not been part of the regional planning that has been the focus of implementing the WFA.

3.5. Coordination with State and Federal Planning Efforts

The ARB RWMG and staff coordinates with state and federal efforts on behalf of the ARB Region. Local agencies and entities also coordinate efforts directly with various state and federal agencies individually. **Section 3.5.1** below describes coordination with state efforts, while **Section 3.5.2** describes the relationship with federal efforts.

3.5.1. State Coordination

As entities with legal and formal water management authority, water management agencies throughout the ARB Region coordinate with and formally report to a variety of agencies representing the state. The agencies, their primary role, and the circumstances where ARB water management agencies coordinate with them are listed in **Table 3-2**.

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Table 3-2. State Agency Roles and Interactions with the ARB Region

State Agency	Interaction with ARB stakeholders
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Collaboration on habitat and fisheries. Streambed alteration permitting
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Land management within the ARB Region Inclusion of recreational concerns in the planning process.
California Department of Public Health	Issuing/updating drinking water operating permits Recycled water (Title 22) permits
California Department of Transportation	Land use and transportation issues Stormwater runoff and water quality Infrastructure associated with levees and waterway crossings.
California Department of Water Resources	Preparing California Water Plan IRWM planning Local assistance program Flood management Statewide water policy
California Public Utilities Commission	Regulation of investor owned utilities
Water Boards (State Water Resources Control Board and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Boards)	Water rights administration Wetlands permitting NPDES permitting, both point and nonpoint source Local assistance program & State Revolving Fund Other water quality issues

Key:
 ARB = American River Basin
 IRWM = Integrated Regional Water Management
 NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

While several ARB water management agencies have formal and legal relationships with state agencies, it is important to note that cooperative relationships have developed over the years for mutual benefit. For instance, members of the RWA were signatory to the first conjunctive use MOU with DWR in the early days of integrated regional water management. This partnership and mutual exploration played a role in informing today's Integrated Water Management Planning Program statewide. Accordingly, this spirit of cooperation has carried forward in the preparation of numerous groundwater management plans and other technical studies within the ARB Region. As partners, DWR and the water boards have always been invited to IRWM meetings for their support, input and guidance.

The ARB Region has greatly benefited from its long standing partnership with state agencies in implementing various projects, most recently through grants from Propositions 50, 84, and 1E. As noted in the financing sections (**Sections 6.1 and 6.2**), state funding for projects has been crucial for the Region, and the ARB Region fully intends continue its partnerships in the years to come.

3.5.2. Federal Coordination

The ARB Region is similarly subject to federal regulations and coordinates with federal agencies. Some of these interactions are through requirements, such as compliance to drinking water standards, while others are more collaborative in nature, such as jointly developing flood management structures with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This IRWMP effort, in part, was supported by a WaterSMART grant from Reclamation to optimize water reliability in the Region. **Table 3-3** below briefly describes some of these interactions with federal agencies.

Table 3-3. Federal Agency Roles and Interactions with the ARB Region

Federal Agency	Interaction with ARB stakeholders
National Marine Fisheries Service	Fisheries research and management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Permitting Management of sensitive and invasive species Ecosystem and habitat protection and improvement
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management	Management of conservation lands, including the Cosumnes River Preserve Recreation and public access
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation	Water supply/reliability (CVP water) Flood Control (through CVP facilities)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Drinking water standards and requirements Water quality/pollution standards and requirements
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Flood management Wetlands/ecosystem permitting Recreation and public access

Key:
ARB = American River Basin
CVP = Central Valley Project

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