

# Integrated Regional Water Management Program: 2012 Road Show

*San Luis Obispo County Region*

*Achieving sustainable water resource management in the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region.*



# Overview

- What is the “IRWM”?
- Why are you coming to us now?
- What do we need to do?
- When do we need to do it?

# What is “IRWM”?

- **Integrated Regional Water Management**
  - Document Region’s water-related information & efforts
  - Identifies inter-agency opportunities to address multiple needs
  - Manage water resources collaboratively
  - Cross jurisdictional/watershed/political boundaries
  - Involves multiple stakeholders
  - Facilitating eligibility for grants

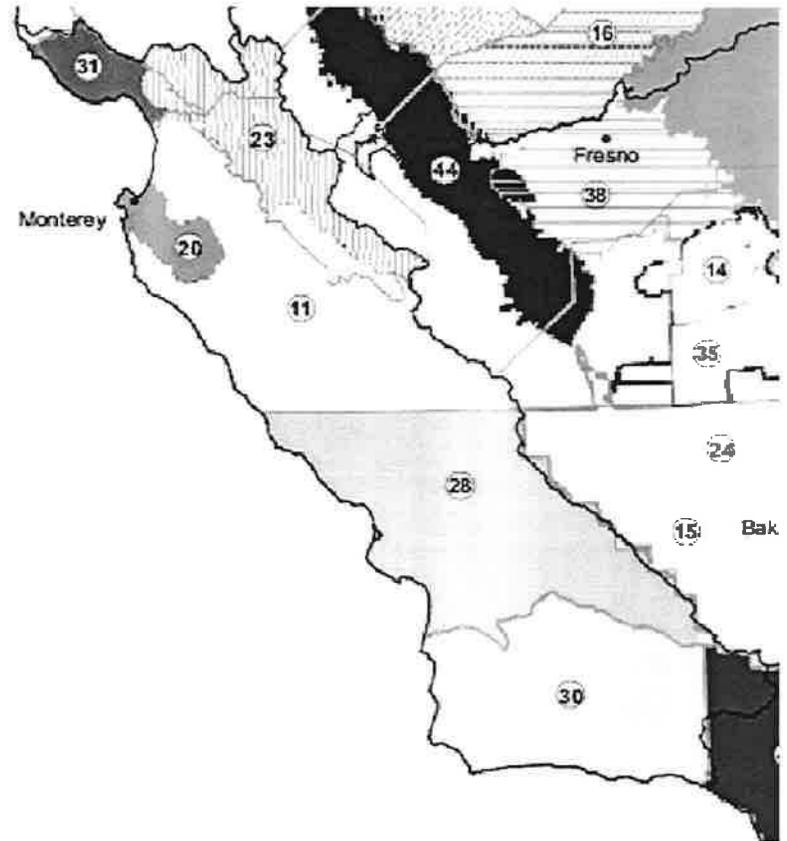
# IRWM Grant Program Milestones

- **2002** - Senate Bill 1672 creates the Integrated Regional Water Management Act to encourage local agencies to work cooperatively to manage local and imported water supplies to improve the quality, quantity, and reliability.
- **November 2002** - Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act
- **November 2006** - Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Chapter 2 = IRWM)
- **November 2006** - Proposition 1E, the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act

[www.water.ca.gov/irwm](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm)

# Prop 84 Participation

- Under Prop 50: Used Regional Agency Approach
- To be eligible for Prop 84 grant funding:
  - Funding Areas
  - 2009 Region Acceptance Process

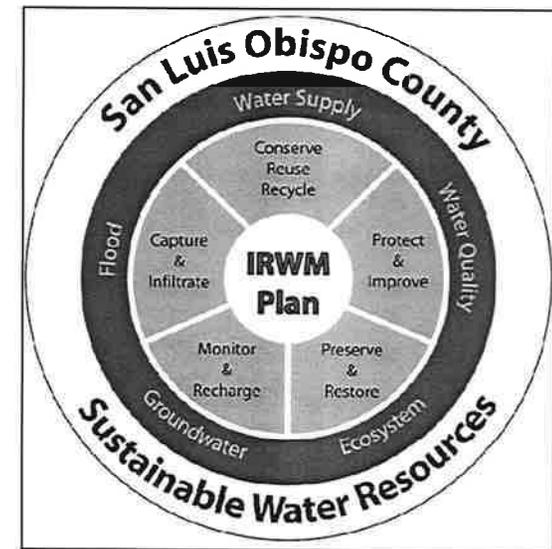


# Current Governance

- Regional Water Management Group
  - Execute Memorandum of Understanding
  - WRAC as Advisor
  - Lead Agency – Flood Control District
    - Submittals to DWR
- Nipomo CSD signed the original MOU

# Under This Model...

- Brought together water quality, ecosystem and supply issues and programs
- Primarily developed IRWM materials in-house/in-kind
- Awarded \$500K Prop 50 Planning, \$10.4M Implementation, \$2.8M Flood Management, and \$1M Prop 84 Planning Grants



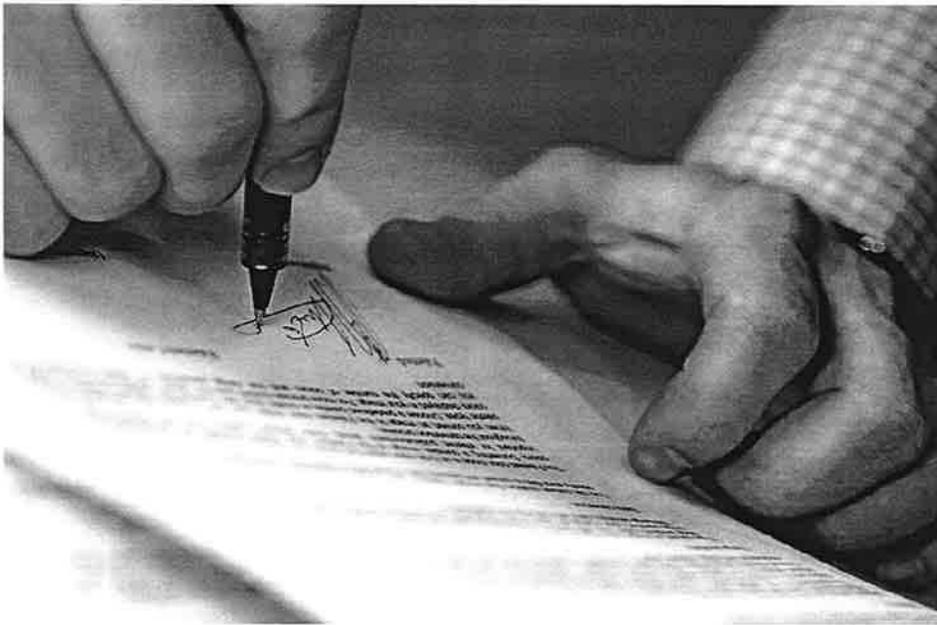
Requires IRWM Plan Update to meet current State Guidelines  
(by June 2014)

\$1M includes Santa Maria Basin Characterization and Nipomo CSD Recycled Water planning!!

# Why Are We Coming to You Now?

- Opportunity to improve governance model
- Key areas to update include:
  - Project/Program – List & Evaluation
  - Region Description – Climate Change
  - Objectives, Monitoring and Performance Measures
  - **But our first step: Governance/Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)**

# Why Are We Coming to You Now?

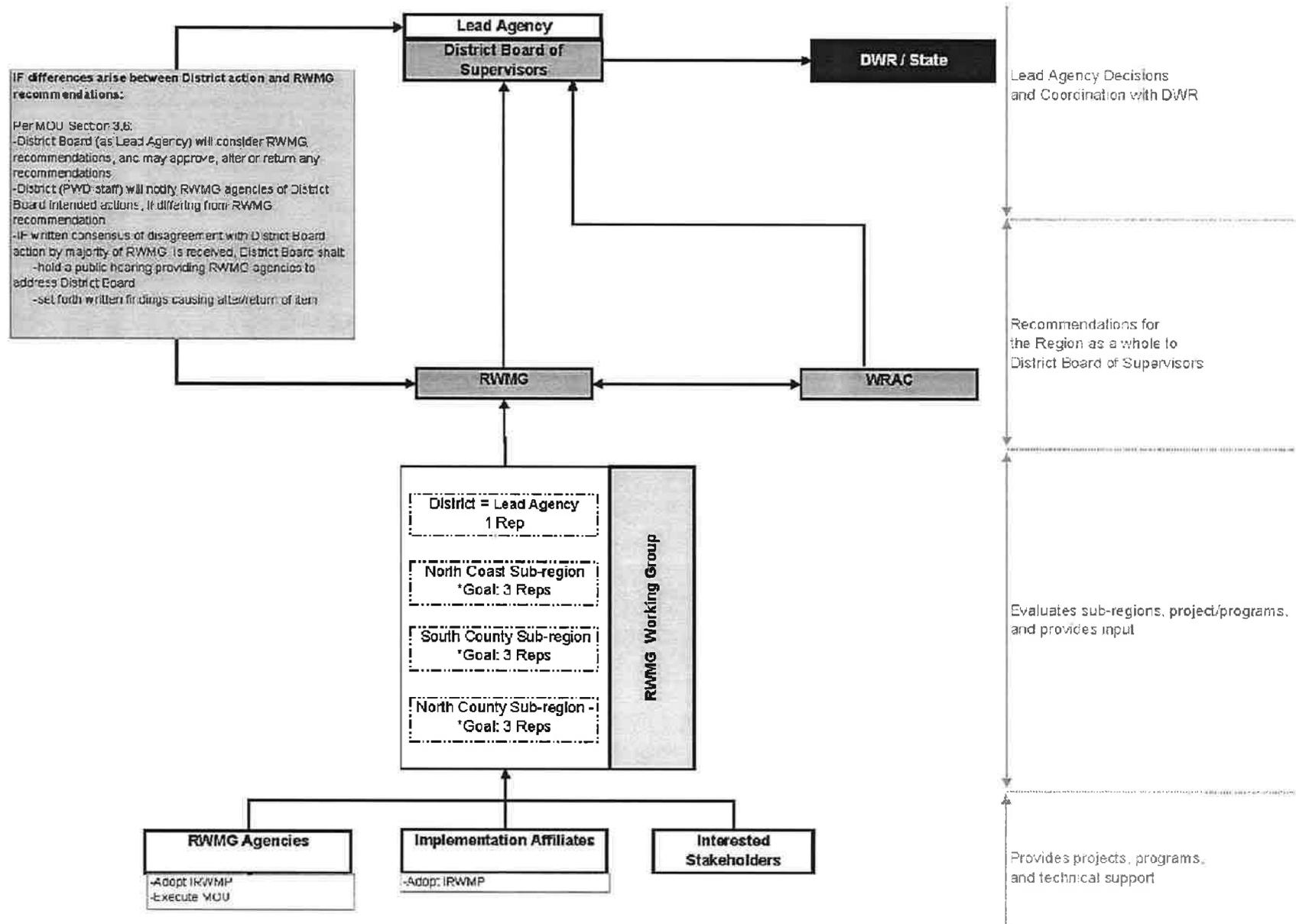


- Current MOU Signatories consider revised MOU now through September 14th
- “Green Light”
- Execution of revised MOU by District Board
- Execution of revised MOU by other agencies
- **GOAL: Form RWMG by early November!!**

# Revised MOU and Governance

- Meet new State Guidelines
- Clarify RWMG Signatories' Commitment
  - Benefits of participation
  - Commitment of resources and funding
- Broader regional participation:
  - Form sub-regional focus groups
  - Improve rural participation
  - Facilitate DAC/ Native American tribe participation
- Clarify relationship between WRAC and MOU Signatories
  - To convey input on IRWM issues
  - Lack of mechanism for RWMG Members without WRAC Member to give input

# Revised Governance Structure



# Participation and Roles

| Program Participant                    | Requirement to Participate/Grant Eligibility                | Summary of Role  |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Regional Water Management Group</i> | Execute MOU / Adopt revised IRWM Plan (once finalized-2014) | Develop/implement plan; <b>decision-making</b> (e.g. project selection for grants); <b>eligible to submit projects/programs for consideration of grant funding</b> |
| <i>Lead Agency</i>                     | N/A (see RWMG)  | Program administrator (SLOFC&WC District)  |
| <i>WRAC</i>                            | N/A   | Advise Lead Agency Board <sup>[1]</sup> ; provide public forum/ secondary review of Plan   |
| <i>RWMG Working Group</i>              | N/A (subset of RWMG)  | Subset of RWMG; provides sub-regional input; evaluates projects/ programs  |
| <i>Implementation Affiliates</i>       | Adopt revised IRWM Plan (once finalized-2014)               | Provide project information; <b>Eligible to submit projects/programs for consideration of grant funding</b>  |
| <i>Interested Stakeholders</i>         | N/A   | Participate in public discussions  |

<sup>[1]</sup> Assumes San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District remains the Lead Agency

# Clarifying Who Can Sign MOU

## Current Signatories:

- Coastal San Luis RCD
- SLO County
- SLOCFCWC District
- Los Osos CSD
- City of Morro Bay
- Morro Bay National Estuary Program
- Nipomo CSD
- Oceano CSD
- City of San Luis Obispo
- San Simeon CSD
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas RCD

Who's the Regional  
Water Management  
Group (RWMG)?

## MOU Signatories:

Any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the state, a public utility, mutual water company, or non-profit organization [501(c)(3)]

# When Do We Need to Re-sign?

- Fall 2012 – Project Solicitation for Round 2 grant
- March 2013 – Round 2 Implementation application due (\$7M)
- Mid-2013 – Concept/Project/Program Solicitation for IRWM Plan Update
- September 2013 – Round 2 Implementation Awards
- **Early 2014 – RWMG and Implementation Affiliates adopt revised IRWM Plan**
- Early 2014 – Round 3 Implementation application due (\$20M)
- Mid/Late 2015 – Round 3 Implementation Award

# Questions?

## IRWM Program Contacts:

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Follow links to IRWM from:

[slocountywater.org](http://slocountywater.org)

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**San Luis Obispo County**  
**Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**  
**Memorandum of Mutual Understandings**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is to establish the mutual understandings between San Luis Obispo County Region partners with respect to their joint efforts towards developing an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the San Luis Obispo County Region that will establish a unified vision of the relationships between individual goals of water quality improvement, ecosystem preservation, water supply protection, ground water management, and flood management.

**2. DEFINITIONS**

**2.1 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).** A comprehensive plan for a defined geographic area, in this case the San Luis Obispo County Region, the specific development, content, and adoption of which shall satisfy requirements of California's IRWM Program and relevant codes. At a minimum, an IRWMP describes the major water-related objectives and conflicts within a region, considers a broad variety of water management strategies, identifies the appropriate mix of water demand and supply management alternatives, water quality protections, and environmental stewardship actions to provide long-term, reliable, and high-quality water supply and protect the environment, and identifies disadvantaged communities in the region and takes the water-related needs of those communities into consideration.

**2.2 San Luis Obispo County Region (Region).** The geographic area, which is coterminous with the San Luis Obispo County and the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District boundary, covered by the IRWMP.

**2.3 Local Agency.** Any city, county, city and county, special district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the state, a public utility as defined in Section 216 of the Public Utilities Code, or a mutual water company as defined in Section 2725 of the Public Utilities Code.

**2.4 Regional Water Management Group (RWMG).** A group in which three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management, as well as those other persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of an IRWMP, participate by means of a joint powers agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other written agreement, as appropriate, that is approved by the governing bodies of those local agencies. The Region's RWMG Members are signatories to this MOU and may designate a representative to participate in RWMG activities.

**2.5 Regional Projects or Programs.** Projects or programs to be implemented by signatories of this MOU identified in an IRWMP that accomplish any of the following:

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- (a) Reduce water demand through agricultural and urban water use efficiency.
- (b) Increase water supplies for any beneficial use through the use of any of the following, or other, means:
  - (1) Groundwater storage and conjunctive water management.
  - (2) Desalination.
  - (3) Precipitation enhancement.
  - (4) Water recycling.
  - (5) Regional and local surface storage.
  - (6) Water-use efficiency.
  - (7) Stormwater management.
- (c) Improve operational efficiency and water supply reliability, including conveyance facilities, system reoperation, and water transfers.
- (d) Improve water quality, including drinking water treatment and distribution, groundwater and aquifer remediation, matching water quality to water use, wastewater treatment, water pollution prevention, and management of urban and agricultural runoff.
- (e) Improve resource stewardship, including agricultural lands stewardship, ecosystem restoration, flood plain management, recharge area protection, urban land use management, groundwater management, water-dependent recreation, fishery restoration, including fish passage improvement, and watershed management.
- (f) Improve flood management through structural and nonstructural means, or by any other means.

**2.6 Regional Reports or Studies.** Reports or studies relating to any of the matters described in 3.5 (a) to (f), that are identified in the IRWMP.

**2.7 Service Function.** A water-related individual service function provided by an agency, i.e. water supply, water quality, wastewater, recycled water, water conservation, stormwater/flood control, watershed planning, and aquatic habitat protection and restoration.

**2.8 Integration.** Assembling into one document the water-related management strategies, projects and plans in the Region. The first phase would be to identify water management strategies for the region and the priority projects that demonstrate how these strategies work together to provide reliable water supply, protect or improve water quality, provide watershed protection and planning, and provide environmental restoration protection. Projects and plans would be categorized and opportunities to identify regional benefits of linkages between multiple water management strategies among projects and plans of separate service functions and to see where projects and plans of separate service functions may further interrelate, e.g. wastewater treatment and water recycling or habitat restoration.

**2.9 Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC).** This is the committee comprised of water purveyor, resource conservation district,

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environmental and agricultural representatives that was originally established in the 1940's to advise the Board of Supervisors for the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) on water resource issues. The WRAC meets monthly, with the exception of July and August, and is subject to the Brown Act. The members of the WRAC with the authority to enter into an MOU are the same agencies that would comprise a RWMG to support the region's IRWM planning efforts. Therefore, RWMG Members and other regional stakeholder groups participate in the IRWMP development process by way of presentations to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC).

**2.10 Local Projects or Programs.** Cooperative agreements between specific RWMG members for implementation of specific projects or programs that are approved by the RWMG are included in the definition of Regional Projects or Programs.

### 3. GOALS OF THE IRWMP

The goals of the IRWMP are to without unfairly burdening communities, neighborhoods, or individuals:

- 3.1 Protect and improve water quality for beneficial uses consistent with regional interests and the Basin Plan in cooperation with local and state agencies and regional stakeholders.
- 3.2 Improve regional water supply reliability and security, reduce dependence on imported water, reduce water rights disputes and protect watershed communities from drought with a focus on interagency conjunctive use of regional water resources.
- 3.3 Protect, enhance and restore the region's natural resources including open spaces; fish, wildlife and migratory bird habitat; special status and native plants; wetlands; estuarine, marine, and coastal ecosystems; streams, lakes, and reservoirs; forests; and agricultural lands.
- 3.4 Monitor, protect, and improve the regions groundwater through a collaborative approach designed to reduce conflicts.
- 3.5 Develop, fund, and implement an integrated, watershed approach to flood management through a collaborative and community supported process.

### 4. IRWMP PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Development and implementation of the Region's IRWMP is a collaborative effort undertaken by the RWMG. The RWMG is being led by the District, in partnership with other signatories to this MOU. The IRWMP will be developed in coordination with the WRAC. However, only regional projects and programs to be implemented by signatories to this MOU will be eligible for grant applications. The signatories entering into this MOU are specifying their shared intent to coordinate and collaborate on water management issues as expressed in Section 3. Goals of the IRWMP and in accordance with Section 5. Mutual Understandings. The

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signatories anticipate the potential need for future agreements on specific projects or programs that may be considered for grant applications.

## 5. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

### 5.1 Need for the Region's IRWMP

5.1.1 To improve communication and cooperation between public and private agencies and minimize conflict-generated solutions.

5.1.2 To enhance our existing water management efforts by increasing stakeholder awareness of important issues, providing more opportunities for collaborative efforts and improving efficiencies in government and water management.

5.1.3 To qualify for state grants and other funding opportunities only available to those regions which have developed an IRWMP.

**5.2 Subject matter scope of the IRWMP.** The IRWMP focuses on water supply, water quality protection and improvement, ecosystem preservation and restoration, groundwater monitoring and management, and flood management as these are the most prevalent water resource issues facing the Region.

**5.3 Geographical scope of the IRWMP.** The Region for this memorandum is coterminous with the boundary of San Luis Obispo County. This is an appropriate geographic region for integrated regional water management planning because it encompasses all aspects of water management generally within the same physical, political, environmental, social, and economic boundaries.

The Salinas Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan region borders the Region to the north and the Santa Barbara County IRWMP region border the Region on the South. Coordination with agencies in Kern County developing an IRWMP region at the time of initial execution of this MOU will be important for identifying any water resources issues overlapping with the Region in the future.

Water resources issues that overlap with neighboring regional boundaries are either covered by existing cooperative water management plans (i.e. Nacitone Watershed Management Plan), adjudication (i.e. Santa Maria Groundwater Basin), and operational agreements (i.e. Nacimiento and Salinas Reservoirs), or there is no defining water resource management issue at this time (i.e. Kern County region boundary). All of these items are to be included in the Region's IRWM Plan consistent with the IRWMPs of neighboring regions. The RWMG will continue to coordinate with neighboring regions to address additional water resources issues in our respective IRWMPs.

### 5.4 Approach to developing and implementing the IRWMP

5.4.1 Signatories. Signatories to this MOU, including the District, that make up the RWMG are responsible for the development of the IRWMP.

5.4.2 Lead Agency. The District will act as the lead agency, ultimately responsible for the final production of the Region's IRWMP, presentations to stakeholders, submittal of IRWM grant applications,

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execution of grant agreements with the State, and execution of agreements with RWMG members responsible for the implementation of projects that are awarded grants.

5.4.3 RWMG Member Responsibilities. All members, in a timely fashion, will provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the IRWMP and participate in the review of the IRWMP. All Members will participate in the process to select IRWMP regional projects and programs for grant applications. Members responsible for the implementation of regional projects and programs awarded grant funding will be responsible, through contract with the District, for complying with the provisions of the District's grant agreement with the State. Members will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. Members will adopt the IRWMP in accordance with 5.5 and 5.6 below.

5.4.4 Stakeholder Participation. RWMG Members and other regional stakeholder groups participate in the IRWMP development process by way of presentations to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). Stakeholders that are not WRAC members will be notified of when an IRWMP item will be reviewed by the WRAC. Sub-regional meetings may be required to ensure all stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities, who may not necessarily be able to attend WRAC meetings, can participate in IRWMP development.

5.4.5 IRWMP Development and Implementation. The Region's IRWMP that was adopted by the District, developed in coordination with and approved by stakeholders in 2005, and updated in 2007, will be the basis for the next and subsequent adopted IRWMPs for the Region. The RWMG will propose changes to the previous versions of the IRWMP to comply with new State guidelines and incorporate new information and projects, for review and approval in accordance with 5.5 and 5.6 below. Since a key element of the IRWM Program is integration, the RWMG will work with other WRAC Members to identify water management strategies for the region and the priority projects that demonstrate how these strategies work together to protect and improve water quality; improve regional water supply reliability and security; protect, enhance and restore the region's natural resources; monitor, protect, and improve the region's groundwater; and develop, fund, and implement an integrated, watershed approach to flood management. Regional projects and programs would be categorized and opportunities to identify regional benefits of linkages between multiple water management strategies among projects and programs of separate service functions and to see where projects and programs of separate service functions may further interrelate, e.g. wastewater treatment and water recycling or habitat restoration.

5.5 Decision-making. The WRAC will serve as the main advisor to the RWMG on decisions to be made on the IRWMP. Written consensus will be sought between the representatives of RWMG members in the event the need for a decision arises that cannot be brought forth to the WRAC before a decision needs to be made.

**5.6 Adoption of the IRWMP.** IRWMP approval and adoption will occur by the governing bodies of RWMG Members. IRWMP updates to meet new State guidelines, add new RWMG Members, add or remove regional projects and programs, or other updates to information do not require IRWMP re-adoption. Significant changes to the IRWMP, including revised goals and objectives, revised regional boundaries, or other changes deemed significant by the RWMG, will require re-adoption of the IRWMP.

**5.7 Non-binding nature.** This document and participation in this IRWMP effort are nonbinding, and in no way suggest that a RWMG Member may not continue its own planning and undertake efforts to secure project funding from any source. An agency may withdraw from participation at any time.

**5.8 Personnel and financial resources.** It is expected that RWMG members will contribute the resources necessary to fulfill the responsibilities in 5.4.3 above.

**5.9 Other on-going regional efforts.** Development of the IRWMP is separate from efforts of other organizations to develop water-related plans on a regional basis. As the IRWMP is developed, work products can be shared with these separate efforts to provide them with current information. Cooperative agreements between specific RWMG members for implementation of specific projects or programs are included as attachments to this MOU.

**5.10 Reports and communications.** The WRAC, an IRWM contact list and the District's website will serve as the forum for updates and correspondence relating to the development of the IRWMP.

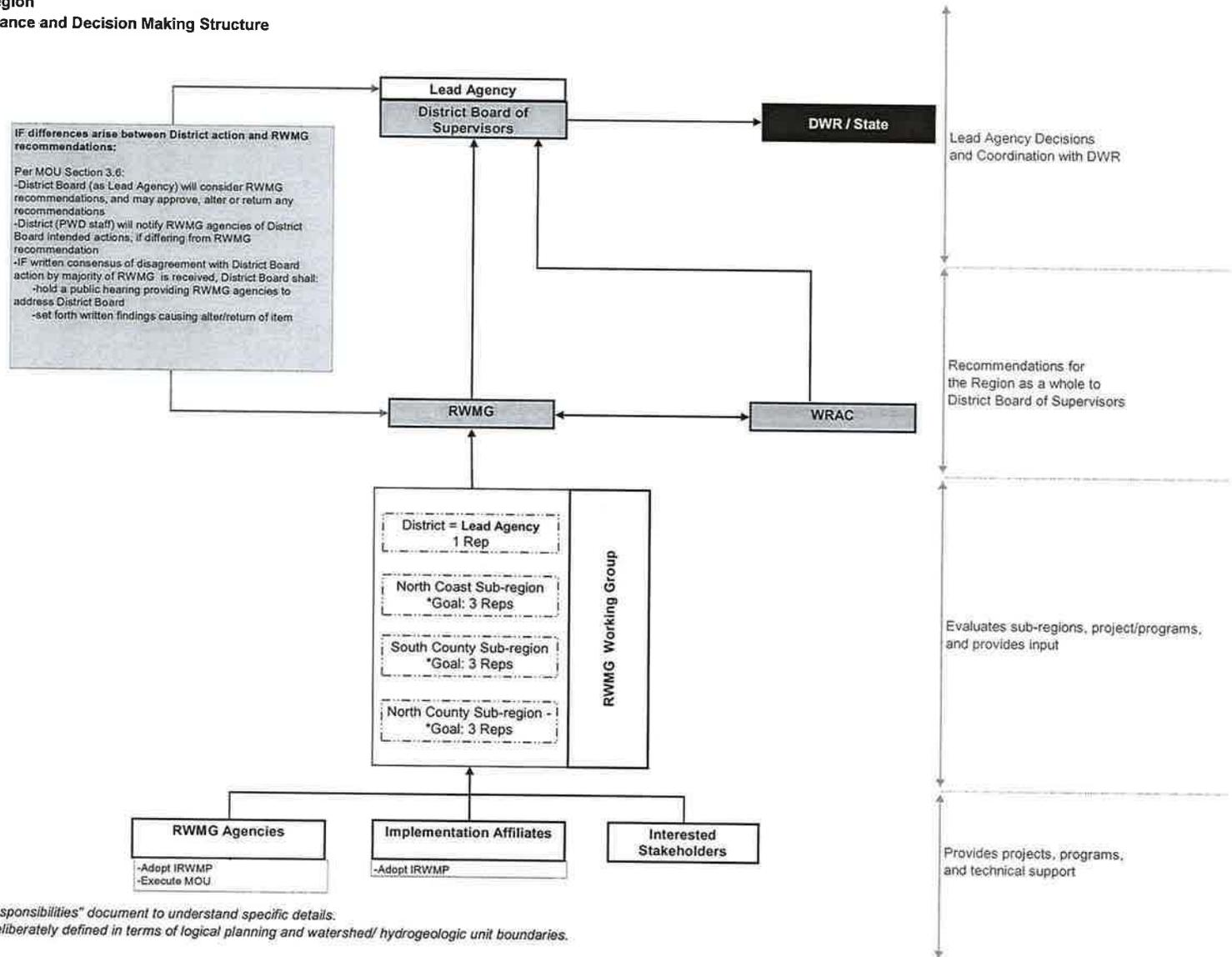
**5.11 Termination.** Because the IRWMP will require periodic review and updating for use into the future, it is envisioned that the joint efforts of those involved will be ongoing in maintaining a living document. Thus this MOU will remain as a reflection of the understandings of the RWMG Members. As indicated, individual signatories of this MOU may terminate their involvement at any time.

**6. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS**

We, the undersigned representatives of our respective agencies, acknowledge the above as our understanding of how the San Luis Integrated Regional Water Management Plan will be developed.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
|  | signature    |
| <u>ROBERT S. BUGEL</u>   | printed name |
| <u>NCSD</u>  | agency       |
| <u>4/7/09</u>  | date         |

San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region  
 Concept - IRWM Program Governance and Decision Making Structure  
 6/8/2012



NOTE 1: Reference "IRWM Roles and Responsibilities" document to understand specific details.  
 NOTE 2: These sub-regions have been deliberately defined in terms of logical planning and watershed/ hydrogeologic unit boundaries.