

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: MARIO IGLESIAS  
GENERAL MANAGER 

DATE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM  
E-2  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

**ADOPT 2019 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL  
WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**ITEM**

Approve a resolution adopting the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan and find that adoption of the Plan is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). [RECOMMEND APPROVE RESOLUTION ADOPTING IRWM PLAN AND FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW UNDER CEQA]

**BACKGROUND**

**Integrated Regional Water Management Background**

Senate Bill 1672 established the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Act in 2002, intended to promote collaborative, integrated management of water resources. California voters passed a series of propositions, thereby establishing and funding efforts under the State's IRWM Program. These propositions authorized the Legislature to appropriate grant funds for IRWM plans and projects, and to establish eligibility requirements. The IRWM Program is administered by the State's Department of Water Resources (DWR).

As a regional collaboration, local IRWM efforts are conducted under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 27 local agencies, including San Luis Obispo County Flood Control District, Cities, Community Services Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), who support multiple water resource efforts.

The Flood Control District is the lead agency under the MOU, and collectively, the agencies are referred to as the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). The Flood Control District is also responsible for development and implementation of San Luis Obispo County (SLOCo) Region's IRWM Plan (Plan). The Plan was initially developed and adopted by multiple agencies in the county in 2005 and updated in 2007 and 2014.

One of the drivers behind agency participation in Plan development is the opportunity for grant funding. Agencies must participate in the IRWM program to be eligible for DWR grants.

To comply with the Proposition 1, Implementation Grant Agreements and to meet DWR eligibility requirements, the 2014 IRWM Plan needed to be updated to current State standards. The plan is update and the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisor adopted the updated plan on September 1, 2020.

**SLO County IRWM Region Grants Awarded**

**Process Requirements**

One of the eligibility requirements of the IRWM Program is that an IRWM Plan be formally adopted, as evidenced by a resolution or other written documentation, by the governing body of each agency that is part of the RWMG. These agencies are responsible for the development of the Plan and have responsibility for implementation of the Plan (California Water Code Section 10543). Therefore staff recommends that the Board approve the attached resolution adopting the 2019 San Luis Obispo County IRWM Plan for the Flood Control District and the County. The MOU for the RWMG is attached to the resolution since the IRWM Plan needs to demonstrate the governance under which the SLOCo regional efforts are conducted.

#### **IRWM Plan Content**

The IRWM Plan has been developed in accordance with State standards and with extensive participation from the RWMG, the County Water Resources Advisory Committee (“WRAC”) and the general public. The IRWM Plan is on file with the County Clerk’s office, and posted on line at [www.slocountywater.org](http://www.slocountywater.org) and the District’s website ([www.ncsd.ca.gov](http://www.ncsd.ca.gov)).

Through its governance, goals and objectives, and project review process sections, the IRWM Plan provides a united framework among SLOCo Region stakeholders for sustainable water resource management. The IRWM Plan also provides a “one stop shop” for information on the water resources of the county, and related planning and project efforts.

The 752 page IRWM Plan is intended to be a “living” document, with the ability to update information and the project list within it as needed. A detailed discussion of IRWM Plan implementation and update efforts are described in Sections 8 (Plan Performance and Monitoring) and Section 13 (Planning Coordination). DWR requires the IRWM Plan be updated every five years. The District’s staff participated in the IRWM Plan update process, and we believe implementation of the Plan is in the best interests of the District and the region. The District’s adoption of the IRWM Plan is exempt from review under CEQA under Class 7, actions taken by agencies to protect natural resources and, separately, Class 8, actions taken by agencies to protect the environment.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Nipomo Community Services District contributed approximately \$12,000 to the update of the IRWM Plan as a requirement for receiving an \$800,000 portion of the Proposition 1 Implementation grant mentioned above.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 1. WATER SUPPLIES. Actively plan to provide reliable water supply of sufficient quality and quantity to serve both current customers and those in the long-term future.

1.B.2 Engage with other local and regional organizations to develop solutions to long-term water supply challenges such as providing emergency backup supplies, and ensuring long-term water supply reliability, etc.

Goal 4. FINANCE. Maintain conservative, long-term financial management to minimize rate impacts on customers while meeting program financial needs.

4.B.4 Monitor opportunities for grant funding.

Implementation: Staff is pursuing Proposition 1 grant funding and looking for other ways to pay for infrastructure improvements.

**RECOMMENDATION**

By motion and roll call vote, approve a resolution adopting the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and finding that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Draft Resolution with Attachments
- B. Executed Resolution SLO County 2019 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

ITEM E-2

ATTACHMENT A

**NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-XXXX**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES  
DISTRICT ADOPTING THE 2019 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND  
FINDING THAT ADOPTION OF THE PLAN IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

**WHEREAS**, the State of California has established an Integrated Regional Water Management grant program pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Water Code Section 79700 et seq.) (also known as "Proposition 1"); and

**WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment "1"), which has been signed by the agencies listed in Attachment "2" and who constitute the Regional Water Management Group for the San Luis Obispo County Region as of the date of this Resolution, designates the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as the lead agency responsible for plan development and adoption but also provides for the adoption of the plan by each member of the Regional Water Management Group; and

**WHEREAS**, the concepts, direction and approach to water resources management embodied in the State's Integrated Regional Water Management program guidelines closely match those of the Nipomo Community Services District and the San Luis Obispo County Region; and

**WHEREAS**, previous versions of updates to the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan were developed and adopted by multiple agencies in the County, including the Nipomo Community Services District, in coordination with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, in 2005, 2007 and 2014 prior to development of the version known as 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the updates reflected in the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan are needed in order to effectively and efficiently integrate the region's water resources management planning objectives and implementation strategies in the following five key areas: Water Supply, Groundwater Monitoring and Management, Flood Management, Ecosystems and Watershed, and Water Resources Management and Communications; and

**WHEREAS**, similar to prior versions, the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan has been developed in coordination with the Regional Water Management Group and in accordance with current (2016) State standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan identifies goals, objectives, strategies and projects designed to improve regional water supply reliability, water recycling, water conservation, water quality improvement, storm-water capture and management, flood management, recreation and access, wetland enhancement and creation, and environmental and habitat protection and improvement; and

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-XXXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT ADOPTING THE  
2019 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND  
FINDING THAT ADOPTION OF THE PLAN IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

**WHEREAS**, the Nipomo Community Services District Board of Directors has reviewed the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and has determined, to the best of their knowledge, that the Plan is exempt from Section 21000 et seq. of the California Public Resources Code (California Environmental Quality Act) pursuant to Section 21150 of the California Environmental Quality Act, and Guidelines Section 15262 because the Plan is a planning study which identifies potential projects, programs, and policies for possible future actions, and includes possible actions, subject to future adoption and approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED** by the Board of Directors of the Nipomo Community Services District, as follows:

1. The 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region is hereby adopted, and Staff of the Nipomo Community Service District is hereby authorized and directed to implement actions consistent with updates to the plan on a five-year cycle as a Regional Water Management Group Member as described within the plan.
2. The adoption of the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region is hereby determined to be exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to any of Sections 15262, 15307, and 15308 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.
3. The Staff of the Nipomo Community Services District is hereby directed to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

On the motion of Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**CONFLICTS:**

The foregoing resolution is hereby passed, approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Nipomo Community Services District this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2020.

**NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-XXXX**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT ADOPTING THE  
2019 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND  
FINDING THAT ADOPTION OF THE PLAN IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

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**DAN ALLEN GADDIS**  
President of the Board

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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**MARIO IGLESIAS**  
Secretary to the Board

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**CRAIG A. STEELE**  
District Legal Counsel

ATTACHMENT 1

San Luis Obispo County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants Memorandum of Understanding

**San Luis Obispo County Region**  
Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants  
**Memorandum of Understanding**

The undersigned agencies and organizations hereby agree as follows:

**1. BACKGROUND**

The State of California has established an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and grant program pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 75001 et seq., also known as Proposition 84). This program is anticipated to be perpetuated and/or modified by future Bond acts. The IRWM program provides guidance for collaborative efforts to manage all aspects of water resources in a region by crossing jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries to involve multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups in order to address issues and differing perspectives of all entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions. Regions that develop IRWM plans in accordance with the guidelines are eligible for certain water resources grant funding opportunities.

In accordance with PRC Section 75001 (et seq.) and State IRWM Program guidelines, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (dated 2009), signed by eleven agencies within San Luis Obispo County, established a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region, and the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region was officially accepted by the State in May 2009.

The San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region water resources stakeholders have determined the need to update the IRWM MOU in order to meet new State IRWM guidelines, to clarify the governance structure for IRWM planning in the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region, and encourage broader participation. This MOU, in conjunction with the current IRWM Plan, sets forth the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region's governance structure thereby allowing members and other stakeholders to understand how to participate in the IRWM Plan development and implementation.

**2. PURPOSE, GOALS, AND APPROACH**

**2.1 Purpose.** The purpose of this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is to establish the mutual understandings among the San Luis Obispo County Region participants with respect to their joint efforts to develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region, including the definition of common IRWM terms, roles and responsibilities of IRWM Program Participants, and decision-making processes.

**2.2 Goals.** The goal of the IRWM program is to provide a reliable, long-term, and high-quality water supply, and to establish a unified vision among the participants' goals for water quality improvement, ecosystem preservation, water supply protection and enhancement, ground water management and flood management, in the context of social justice and climate change adaptation, while protecting the environment. The adopted IRWM plan will identify major water-related goals, objectives and conflicts within the region, consider a broad variety of water management strategies, identify the appropriate mix of water demand and supply management alternatives, water quality protections, flood management strategies, and environmental stewardship actions.

**2.3 Approach.** The San Luis Obispo County Region participants are specifying their shared intent to coordinate and collaborate on water management issues, giving consideration to disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes and their water related needs. In order to

enhance participation of stakeholders, it will be necessary to work at a sub-regional level to better understand the water resources needs and priorities throughout the region. When applying for grants, the San Luis Obispo County Region will strive to distribute the grant funding request fairly across the geographic region. The goal is to distribute awarded funding from each grant cycle equally across the sub-regions (i.e. one quarter of the overall funding to benefit each of the three sub-regions' projects/programs and one quarter of the overall funding to benefit regional projects/programs), to the extent feasible.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**3.1 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan).** A comprehensive plan for a defined geographic area which shall satisfy the requirements of California's IRWM Program.

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

**3.3 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.

**3.4 Program Participants.** Development and implementation of the Region's Plan is a collaborative effort undertaken by the Region's participants, as further discussed in Section 4. The effort is being led by the District, in partnership with the Regional Water Management Group, Water Resources Advisory Committee, Implementation Affiliates, and Interested Stakeholders. Only regional projects and programs to be implemented by those agencies which have adopted the Plan will be eligible for grant applications. The Region categorizes IRWM Program Participants into the following:

3.4.1 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 the Plan, participate by means of this memorandum of understanding, in accordance with requirements of the California Water Code (CWC § 10539). The Region's RWMG members are signatories to this MOU, have adopted the current Plan, and may designate a representative to participate in RWMG activities and its Working Group. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The RWMG has the capacity to carry out projects (i.e. financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). The agencies/organizations that form the RWMG may have planning or implementation projects eligible for State IRWM grants.

3.4.2 Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). This is the committee comprised of water purveyor, resource conservation district, environmental and agricultural, and other water resources representatives that was originally established in the 1940s to advise the District Board of Supervisors on water resource issues. The WRAC is a Brown Act committee that meets monthly, with the exception of July and August. Many participants are actively engaged in issues relevant to Plan development and implementation, and will represent important stakeholder groups throughout the program.

3.4.3 RWMG Working Group (Working Group). The Working Group will involve representatives from the RWMG who have technical expertise and are able to work on the details associated with IRWM efforts. The Working Group will engage stakeholders at a sub-regional level in order to better understand the specific water resources needs and priorities of that sub-region.

3.4.4 **Implementation Affiliates.** These entities will adopt the Plan by resolution, but would not be signatories of the MOU. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Implementation Affiliates have the capacity to carry out projects (i.e. financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). In order to have a planning or implementation project eligible for State IRWM grants, agencies must be an Implementation Affiliate if they are not a part of the RWMG.

3.4.5 **Interested Stakeholders.** These individuals, organizations, and nonprofits (including those that are not IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations) who are interested in the IRWM program. The Interested Stakeholders may sign a letter of support for the Plan, or otherwise provide input to the RWMG, but would not be eligible for directly receiving State IRWM grant funds.

**3.5 Sub-regions.** The Region's IRWM program seeks to engage stakeholders and understand the water resources needs of the Region. To adequately ensure this balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM program, the RWMG will utilize a sub-regional geographic structure, allowing more focused planning and local outreach efforts that are later brought into the context of the overall IRWM Region. These sub-regions have been deliberately defined in terms of logical planning and watershed/ hydrogeologic unit boundaries. These "sub-regions" include the North Coast, North County, and South County (see Attachment 1).

**3.6 Regional Projects or Programs.** Projects or programs to be implemented by the RWMG and/or Implementation Affiliates are identified in the Plan and are based upon the State's IRWM Guidelines under which the current Plan was adopted, which includes but is not limited to: reducing water demand through agricultural and urban water use efficiency, increasing water supplies for any beneficial use, improving operational efficiency and water supply reliability, improving water quality, improving resource stewardship, and improving flood management.

**3.7 Integration.** Assembling into one document the water-related management strategies, projects, programs, and plans of the Region. The development and implementation of the Plan should demonstrate the RWMG is forming, coordinating and integrating separate efforts in order to function as a unified effort in a collaborative manner that balances interests and engages a variety of stakeholders and seeks to efficiently integrate regional resources. The Plan development will identify water management strategies for the Region and the priority projects and programs that demonstrate how these strategies work together to meet goals identified in Section 2. It will also identify regional benefits of linkages between projects and plans that address different primary water-related objectives (for example, identifying regional benefits of linkages between a water supply project and a flood management project in the same watershed).

#### **4. IRWM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

**4.1 Program Participant Structure.** Elements of the Plan will be developed and implemented by the Program Participants. The RWMG, including the District as the Lead Agency, and the Implementation Affiliates are responsible for Plan development and implementation.

**4.2 Plan Development and Implementation.** The Region's Plan 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 subsequent adopted Plans for the Region. The Working Group will propose changes to the previous versions of the Plan to comply with new State guidelines and incorporate new information and projects. Since a key element of the IRWM Program is integration, the RWMG will work with Program Participants to identify water management strategies for the Region and sub-regions and the priority projects that demonstrate how these strategies work together to meet the purpose and goals in Section 2. How each Program

Participant contributes and participates in Plan development and implementation is described below:

4.2.1 Lead Agency. The District will act as the lead agency for Plan development, will execute this MOU, and will adopt the Plan in accordance with 4.3 and 4.4 below. The District will ultimately be responsible for the final production of the Region's Plan, hiring consultant(s) to develop the Plan, and presentations to stakeholders, submittal of IRWM grant applications, and execution and administration of grant agreements with the State. As the Lead Agency, the District will execute and administer agreements with RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates responsible for the implementation of projects that are awarded grants, including data collection relevant to grant agreements, project reporting, etc. Efforts described in Section 4.2.1 are subject to the availability of funding.

4.2.2 RWMG. Members will execute this MOU and adopt the Plan in accordance with 4.3 and 4.4 below. RWMG members will designate a representative with clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. This representative will be eligible to participate on the Working Group. All RWMG members, whether or not their representative is participating in the Working Group, hereby agree to provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the Plan and participate in the review of the Plan. RWMG members will consider integrating projects and programs with other agencies when possible, especially with disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes, in accordance with State IRWM Guidelines. RWMG 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. The RWMG will provide updates to the WRAC and seek WRAC support of recommendations at key decision points.

4.2.3 WRAC. The WRAC will provide a forum for public meetings/ workshops related to Plan development and implementation at key decision points. The WRAC will review and comment on the RWMG recommendations to the District's Board of Supervisors at key decision points.

4.2.4 Working Group. Representatives of the Working Group will be designated by the RWMG member and will have clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. The District will provide materials with sufficient lead time for RWMG member and Working Group engagement. The Working Group will develop information, draft documents and recommendations pertaining to the Plan update consistent with current State IRWM Guidelines during Plan development. Efforts are anticipated to include stakeholder outreach, collection and incorporation of updated data, etc. The Working Group will develop information and recommendations for IRWM program planning and implementation, stakeholder outreach, and pursuit of funding opportunities. All RWMG members will participate in the process to select the Region's IRWM projects and programs for grant applications by way of the Working Group, who will conduct project/program solicitations and evaluations, and will make recommendations on grant funding allocations. The Working Group will need to conduct sub-regional public meetings during Plan development and implementation to facilitate stakeholder participation.

4.2.5 Implementation Affiliates. Implementation Affiliates shall adopt the Plan in accordance with Section 4.3. Implementation Affiliates will designate a representative with clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. All

Implementation Affiliates will provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the Plan and participate in the review of the Plan and for implementation activities, such as project status updates, project reporting, data collection, etc. Implementation Affiliates will consider integrating projects and programs with neighboring agencies when possible, especially with disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes, in accordance with State IRWM Guidelines. Implementation Affiliates 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.

4.2.6 **Interested Stakeholders.** Interested Stakeholders may participate in the Plan development and implementation process by way of participation at WRAC and/or RWMG meetings. Interested Stakeholders that are not WRAC members will be notified when an IRWM program item will be reviewed by the WRAC if they request inclusion on the IRWM contact list (Section 5.6). Sub-regional meetings will be required to ensure Interested Stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities, who may not necessarily be able to attend WRAC meetings, can participate in Plan development and implementation.

**4.3 IRWM Plan Adoption.** Plan approval and adoption will be required of the governing bodies of RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates. Plan updates to meet new State guidelines, add new RWMG Members, add or remove and evaluate regional projects and programs, or other updates to information do not require Plan re-adoption. Significant changes to the Plan, including revised goals and objectives, revised methodologies (such as methodology for evaluating, ranking, and prioritizing projects and programs), revised regional boundaries, or other changes deemed significant by the RWMG and the Lead Agency, will require Plan re-adoption via the decision-making process described in Section 4.5.

**4.4 Personnel and Financial Resources.** It is expected that Program Participants will contribute the resources necessary to fulfill the responsibilities listed within Section 4 of this MOU. Program Participants that receive implementation grant funding, shall contribute a proportionate share of non-project costs associated with the grant agreement, based on awarded implementation funding (for example, contributing toward the cost of updating the Plan, should that be a condition of grant award)..

**4.5 Decision Making.** The RWMG shall develop IRWM program materials and will make recommendations to the Lead Agency at key decision points of the IRWM program. Written input 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 RWMG before a decision needs to be made. The District, by way of its Public Works Department, shall notify the RWMG agencies of recommendations being taken to the District's Board of Supervisors for action. The District's Board of Supervisors may approve, alter, or return any said recommendation of the RWMG. Furthermore, if the District's Board of Supervisors intends to alter an item or proposition approved by the RWMG, the District's Board of Supervisors shall set forth in writing its findings, after which the Board will hold a public hearing. The RWMG agencies shall have the right to appear and address the District's Board of Supervisors.

## 5. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

### 5.1 Need for the Region's IRWM Plan

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 IRWM plans.

**5.2 Subject matter scope of the IRWM Plan.** The Plan 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 IRWM Program.** 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 Region may engage stakeholders within the three sub-regions in order to better understand the specific water resources needs and priorities of that sub-region, which would then be incorporated into the context of the greater IRWM Region planning and implementation.

The Region is bordered by the Greater Monterey County IRWM region to the north, the Santa Barbara County and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM regions to the south, and the Kern County IRWM region to the east.

Water resources issues that overlap 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 Reservoir), or have no defining water resource management issue. All of these items are to be included in the Region's Plan consistent with the plans of neighboring regions. The RWMG will continue to coordinate with neighboring regions to address additional water resources issues and possible integrated water management strategies in our respective IRWM plans.

**5.4 Non-binding nature.** This document and participation in the IRWM program efforts are nonbinding, and in no way suggest that a RWMG member or Implementation Affiliate may not continue its own planning and undertake efforts to secure project funding from any source. An agency/ organization may withdraw from participation in accordance with Section 5.7.

**5.5 Other on-going regional efforts.** Development of the Plan is separate from efforts of other organizations to develop water-related plans on a regional basis. As the Plan is developed, work products can be shared with these separate efforts to provide them with current information.

**5.6 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 IRWM program and Plan development.

**5.7 Termination.** Because the Plan 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, parties to this MOU may terminate their involvement at any time, but must provide all RWMG agencies with 30 days' advance notice of intent to terminate.

**5.8 Superseded Prior MOU.** This MOU supersedes the MOU dated April 21, 2009 (2009 MOU).

**5.9 Counterparts.** This MOU may be executed in counterparts and has the same force and effect as if all the signatures were obtained in one document.

**6. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
FLOOD CONTROL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

By: JAMES R. PATTERSON

Chairman,  
Board of San Luis Obispo County  
Flood Control and  
Water Conservation District

ATTEST:

JULIE L. RODEWALD  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Sandy Currens  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

WARREN R. JENSEN  
County Counsel

By:   
Deputy County Counsel

Date: 9/24/12

**6. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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

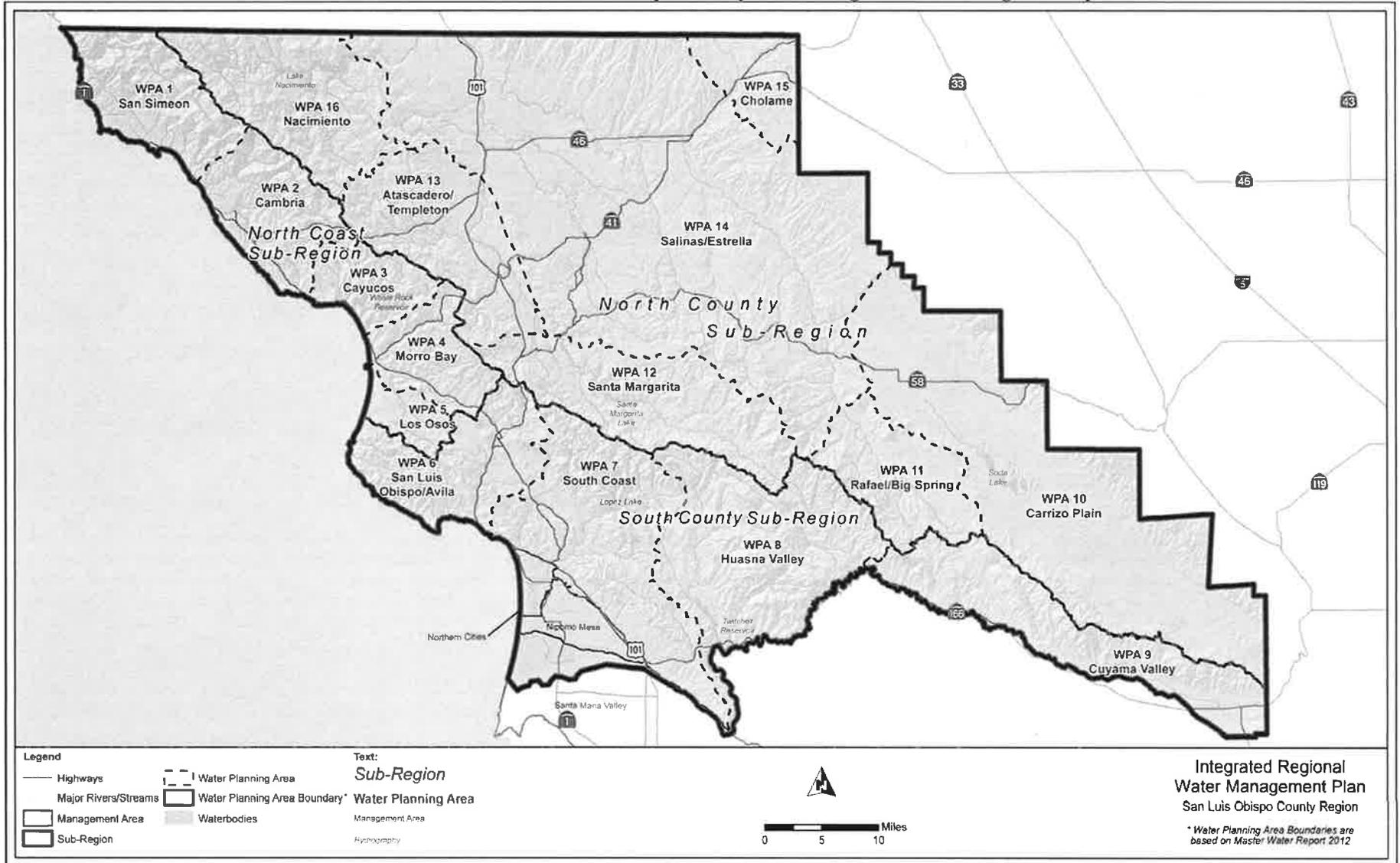
Michael S. LeBrun signature

MICHAEL S. LEBRON printed name

Nipomo CSD agency

10/15/2012 date

Attachment 1 – San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region and Sub-Regions Map



Attachment 2 of the Resolution

**Memorandum of Understanding Signatories for  
San Luis Obispo County Region IRWM Participants**

<b>Agency or Organization</b>
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
County of San Luis Obispo
Avila Beach Community Services District
California Men's Colony
Cambria Community Services District
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
City of Arroyo Grande
City of Grover Beach
City of Morro Bay
City of Paso Robles
City of Pismo Beach
City of San Luis Obispo
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
Heritage Ranch Community Services District
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Los Osos Community Services District
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Nipomo Community Services District
Oceano Community Services District
Templeton Community Services District
San Miguel Community Services District
San Miguelito Mutual Water Company
San Simeon Community Services District
Shandon-San Juan Water District
South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District
S&T Mutual Water Company
Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

ITEM E-2

ATTACHMENT B

# BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*of the*

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

PRESENT: Supervisors John Peschong, Bruce S. Gibson, Debbie Arnold and  
Chairperson Lynn Compton

ABSENT: None

### RESOLUTION NO. 2020-195

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2019 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM SECTION 21000 ET SEQ. OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE (CEQA)

The following Resolution is hereby offered and read:

**WHEREAS**, the State of California has established an Integrated Regional Water Management grant program pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Water Code Section 79700 *et seq.*) (also known as "Proposition 1"); and

**WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment "1"), which has been signed by the agencies listed in Attachment "2" and who constitute the Regional Water Management Group for the San Luis Obispo County Region as of the date of this Resolution, designates the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as the lead agency responsible for plan development and adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, the concepts, direction and approach to water resources management embodied in the State's Integrated Regional Water Management program guidelines closely match those of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District; and

**WHEREAS**, previous versions of / updates to the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan were developed and adopted by multiple agencies in the County in coordination with the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in 2005, 2007 and 2014 prior to development of the version known as 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the updates reflected in the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan are needed in order to effectively and efficiently integrate the region's water resources management planning objectives and implementation strategies in the following five key areas: Water Supply, Groundwater Monitoring and Management, Flood Management, Ecosystems and Watershed, and Water Resources Management and Communications; and

**WHEREAS**, similar to prior versions, the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan has been developed in coordination with the Regional Water Management Group and in accordance with current (2016) State standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan identifies goals, objectives, strategies and projects designed to improve regional water supply reliability, water recycling, water conservation, water quality improvement, stormwater capture and management, flood management, recreation and access, wetland enhancement and creation, and environmental and habitat protection and improvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is not subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*) because it involves only a planning study, as defined in Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** by the Board of Supervisors of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, that:

1. The 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region is hereby adopted, and the Director of Public Works, or designee, of the County of San Luis Obispo is hereby authorized and directed to implement actions consistent with updating the Plan on a five-year cycle as described within the Plan.
2. Adoption of the 2019 San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 of the State CEQA Guidelines because the Plan consists of a planning study which identifies potential projects and policies for possible future actions subject to future approval.

Upon motion of Supervisor Arnold, seconded by Supervisor Gibson, and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Arnold, Gibson, Peschong and Chairperson Compton

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

the foregoing Resolution is hereby adopted.

Lynn Compton  
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

WADE HORTON  
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: T'Ana Christiansen  
Deputy Clerk

[SEAL]

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

RITA L. NEAL  
County Counsel

By: /s/ Erica Stuckey  
Deputy County Counsel

Dated: June 19, 2020

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
I, **WADE HORTON**, Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors thereof, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of an order entered in the minutes of said Board of Supervisors, and now remaining of record in my office.  
Witness, my hand and seal of said Board of Supervisors on September 2, 2020.  
**WADE HORTON**,  
Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
By: *T'Ana N. Christiansen*  
Deputy Clerk

ATTACHMENT 1

San Luis Obispo County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants Memorandum of Understanding

**San Luis Obispo County Region**  
Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants  
**Memorandum of Understanding**

The undersigned agencies and organizations hereby agree as follows:

**1. BACKGROUND**

The State of California has established an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and grant program pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 75001 et seq., also known as Proposition 84). This program is anticipated to be perpetuated and/or modified by future Bond acts. The IRWM program provides guidance for collaborative efforts to manage all aspects of water resources in a region by crossing jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries to involve multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups in order to address issues and differing perspectives of all entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions. Regions that develop IRWM plans in accordance with the guidelines are eligible for certain water resources grant funding opportunities.

In accordance with PRC Section 75001 (et seq.) and State IRWM Program guidelines, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (dated 2009), signed by eleven agencies within San Luis Obispo County, established a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region, and the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region was officially accepted by the State in May 2009.

The San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region water resources stakeholders have determined the need to update the IRWM MOU in order to meet new State IRWM guidelines, to clarify the governance structure for IRWM planning in the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region, and encourage broader participation. This MOU, in conjunction with the current IRWM Plan, sets forth the San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region's governance structure thereby allowing members and other stakeholders to understand how to participate in the IRWM Plan development and implementation.

**2. PURPOSE, GOALS, AND APPROACH**

**2.1 Purpose.** The purpose of this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is to establish the mutual understandings among the San Luis Obispo County Region participants with respect to their joint efforts to develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for the San Luis Obispo County Region, including the definition of common IRWM terms, roles and responsibilities of IRWM Program Participants, and decision-making processes.

**2.2 Goals.** The goal of the IRWM program is to provide a reliable, long-term, and high-quality water supply, and to establish a unified vision among the participants' goals for water quality improvement, ecosystem preservation, water supply protection and enhancement, ground water management and flood management, in the context of social justice and climate change adaptation, while protecting the environment. The adopted IRWM plan will identify major water-related goals, objectives and conflicts within the region, consider a broad variety of water management strategies, identify the appropriate mix of water demand and supply management alternatives, water quality protections, flood management strategies, and environmental stewardship actions.

**2.3 Approach.** The San Luis Obispo County Region participants are specifying their shared intent to coordinate and collaborate on water management issues, giving consideration to disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes and their water related needs. In order to

enhance participation of stakeholders, it will be necessary to work at a sub-regional level to better understand the water resources needs and priorities throughout the region. When applying for grants, the San Luis Obispo County Region will strive to distribute the grant funding request fairly across the geographic region. The goal is to distribute awarded funding from each grant cycle equally across the sub-regions (i.e. one quarter of the overall funding to benefit each of the three sub-regions' projects/programs and one quarter of the overall funding to benefit regional projects/programs), to the extent feasible.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**3.1 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan).** A comprehensive plan for a defined geographic area which shall satisfy the requirements of California's IRWM Program.

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

**3.3 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.

**3.4 Program Participants.** Development and implementation of the Region's Plan is a collaborative effort undertaken by the Region's participants, as further discussed in Section 4. The effort is being led by the District, in partnership with the Regional Water Management Group, Water Resources Advisory Committee, Implementation Affiliates, and Interested Stakeholders. Only regional projects and programs to be implemented by those agencies which have adopted the Plan will be eligible for grant applications. The Region categorizes IRWM Program Participants into the following:

3.4.1 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 the Plan, participate by means of this memorandum of understanding, in accordance with requirements of the California Water Code (CWC § 10539). The Region's RWMG members are signatories to this MOU, have adopted the current Plan, and may designate a representative to participate in RWMG activities and its Working Group. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The RWMG has the capacity to carry out projects (i.e. financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). The agencies/organizations that form the RWMG may have planning or implementation projects eligible for State IRWM grants.

3.4.2 Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). This is the committee comprised of water purveyor, resource conservation district, environmental and agricultural, and other water resources representatives that was originally established in the 1940s to advise the District Board of Supervisors on water resource issues. The WRAC is a Brown Act committee that meets monthly, with the exception of July and August. Many participants are actively engaged in issues relevant to Plan development and implementation, and will represent important stakeholder groups throughout the program.

3.4.3 RWMG Working Group (Working Group). The Working Group will involve representatives from the RWMG who have technical expertise and are able to work on the details associated with IRWM efforts. The Working Group will engage stakeholders at a sub-regional level in order to better understand the specific water resources needs and priorities of that sub-region.

3.4.4 **Implementation Affiliates.** These entities will adopt the Plan by resolution, but would not be signatories of the MOU. The entities must be either a Local Agency or an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Implementation Affiliates have the capacity to carry out projects (i.e. financial resources, management structure, adequate staffing). In order to have a planning or implementation project eligible for State IRWM grants, agencies must be an Implementation Affiliate if they are not a part of the RWMG.

3.4.5 **Interested Stakeholders.** These individuals, organizations, and nonprofits (including those that are not IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations) who are interested in the IRWM program. The Interested Stakeholders may sign a letter of support for the Plan, or otherwise provide input to the RWMG, but would not be eligible for directly receiving State IRWM grant funds.

**3.5 Sub-regions.** The Region's IRWM program seeks to engage stakeholders and understand the water resources needs of the Region. To adequately ensure this balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM program, the RWMG will utilize a sub-regional geographic structure, allowing more focused planning and local outreach efforts that are later brought into the context of the overall IRWM Region. These sub-regions have been deliberately defined in terms of logical planning and watershed/ hydrogeologic unit boundaries. These "sub-regions" include the North Coast, North County, and South County (see Attachment 1).

**3.6 Regional Projects or Programs.** Projects or programs to be implemented by the RWMG and/or Implementation Affiliates are identified in the Plan and are based upon the State's IRWM Guidelines under which the current Plan was adopted, which includes but is not limited to: reducing water demand through agricultural and urban water use efficiency, increasing water supplies for any beneficial use, improving operational efficiency and water supply reliability, improving water quality, improving resource stewardship, and improving flood management.

**3.7 Integration.** Assembling into one document the water-related management strategies, projects, programs, and plans of the Region. The development and implementation of the Plan should demonstrate the RWMG is forming, coordinating and integrating separate efforts in order to function as a unified effort in a collaborative manner that balances interests and engages a variety of stakeholders and seeks to efficiently integrate regional resources. The Plan development will identify water management strategies for the Region and the priority projects and programs that demonstrate how these strategies work together to meet goals identified in Section 2. It will also identify regional benefits of linkages between projects and plans that address different primary water-related objectives (for example, identifying regional benefits of linkages between a water supply project and a flood management project in the same watershed).

#### **4. IRWM PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

**4.1 Program Participant Structure.** Elements of the Plan will be developed and implemented by the Program Participants. The RWMG, including the District as the Lead Agency, and the Implementation Affiliates are responsible for Plan development and implementation.

**4.2 Plan Development and Implementation.** The Region's Plan 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 subsequent adopted Plans for the Region. The Working Group will propose changes to the previous versions of the Plan to comply with new State guidelines and incorporate new information and projects. Since a key element of the IRWM Program is integration, the RWMG will work with Program Participants to identify water management strategies for the Region and sub-regions and the priority projects that demonstrate how these strategies work together to meet the purpose and goals in Section 2. How each Program

Participant contributes and participates in Plan development and implementation is described below:

4.2.1 Lead Agency. The District will act as the lead agency for Plan development, will execute this MOU, and will adopt the Plan in accordance with 4.3 and 4.4 below. The District will ultimately be responsible for the final production of the Region's Plan, hiring consultant(s) to develop the Plan, and presentations to stakeholders, submittal of IRWM grant applications, and execution and administration of grant agreements with the State. As the Lead Agency, the District will execute and administer agreements with RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates responsible for the implementation of projects that are awarded grants, including data collection relevant to grant agreements, project reporting, etc. Efforts described in Section 4.2.1 are subject to the availability of funding.

4.2.2 RWMG. Members will execute this MOU and adopt the Plan in accordance with 4.3 and 4.4 below. RWMG members will designate a representative with clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. This representative will be eligible to participate on the Working Group. All RWMG members, whether or not their representative is participating in the Working Group, hereby agree to provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the Plan and participate in the review of the Plan. RWMG members will consider integrating projects and programs with other agencies when possible, especially with disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes, in accordance with State IRWM Guidelines. RWMG 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. The RWMG will provide updates to the WRAC and seek WRAC support of recommendations at key decision points.

4.2.3 WRAC. The WRAC will provide a forum for public meetings/ workshops related to Plan development and implementation at key decision points. The WRAC will review and comment on the RWMG recommendations to the District's Board of Supervisors at key decision points.

4.2.4 Working Group. Representatives of the Working Group will be designated by the RWMG member and will have clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. The District will provide materials with sufficient lead time for RWMG member and Working Group engagement. The Working Group will develop information, draft documents and recommendations pertaining to the Plan update consistent with current State IRWM Guidelines during Plan development. Efforts are anticipated to include stakeholder outreach, collection and incorporation of updated data, etc. The Working Group will develop information and recommendations for IRWM program planning and implementation, stakeholder outreach, and pursuit of funding opportunities. All RWMG members will participate in the process to select the Region's IRWM projects and programs for grant applications by way of the Working Group, who will conduct project/program solicitations and evaluations, and will make recommendations on grant funding allocations. The Working Group will need to conduct sub-regional public meetings during Plan development and implementation to facilitate stakeholder participation.

4.2.5 Implementation Affiliates. Implementation Affiliates shall adopt the Plan in accordance with Section 4.3. Implementation Affiliates will designate a representative with clear authority to represent the agency or organization, provide expertise, provide information in a timely manner, participate in meetings, review and approve technical documents as needed, and will provide the District with their designated representative's contact information. All

Implementation Affiliates will provide information sufficient to meet State guidelines for their regional projects and programs to be included in the Plan and participate in the review of the Plan and for implementation activities, such as project status updates, project reporting, data collection, etc. Implementation Affiliates will consider integrating projects and programs with neighboring agencies when possible, especially with disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes, in accordance with State IRWM Guidelines. Implementation Affiliates 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.

4.2.6 Interested Stakeholders. Interested Stakeholders may participate in the Plan development and implementation process by way of participation at WRAC and/or RWMG meetings. Interested Stakeholders that are not WRAC members will be notified when an IRWM program item will be reviewed by the WRAC if they request inclusion on the IRWM contact list (Section 5.6). Sub-regional meetings will be required to ensure Interested Stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities, who may not necessarily be able to attend WRAC meetings, can participate in Plan development and implementation.

**4.3 IRWM Plan Adoption.** Plan approval and adoption will be required of the governing bodies of RWMG members and Implementation Affiliates. Plan updates to meet new State guidelines, add new RWMG Members, add or remove and evaluate regional projects and programs, or other updates to information do not require Plan re-adoption. Significant changes to the Plan, including revised goals and objectives, revised methodologies (such as methodology for evaluating, ranking, and prioritizing projects and programs), revised regional boundaries, or other changes deemed significant by the RWMG and the Lead Agency, will require Plan re-adoption via the decision-making process described in Section 4.5.

**4.4 Personnel and Financial Resources.** It is expected that Program Participants will contribute the resources necessary to fulfill the responsibilities listed within Section 4 of this MOU. Program Participants that receive implementation grant funding, shall contribute a proportionate share of non-project costs associated with the grant agreement, based on awarded implementation funding (for example, contributing toward the cost of updating the Plan, should that be a condition of grant award)..

**4.5 Decision Making.** The RWMG shall develop IRWM program materials and will make recommendations to the Lead Agency at key decision points of the IRWM program. Written input 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 RWMG before a decision needs to be made. The District, by way of its Public Works Department, shall notify the RWMG agencies of recommendations being taken to the District's Board of Supervisors for action. The District's Board of Supervisors may approve, alter, or return any said recommendation of the RWMG. Furthermore, if the District's Board of Supervisors intends to alter an item or proposition approved by the RWMG, the District's Board of Supervisors shall set forth in writing its findings, after which the Board will hold a public hearing. The RWMG agencies shall have the right to appear and address the District's Board of Supervisors.

## 5. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

### 5.1 Need for the Region's IRWM Plan

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 IRWM plans.

**5.2 Subject matter scope of the IRWM Plan.** The Plan 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 IRWM Program.** 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 Region may engage stakeholders within the three sub-regions in order to better understand the specific water resources needs and priorities of that sub-region, which would then be incorporated into the context of the greater IRWM Region planning and implementation.

The Region is bordered by the Greater Monterey County IRWM region to the north, the Santa Barbara County and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM regions to the south, and the Kern County IRWM region to the east.

Water resources issues that overlap 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 Reservoir), or have no defining water resource management issue. All of these items are to be included in the Region's Plan consistent with the plans of neighboring regions. The RWMG will continue to coordinate with neighboring regions to address additional water resources issues and possible integrated water management strategies in our respective IRWM plans.

**5.4 Non-binding nature.** This document and participation in the IRWM program efforts are nonbinding, and in no way suggest that a RWMG member or Implementation Affiliate may not continue its own planning and undertake efforts to secure project funding from any source. An agency/ organization may withdraw from participation in accordance with Section 5.7.

**5.5 Other on-going regional efforts.** Development of the Plan is separate from efforts of other organizations to develop water-related plans on a regional basis. As the Plan is developed, work products can be shared with these separate efforts to provide them with current information.

**5.6 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 IRWM program and Plan development.

**5.7 Termination.** Because the Plan 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, parties to this MOU may terminate their involvement at any time, but must provide all RWMG agencies with 30 days' advance notice of intent to terminate.

**5.8 Superseded Prior MOU.** This MOU supersedes the MOU dated April 21, 2009 (2009 MOU).

**5.9 Counterparts.** This MOU may be executed in counterparts and has the same force and effect as if all the signatures were obtained in one document.

**6. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
FLOOD CONTROL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

By: JAMES R. PATTERSON  
Chairman,  
Board of San Luis Obispo County  
Flood Control and  
Water Conservation District

ATTEST:

JULIE L. RODEWALD  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Sandy Carreras  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

WARREN R. JENSEN  
County Counsel

By: Warren R. Jensen  
Deputy County Counsel

Date: 9/24/12

**6. SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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

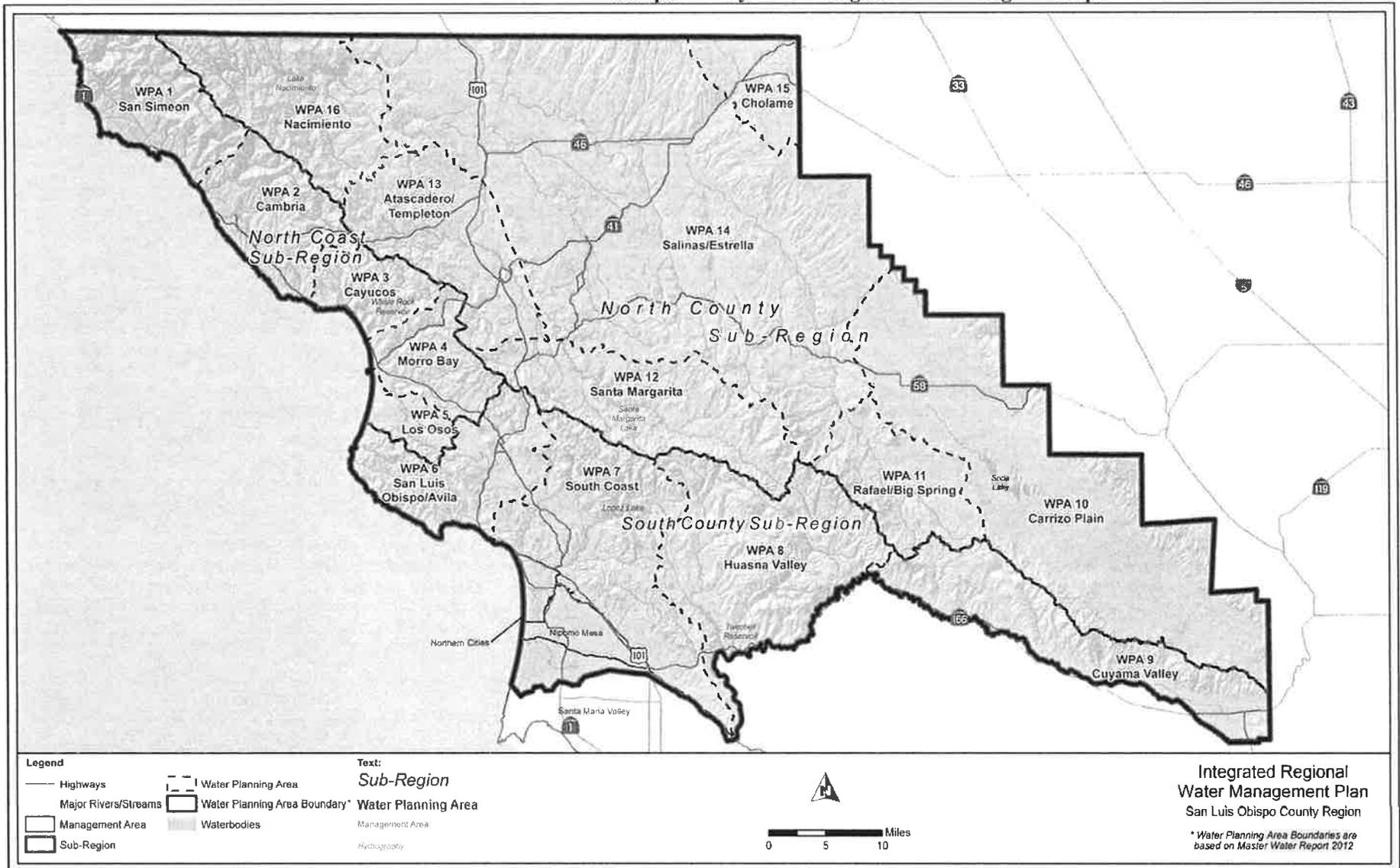
Michael S. LeBrun signature

MICHAEL S. LEBRUN printed name

Nipomo CSD agency

10/15/2012 date

Attachment 1 – San Luis Obispo County IRWM Region and Sub-Regions Map



Attachment 2 of the Resolution

**Memorandum of Understanding Signatories for  
San Luis Obispo County Region IRWM Participants**

<b>Agency or Organization</b>
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
County of San Luis Obispo
Avila Beach Community Services District
California Men's Colony
Cambria Community Services District
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
City of Arroyo Grande
City of Grover Beach
City of Morro Bay
City of Paso Robles
City of Pismo Beach
City of San Luis Obispo
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District
Heritage Ranch Community Services District
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Los Osos Community Services District
Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Nipomo Community Services District
Oceano Community Services District
Templeton Community Services District
San Miguel Community Services District
San Miguelito Mutual Water Company
San Simeon Community Services District
Shandon-San Juan Water District
South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District
S&T Mutual Water Company
Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District