



Presenters:
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May 23, 2012

Regional Advisory Committee Meeting #1

MERCED IRWMP

The banner features a collage of images: a modern building, agricultural fields, the Merced County Courthouse, a river landscape, and a sunset over water. A large water drop icon is in the bottom left corner.

Today's Agenda

- ✓ Welcome and Introductions
- ✓ Introduction to the IRWM Program
 - ✓ Statewide Program
 - ✓ Merced Region IRWM Plan
- ✓ Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)
 - ✓ RAC Purpose & Charter
 - ✓ Roles and Responsibilities
 - ✓ Governing Procedures
- ✓ Brainstorming Objectives
- ✓ Meeting scheduling
- ✓ Next Steps
- ✓ Public Comment

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Nearly Ten Years Ago, California Embarked on a New Adventure...

- ✓ In November 2004, the IRWM Program was born
- ✓ Promotes a new model for water management
 - ✓ Encourages integrated strategies for water resources management at the regional level
 - ✓ Provides funding, through competitive grants
 - ✓ \$500 M through Proposition 50 in 2003
 - ✓ \$1 B through Proposition 84 in 2006
 - ✓ \$300 M through Proposition 1E in 2006



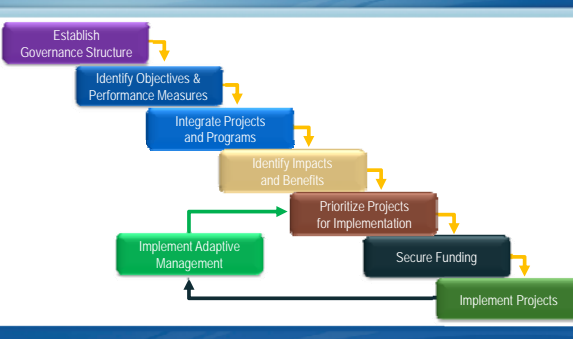
Today, There Are 46 “Approved” IRWM Regions in California



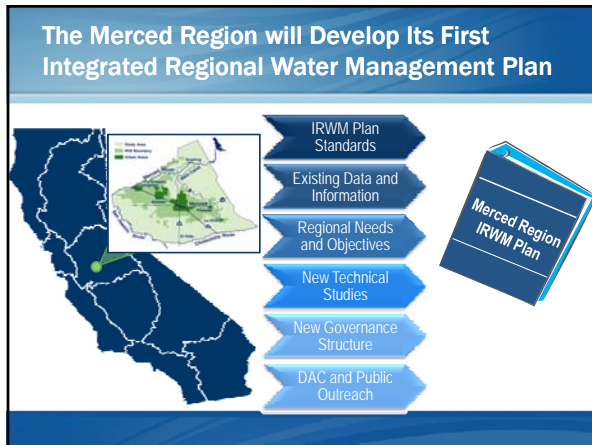
- ✓ To be eligible for funding, Regions must:
 - ✓ Be governed by a Regional Water Management Group with statutory authority over water management
 - ✓ Be approved through a structured “Regional Acceptance Process”
 - ✓ Prepare an IRWM Plan consistent with program standards

Integrated Regional Water Management
2009 Regional Acceptance Process
IRWM Regions
March, 11/2009

What is the Process for Developing and Implementing an IRWM Plan?







What Does An IRWM Plan Include?

IRWM Plan Standards	
Governance	Data Management
Region Description	Finance
Objectives	Technical Analysis
Resource Management Strategies	Relation to Local Water Planning
Integration	Relation to Local Land Use Planning
Project Review Process	Stakeholder Involvement
Impact and Benefit	Coordination
Plan Performance and Monitoring	Climate Change

History of Water Management in Merced Region

- ✓ Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI) Memorandum of Understanding (1997)
- ✓ Merced Water Supply Plan and Update (2001)
- ✓ Urban and agricultural water conservation planning (ongoing)
- ✓ Updates to local water supply planning documents (ongoing)
- ✓ GIS data and coverage development, including flood maps (ongoing)
- ✓ Integrated Water Resource Modeling (ongoing)
- ✓ Climate change planning (ongoing)
- ✓ IRWM-Related Work:
 - ✓ Regional Acceptance Application (2009)
 - ✓ Planning Grant Application (2010)


The IRWMP will be Supported by a Series of Technical Studies

- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Integrated Flood Management
- ✓ Water Conservation
- ✓ Salt & Nutrient Management
- ✓ Groundwater Recharge



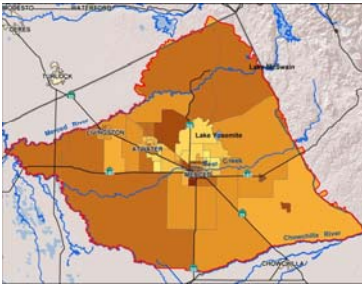
Focus Area: Establishing an Effective Governance Structure & Stakeholder Process

- ✓ Interim Governance Structure per Planning Grant: MAGPI MOU
- ✓ Plan development approach: Work Plan Management Committee, Regional Advisory Committee, Stakeholders
- ✓ Long-term governance structure: to be defined through IRWMP development



Focus Area: Identifying and Addressing Disadvantaged Community Needs

- ✓ Needs May Include:
 - ✓ Safe Water Supply
 - ✓ Water Quality
 - ✓ Aging Infrastructure
 - ✓ Emergency Supplies
- ✓ Approach:
 - ✓ Work with existing organizations, churches, and community leaders
 - ✓ Understand needs and issues
 - ✓ Identify projects to meet defined needs



Approach to Completing IRWM Plan Elements

Task	2012				2013			
	Q1 Jan Feb Mar	Q2 Apr May Jun	Q3 Jul Aug Sep	Q4 Oct Nov Dec	Q1 Jan Feb Mar	Q2 Apr May Jun	Q3 Jul Aug Sep	Q4 Oct Nov Dec
1. Project Management								
2. Governance, Facilitation Process, and Public Outreach								
3. Existing Management Plans Review								
4. Plans and Studies								
5. Identifying and Prioritizing Resource Management Strategies								
6. Plan Performance and Monitoring								
7. Integrate/Prioritize Projects								
8. Preparation of IRWMP								
9. Plan Adoption								

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RAC Purpose & Charter

- ✓ Regional Advisory Committee Purpose
 - ✓ Represent the broad interests and perspectives in the region
 - ✓ Assist in the completion of the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) Plan
 - ✓ Encourage cooperative planning among various aspects of water resources management in the Merced Region
 - ✓ Review regional water management issues and needs, goals and objectives, plans and projects, and future funding and governance
 - ✓ Advise the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and the governing bodies on these topics

RAC Purpose & Charter

- ✓ Regional Advisory Committee Charter
 - ✓ Establishes the framework and agreement among participants
 - ✓ Purpose and benefits
 - ✓ Focus and topics
 - ✓ Meetings and deliverables
 - ✓ Communications and decision-making
 - ✓ Participants
 - ✓ Completion criteria
 - ✓ First agreement among participants
 - ✓ Discuss today and approve at next meeting

RAC Roles and Responsibilities

- ✓ Members and Alternates
 - ✓ Represent interests in the region
 - ✓ Participate as an individual
 - ✓ Represent the interests of your organization, profession, community, and avocation
 - ✓ Consider what is best for the region and state
 - ✓ Participate and learn
 - ✓ Review materials
 - ✓ Attend RAC meetings
 - ✓ Critique and create
 - ✓ Review and comment
 - ✓ Bring ideas and options

RAC Roles and Responsibilities

- ✓ Regional Water Management Group
 - ✓ Develop IRWM Plan
 - ✓ Oversee planning and technical analysis
 - ✓ Educate RAC and community
 - ✓ Advise and recommend to respective boards and councils
 - ✓ Meet state requirements and manage budget
- ✓ Consultant Team
 - ✓ Support IRWM planning and decision-making
 - ✓ Prepare technical analyses
 - ✓ Compile and write IRWM Plan
 - ✓ Facilitate discussion and decision-making

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Representation and Participation
- ✓ Meeting Operations
- ✓ Communications Agreements
- ✓ Decision-Making Process
- ✓ Development of Work Products
- ✓ Alternates and Observers
- ✓ Media Contact

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Representation and Participation
 - ✓ Provide advice, support, and constructive criticism
 - ✓ Represent both your individual views and perspectives of others in the community
 - ✓ Inform and educate the community on regional water management issues
 - ✓ Represent the interests and needs of any Disadvantaged Community (DAC) within the RAC member's jurisdiction
 - ✓ Coordinate with your organization or constituency
 - ✓ Communicate any dissension from your organization that could affect acceptance of RAC recommendations

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Representation and Participation
 - ✓ Ensure representation at all RAC meetings by the primary representative or alternate
 - ✓ Attend and participate in RAC meetings
 - ✓ Or, provide input via alternative communication options (e.g. email, telephone, conference call/web-based meetings)
 - ✓ Review and provide timely comments on draft work products.
 - ✓ Participate in stakeholder and community meetings to represent the RAC
 - ✓ Adopt, or provide written support for, the IRWM Plan

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Meeting Operations
 - ✓ Calendar of meetings
 - ✓ Location of meetings
 - ✓ Replacing members
 - ✓ Technical working groups and subcommittees
 - ✓ Advanced distribution of materials
 - ✓ Meeting notes and action items

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Communications Agreements
 - ✓ Speak up
 - ✓ Silence indicates assent
 - ✓ Bring issues here first
 - ✓ Abide by our meeting ground rules

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Civility is required.
 - ✓ Treat one another with courtesy.
 - ✓ Respect the personal integrity, values, motivations, and intentions of each member.
 - ✓ Be honest, fair, and as candid as possible.
 - ✓ Participate with an open mind and respect for other's interests.
 - ✓ Personal attacks and stereotyping will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Creativity is encouraged.
 - ✓ Think outside the box and welcome new ideas.
 - ✓ Build on the ideas of others to improve results.
 - ✓ Disagreements will be treated as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.
- ✓ Efficiency is important.
 - ✓ Participate fully, without distractions.
 - ✓ Respect time constraints and be succinct.
 - ✓ Let one person speak at a time.
- ✓ Constructiveness is essential.
 - ✓ Take responsibility for the group as a whole and ask for what you need.
 - ✓ Enter commitments honestly, and keep them.
 - ✓ Delay will not be employed as a tactic to avoid an undesired result.

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Decision-Making Process
 - ✓ RAC is advisory to RWMG and governing bodies
 - ✓ Consensus recommendations have more influence
 - ✓ Consensus means substantial agreement and acceptance
 - ✓ Voting is a last resort in decisions
 - ✓ Technical work groups and subcommittees may develop recommendations to the RAC
 - ✓ Final recommendations and Plan approval expected to be signed by RAC members and alternates

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Development of Work Products
 - ✓ IRWM Team will draft work products
 - ✓ RAC will provide comments to team for discussion at RAC meetings
 - ✓ Comments should focus on issues and improvements rather than wordsmithing
 - ✓ IRWM Team will draft or redraft to address comments
 - ✓ RAC will review revised drafts

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Alternates and Observers
 - ✓ RAC meetings are open to the public
 - ✓ Alternates are encouraged to attend all meetings
 - ✓ Time permitting, alternates and observers are invited to comment on agenda topics
 - ✓ Time will be allocated on every agenda for public comment

RAC Governing Procedures

- ✓ Media Contact
 - ✓ When contacted by the media:
 - ✓ Represent your views and not others'
 - ✓ Think and report constructively
 - ✓ Encourage contact with others
 - ✓ Outreach to media:
 - ✓ By agreement of the full RAC
 - ✓ Media/outreach working group is an option

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Regional Issues

- ✓ Cones of depression in the Chowchilla, Livingston and Merced areas due to groundwater pumping
- ✓ Projected growth and associated increased water demands
- ✓ Potential salt and nutrient issues
- ✓ Water supply and quality needs of disadvantaged communities
- ✓ Flooding impacts in Black Rascal Creek and other areas
- ✓ Water-based recreation needs
- ✓ Ecologically sensitive areas such as Grasslands Ecological Area, Merced River riparian corridor, and San Joaquin River corridor
- ✓ Others?

Example Regional Objectives from Other Regions

- ✓ Provide reliable water supply for residential and commercial, agricultural, and recreation needs
- ✓ Manage groundwater levels to reduce overdraft and minimize subsidence
- ✓ Maximize water conservation, water recycling, and capture and infiltration of runoff
- ✓ Protect and improve water quality
- ✓ Preserve / restore / enhance the water-related local environment
- ✓ Manage flood risks, including current acute needs and needs for future development
- ✓ Maximize stakeholder involvement and stewardship in water resource management
- ✓ Address water-related needs of disadvantaged communities
- ✓ Maintain affordability of water

Brainstorming Objectives

- ✓ Three questions to identify objectives:
 - ✓ What are high priority objectives for regional water management in the Merced region?
 - ✓ In what ways could the Merced region improve or integrate water management?
 - ✓ What should water management look like in the Merced region in 20 years?

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Meeting Scheduling

- ✓ Monthly meetings through June 2013
 - ✓ Assume 3 hours for each meeting
- ✓ What days of the month are best for scheduling monthly RAC meetings?
- ✓ What time of day works best for the group?

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Next Steps

- ✓ Topics for Next Meeting
 - ✓ RAC governance
 - ✓ Disadvantaged community outreach strategies
 - ✓ Plan inventory and relation to local land use
 - ✓ IRWM goals, objectives, and performance measures
- ✓ Materials in Advance of Next Meeting
 - ✓ Revised draft charter
 - ✓ Draft governing procedures
 - ✓ Draft Plan Inventory Technical Memorandum
 - ✓ Draft Relation to Local Land Use Technical Memorandum
 - ✓ Draft list of IRWM goals, objectives, and performance measures

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Contacts

- ✓ Merced RWMG Work Plan Management Committee
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