



### **What is the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan?**

The Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP) is a multi-stakeholder, nine-county effort to coordinate a strategic approach to regional water resources management. The Plan will build on water resources needs and planning strategies identified throughout the Bay Area, and leverage regional cooperation to more effectively address the needs identified.

The Bay Area IRWMP will inform future water resource planning by creating a road map that will help to enhance water supply reliability, protect water quality, manage flood protection, maintain public health standards, improve habitat conditions, and enhance the overall health of San Francisco Bay.

The Bay Area IRWMP is important because it fosters regional planning and cooperation, which in turn creates more efficient and effective management of water resources and improves the region's competitiveness for funding.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TO SUPPORT A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE BAY AREA**

## **INFORMATION ABOUT: WATER MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET**

### **HOW WERE THE WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES DEVELOPED?**

The Bay Area Integrated Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP) includes a comprehensive range of water management strategies. Identifying the Bay Area IRWMP water management strategies included the following steps:

- **Compiling a comprehensive list of water management strategies presented in the Functional Area Documents;**
- **Ensuring that the resulting list of strategies included all strategies required and/or suggested by Proposition 50 IRWMP Guidelines; and**
- **Highlighting strategies that would offer efficiencies, provide synergy and/or multiple benefits across functional areas and among agencies, or provide an opportunity to share resources.**

### **WHAT WATER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE BAY AREA IRWMP?**

The following water management strategies are included in the Bay Area IRWMP:

**Ecosystem Restoration<sup>1</sup>** Ecosystem restoration integrates a large-scale perspective that improves water quality and quantity for wildlife, aquatic species, and human consumption.

**Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement<sup>1</sup>** Wetlands and riparian vegetation contribute to protection of water supplies and water quality, improvement of hydrologic function, and mitigation of flood potential, in addition to providing breeding and foraging habitats for native wildlife.

**Water Supply Reliability<sup>1</sup>** Improved water supply reliability can help address threats to baseline supplies, increasing demands, hydrologic vulnerability, infrastructure, vulnerability, and system security.

**Flood Management<sup>1</sup>** Local groundwater provides supply reliability benefits, particularly in dry years, because of its resistance to varying hydrologic conditions in comparison to surface water.

**Groundwater Management<sup>1</sup>** Local groundwater constitutes a substantial portion of the overall supplies in the Bay Area and provides supply reliability benefits, particularly in dry years, because of its resistance to varying hydrologic conditions in comparison to surface water.

**Recreation and Public Access<sup>1</sup>** Trails and other public access points along water bodies can increase social investment in protection of those water resources.

**Stormwater Capture and Management<sup>1</sup>** Effective stormwater capture and management protects source water quality and public health, maintains flood protection, and creates opportunities for ecosystem protection and restoration.

**Water Conservation<sup>1</sup>** By reducing demand through conservation, water management agencies can optimize use of existing supplies and reduce the need for development of new supplies, thus improving water supply reliability.

**Water Quality Protection and Improvement<sup>1</sup>** Water quality must be protected at the source, throughout water treatment, and during conveyance. Providing point and non-point source treatment is essential for protecting the water quality of receiving waters, including the San Francisco Bay.

**Water Recycling<sup>1</sup>** Recycled water provides reliable, drought-proof supply; reduces dependence on imported supplies; contributes to restoration and preservation of saltwater and tidal marshland habitats; enables high quality potable supplies to be applied to their highest and best use; and maintains local control over local supply.

**Wetlands Enhancement and Creation<sup>1</sup>** Wetlands provide significant water quality benefits through settling and filtration of contaminants from the water column.

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## You're Invited to Participate

Consider sponsoring a forum to discuss the Bay Area IRWMP. Distribute information about the Bay Area IRWMP to your constituencies or membership. Provide input and other information that might be valuable to the development of the Plan. Attend a public meeting and help build support for the concept of a regional approach as well as for adoption of the Plan. Visit the project website at [www.bayareairwmp.net](http://www.bayareairwmp.net) for contact information, planned public meetings, and other informational venues.

### Project Timeline for Stakeholder Workshops\*

There will be four public meetings, one at each key milestone of plan development, providing opportunities for information sharing and public comment.

#### 2006

WORKSHOP #1 FEB 27  
Objectives

WORKSHOP #2 APR 24  
Project Prioritization

WORKSHOP #3 JUN 26  
Implementation

WORKSHOP #4 OCT 23  
Public Draft Bay Area IRWMP

#### 2007

Final Adoption JAN 1

\* Tentative dates

**Conjunctive Use<sup>2</sup>** Conjunctive use can contribute to optimization of groundwater and surface water resources, protection of groundwater from overdraft and subsidence, prevention of salt-water intrusion, enhancement of natural recharge of groundwater basin, promotion of local supply under local control, and provision for emergency storage.

**Desalination<sup>2</sup>** Desalination offers many of the same benefits of recycled water, including a new source of potable water supply; high quality water, even during periods of drought; local supply under local control; and reduced dependence on imported supplies.

**Imported Water<sup>2</sup>** Water imported from the Delta or Sierra Nevada constitutes a critical component of most Bay Area water agencies' baseline supplies. To protect this supply source, significant resources are invested to the continued delivery and viability of imported supplies.

**Land Use Planning<sup>2</sup>** Land use planning, zoning, project siting and permitting and conservation approaches can be essential for avoiding or minimizing hydrologic or geomorphic impacts prior to an actual physical change in land cover, for promoting coordination of land development with water supply availability and for maximizing water use efficiency.

**Non-Point Source Pollution Control<sup>2</sup>** Non-point source pollution control programs provide source water quality benefits, ecosystem and environmental habitat protection, and public health and safety benefits.

**Surface Storage<sup>2</sup>** Bay Area water agencies are investigating expansion of storage facilities to improve supply reliability and operational flexibility and addressing deterioration of current surface storage facilities.

**Watershed Planning<sup>2</sup>** Watershed planning contributes to coordinated protection, restoration, and improvement of hydrologic, geomorphic, and biologic functions of the drainage basin, including improvement of sediment and pollutant loading from stormwater runoff.

**Water and Wastewater Treatment<sup>2</sup>** At wastewater treatment plants, harmful pollutants such as bacteria, suspended solids, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals are removed. Implementing wastewater treatment as a water management strategy helps protect public health and water quality.

**Water Transfers<sup>2</sup>** Water transfers allow suppliers to sell their excess water supplies to agencies in need, reducing vulnerability to water shortages due to drought, catastrophic events, and system security breaches.

**Interties<sup>3</sup>** Inter-agency connections (interties) allow agencies to exchange water between their systems, enhancing system flexibility, spreading water supply benefits across the region, and offering a degree of emergency preparedness.

**Infrastructure Reliability<sup>3</sup>** Maintaining and upgrading infrastructure for water supply, wastewater, stormwater, and flood control is necessary to improve service and reliability of water supplies.

**Regional Cooperation<sup>3</sup>** Because the Bay Area IRWMP is a regional planning effort, all proposed projects and programs will employ regional cooperation as a water management strategy.

**Watershed Education and Outreach<sup>3</sup>** Education and outreach improve community awareness of watershed ecosystems and functions and encourage social investment and stewardship values.

**Monitoring and Modeling<sup>3</sup>** Monitoring and modeling projects are essential for tracking and predicting water quantity and quality concerns that affect imported and local water supplies, as well as local watershed conditions.

<sup>1</sup> These water management strategies were required by Proposition 50 for consideration.

<sup>2</sup> These water management strategies were suggested by Proposition 50 for consideration.

<sup>3</sup> These water management strategies are additional strategies identified in the FADs.

Please see the **INFORMATION ABOUT: INTEGRATED FACT SHEET** for a description of the value and benefit of integrating multiple strategies.

## Participating Agencies

Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Alameda County Water District Association of Bay Area Governments • Bay Area Clean Water Agencies • Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency • City of Napa • City of Palo Alto • City of San Jose • Contra Costa Water District Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • East Bay Municipal Utility District Marin Municipal Water District • North Bay Watershed Association • San Francisco Estuary Project • San Francisco Public Utilities Commission • Santa Clara Basin Watershed Management Initiative • Santa Clara Valley Water District • Solano County Water Agency • Sonoma County Water Agency • State Coastal Conservancy • Zone 7 Water Agency