

## 13. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION

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*This section describes the stakeholder involvement and coordination efforts that have been utilized in regional processes in developing the ARB IRWMP, and more importantly, the processes that will be used in the future as the ARB IRWMP is updated and improved over time.*

### 13.1. Introduction

Stakeholder involvement and coordination is an integral part of the local and region planning process, and in developing the ARB IRWMP. This section describes the processes for stakeholder involvement in the ARB IRWMP development and implementation, the stakeholders that have been identified thus far, environmental justice concerns and disadvantaged communities, processes to identify and include appropriate stakeholders, partnerships developed during the planning process, possible obstacles to ARB IRWMP implementation, agencies/organizations within the ARB IRWMP planning boundaries, but not currently participating in the planning process, and coordination with state and federal agencies. In addition, stakeholder outreach can provide an excellent forum for sharing data and soliciting feedback from interested and/or affected individuals and agencies. Public outreach activities specific to individual stakeholder groups is included in the ARB IRWMP and will continue throughout the progress of the ARB IRWMP to continually educate and involve the public.

The ARB IRWMP region is somewhat unique from a statewide perspective in the number of types of public agencies and stakeholders involved. Collectively, the stakeholders include urban public agencies and municipalities along with industrial, agricultural, agricultural-residential, environmental, businesses, and other community interests. The ARB IRWMP has brought these interests together in an effort to meet the statewide priority of reducing conflicts and resolving water rights disputes. For reference, the landmark Water Forum process described elsewhere in the ARB IRWMP was the first regional effort that focused on developing collaborative, consensus based solutions and broad involvement processes. The practices pioneered in the Water Forum process have since become accepted standards and norms for conducting stakeholder interaction and collaboration processes in the region.

## 13.2. Stakeholder Identification

Participants of the ARB IRWMP have a well-established tradition and program for stakeholder involvement and public information. A variety of strategies and tactics were employed to engage stakeholders in the past, including studying regional industry and association membership lists, advertisements in publications and periodicals (local, regional and statewide), focus groups, and hiring public outreach consultants. Stakeholders from past and current regional planning efforts were tabulated to begin the stakeholder identification process. These planning efforts included, but were not limited to, RWA, FRWA, SSCAWA, SGA, CSCGF, Water Forum, and others. Those that were identified, were invited to participate in the ARB IRWM program, but with the understanding that more outreach is needed to be totally inclusive of all stakeholders in the region. Current stakeholders involved in the development of the ARB IRWMP are shown in **Table 13.1**. Other stakeholders are involved with their participation in public meetings and other outreach conducted through the ARB IRWMP implementation process. As the ARB IRWMP is implemented, more stakeholders will be identified and invited to participate. These other stakeholders are discussed and preliminarily identified in **Section 13.3**.

**Table 13.1 IRWMP Participants**

Water Purveyors	
Cal-Am	FOWD
CWD	GSWC
CHWD	OVWC
Folsom	PCWA
Lincoln	RLECWD
Roseville	SSWD
Sacramento	SJWD
EID	SCWA
Flood Control	
SAFCA	
Wastewater and Recycled Water	
SRCSO	Roseville
EID	Lincoln
Joint Powers Authorities	
RWA	SSCAWA
FRWA	SGA
Environmental Interests	
TNC	

### **13.3. Processes for Stakeholder Inclusion and Involvement in IRWMP Development and Implementation**

As the IRWMP matures, and depending upon the specific public information needs, the ARB IRWMP will employ any and all of its multiple public outreach mechanisms and processes including:

- **Public Notices, Advertisements and Meetings.** The main way in which stakeholder involvement will be achieved is through ongoing regular group meetings and planning sessions. Meetings provide an open forum for stakeholders to discuss and influence ideas, projects, integration, and other water management decisions. With an active notification program for significant activities and decisions, the public is afforded the maximum opportunity to participate in key decision processes. Most recently, the public was notified in the Sacramento Bee regarding the adoption of this IRWMP. A public meeting was conducted at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.
- **Web sites.** RWA, SGA, FRWA and most participating agencies host web sites for public information dissemination and regularly issue information updates to members, associate members, broader water supply interests and the public. RWA also publishes a newsletter with broad distribution twice-annually and routinely publishes advertisements in local newspapers and has sponsored radio and television advertising to draw attention to, and gather community support for its projects and programs. An example of a participating agencies contribution to public outreach is SRCSD's award winning web site describing its Water Recycling Program.
- **Ambassadors Program.** RWA has an Ambassadors Program that makes presentations to and receives input from numerous community groups and member agencies. The program operates on an as-needed basis, and often targets groups with a particular water-related interest that is current or topical.
- **Water Forum Successor Effort.** RWA, SCWA, FRWA and most of the ARB IRWMP participants participate in the Water Forum Successor Effort plenary meetings and in the water purveyor, business, and environmental caucus meetings. Proposals and draft work products are routinely vetted to these groups to scope, gather feedback and support for its proposals. The Water Forum has public information and school education programs as part of its Best Management Practices (BMPs) of water conservation.
- **Water Use Efficiency Program.** Through its Water Use Efficiency Program, the RWA interacts with water resource professionals and leaders through the CUWCC where its proposed programs, projects and general issues are broadly presented, discussed and peer information is gathered.

RWA/FRWA and participating agencies in the ARB IRWMP will brief the Water Forum Successor Effort on the progress of the ARB IRWMP on a quarterly basis. By briefing the Water Forum and its caucuses, additional stakeholders will become more closely involved in the planning process including business and agricultural leaders, citizens groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments. Many participants of the ARB IRWMP are also members of other water management groups, including: the Water Forum, SGA, CSCGF, El Dorado Water and Power Authority, Lower American River Task Force, North Area Round Table, Sacramento River Planning Forum, Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership, ACWA, and CUWA. This 'crossover' in membership has the potential

to create synergies and help identify and coordinate with additional stakeholders as the ARB IRWMP progresses, both within and outside the region.

Stakeholders already identified (**Section 13.1**) and potential stakeholders to be identified (**Section 13.3**) will be afforded several opportunities to influence the ARB IRWMP and its continued development. The Management Committee intends to create and manage an open and accessible process whereby stakeholders can voice concerns or make suggestions about the plan and the process for its development in a flexible responsive manner. The ARB intends to keep the level of formality to a minimum, and will openly invite participation. To the extent input is received, ARB IRWMP participating agencies are committed to receiving, addressing, answering and documenting all stakeholder communications. The ARB will document comments, communications, and materials received from stakeholders as the ARB IRWMP is further developed, and include this information as part of the official record for the ARB IRWMP.

#### **13.4. Agencies/Organizations within ARB IRWMP Boundaries, but not Included in Planning Process**

Appropriate stakeholders have been included through each stage of the planning process, and through implementation of the individual projects and programs. These stakeholders will be contacted and invited to join the regular team meetings pertaining to the planning or implementation of the projects that affect them. Stakeholders will also have the opportunity to review and comment on draft documents produced during the planning process.

Involvement from any and all water related agencies and stakeholders in the region was actively sought. However, a few water-related agencies and organizations within the ARB IRWMP boundaries are not currently included directly in the planning process. Reasons behind an agency or organization's lack of participation range from economics, politics, or differing visions. As an example, several of the smaller agencies in the region, and some of the newer Cities simply do not have sufficient discretionary revenues or experienced staff available to support ongoing involvement in the ARB IRWMP effort. However, the Management Committee will continue its efforts of outreach to have an all inclusive region that participates in subsequent versions of the ARB IRWMP. The ARB IRWMP is expected to be a living document that will be revised with an expanded scope as the region changes with time. Local stakeholders that are being pursued to participate in the ARB IRWMP are shown in **Table 13.2**.

**Table 13.2 Stakeholders not Included in IRWMP**

<b>Water Purveyors</b>	
City of Galt	Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Del Paso Manor Water District	Natomas Central Mutual Water Company
Elk Grove Water Service	Rancho Murieta Community Service District
Florin County Water District	Tokay Park Water District
Fruitridge Vista Water District	
<b>Cities</b>	
Citrus Heights	Rocklin
Placerville	
<b>Environmental Management</b>	
El Dorado County Department of Environmental Management	Sacramento County Environmental Management Department
<b>Flood Control</b>	
Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	
<b>Power</b>	
El Dorado Water & Power Authority	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
<b>Public and Community Interests</b>	
Associated General Contractors	Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods
Building Industry Association	Sacramento County Farm Bureau
Chambers of Commerce	Sacramento County Taxpayers League
Community Planning Advisory Councils	Sacramento-Sierra Building & Construction Trades Council
Environmental Council of Sacramento	
Friends of the River	Save the American River Association, Inc.
League of Women Voters	Sierra Club-Mother Lode Chapter
Sacramento Association of Realtors	South County Citizens for Responsible Growth

### **13.5. Mechanisms and Processes to Facilitate Stakeholder Involvement and Communication during Implementation**

The ARB participating agencies held regular IRWMP meetings to discuss planning and implementation of the ARB IRWMP. These meetings allowed participants to communicate and influence the ARB IRWMP development and water management strategies and decisions. DWR and SWRCB representatives were invited to these meetings for their input. Outcomes from these meetings are presented at numerous public meetings, including RWA board meetings, which are noticed, advertised and open to the public. Recent examples of these meetings with stakeholders include:

- Presentation to CSCGF on April 25, 2005
- Presentation to Placer County Planning Department on April 6, 2006
- Presentation at RWA Board meeting on May 18, 2006

**Section 13**  
**Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination**

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There have also been various public outreach mechanisms and process related to the projects, such as public meetings and workshops, newsletters, and presentations, which have given the public and other stakeholder opportunities to participate in implementation. Meetings and public workshops will continue to regularly to facilitate stakeholder involvement during implementation of the IRWMP.

**13.6. Partnerships Developed During IRWM Process**

One of the primary objectives of the ARB IRWMP is to encourage the formation of new partnerships and agreements between local agencies, or groups of agencies in the region. Several of the proposed projects already include partnerships between neighboring agencies, and between agencies with different management responsibilities related to water. **Table 13.3** summarizes direct partnerships among the suite of implementation projects.

**Table 13.3 Partnerships Developed from the ARB IRWMP Participants**

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Description</b>
Old Auburn Road Groundwater Production Well	CHWD, CWD	Groundwater from CHWD Well would assist in on-going replacement water supply needs of CWD.
Freeport Regional Water Project	SCWA, EBMUD	Partnership between to SCWA and EBMUD for surface water for SCWA and EBMUD.
Rosemont Conjunctive Use Pipeline Groundwater Production Well	Sacramento, Cal-Am	Would utilize Sacramento American River POU water in-lieu of Cal-Am groundwater.
	SSWD, CWD	Groundwater from SSWD Well would assist in on-going replacement water supply needs of CWD.
TNC River Management and Conjunctive Management Opportunities of the Cosumnes River	TNC, SCWA, SSCAWA	MOA between TNC and SCWA to study conjunctive use opportunities of Cosumnes River.

Other partnerships in the region are developing because of the ARB IRWMP, such as the development of a Western Placer County Groundwater Management Plan, which involves PCWA, Roseville, Lincoln and Placer County. This spirit of regional cooperation is paying dividends by producing comprehensive plans and programs with broad support, while being more economical than aggregating several separate and often disjointed efforts.

## **13.7. Environmental Justice Concerns and Disadvantaged Communities**

As the ARB IRWMP is implemented, environmental justice concerns will be considered. Environmental justice involves “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and income with respect to development, adoption, and implementation of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (Government Code 65040.1(c)).” While disadvantaged communities are not necessarily common or preponderant in the region, public meetings will be held to address the public and ratepayers’ concerns regarding the ARB IRWMP and/or its component projects and programs. The ARB IRWMP participants and consultants will review the ARB IRWMP periodically to ensure disadvantaged communities are not adversely affected, and to address any potential environmental justice concerns.

A priority of the Management Committee is to seek external grant funding or subventions to offset the cost of implementing new, and often expensive projects or programs. External funding assistance will help offset costs to existing ratepayers in the region, especially those rate payers with a limited ability-to-pay, and help ensure those ratepayers are affected as little as possible. The ARB IRWMP and/or component projects and programs will be reviewed for compliance with CEQA, NEPA, and any other local, state, and federal requirements. Through any necessary NEPA review, compliance with Executive Order 12898 will be addressed (if applicable).

A disadvantaged community is defined as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80% of the statewide median household income (MHI). 2000 Census data were collected and reviewed to identify any disadvantaged communities in the region. The 2000 State MHI was \$47,493; therefore, communities with an average household income of \$37,994 are considered disadvantaged communities. The disadvantaged communities in the region have been identified and are shown in **Figure 2.4**. These communities have been included in the ARB IRWMP planning process, with special consideration given for needed water related projects or programs. Disadvantaged communities in the region will continue to be recognized and given due consideration during future updates of the ARB IRWMP.

## **13.8. Potential Obstacles to IRWMP Implementation**

As with any implementation process involving multiple participants and stakeholders, the largest common obstacle is obtaining sufficient project funding for any number of needed and well deserved projects and programs. The participants recognize that ARB IRWMP projects will need to be funded through by the

**Section 13**  
**Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination**

---

individual agencies, grant programs, or cost-sharing partnerships. The ARB IRWMP process is a good venue for smaller and/or more challenged agencies to receive help with external funding if they have projects and programs that benefit the entire region, such as federally mandated programs like Arsenic removal in groundwater

Another potential obstacle to ARB IRWMP implementation is any lack of consensus within the region on certain priorities, projects or programs. ARB IRWMP participants understand the importance of presenting a unified regional front, and are thus committed to developing consensus positions on projects and programs that are good for the region as a whole. However, implementation of any single project or program can always hit an obstacle, especially if a certain stakeholder has positions or interests that are not compatible with the larger regions. Notwithstanding this possibility, ARB IRWMP participants are committed to avoiding internal dissension by having an open and inclusive process that allows all stakeholders to be heard, with a full vetting of facts on any particular issue.

### **13.9. Coordination with State and Federal Agencies**

The ARB IRWMP preparation, and ongoing improvement process was coordinated with, and often supported by a number of state and federal agencies, as shown in **Table 13.4**.

**Table 13.4 State and Federal Agencies**

<b>Federal Agencies</b>
Environmental Protection Agency
National Marine Fisheries Service
Reclamation
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey
<b>State</b>
California Department of Transportation
California Public Utilities Commission
California Urban Water Conservation Council
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Health Services
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources
Regional Water Quality Control Board
State Water Resources Control Board

### **13.10. State and Federal Requirements for Implementation and how They can Assist in Communication, Cooperation, or Implementation**

The ARB IRWMP will coordinate with state and federal agencies to gain assistance and support in implementation. DWR and SWRCB have always been invited to ARB IRWMP meetings for their input and guidance. The region has a long standing working relationship with the State in implementing various projects, most recently through a Proposition 13 grant, AB303 grants, and Proposition 50 Planning grant. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently providing federal funding to RWA for a portion of the ARB IRWM program development. Also, all ARB IRWMP projects will need to go through the proper CEQA/NEPA documentation process prior to construction or completion, which requires a certain amount of coordination and consultation with State and Federal Agencies.

As different types are projects are implemented, the ARB IRWMP will work and coordinate with State and Federal agencies, where appropriate. **Table 13.5** generally shows each of the Regional Priorities, Statewide Priorities, and IRWM Program Preferences (Project Evaluation Criteria), outlined in **Section 5**, that each candidate project or program will fall into, and which state or federal agency that may have a vested interest.

**Section 13**  
**Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination**

**Table 13.5 State and Federal Agencies per Project Evaluation Criterion**

<b>Project Evaluation Criterion</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Federal</b>
<b>Regional Priorities</b>		
Water Supply Reliability	DWR	USBR
Groundwater Management	DWR	
Water Quality Protection and Improvement	SWRCB, RWQCB, DHS	EPA
Ecosystem Restoration	DFG	USFWS
Conjunctive Use	DWR, SWRCB	
Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement	DFG	USFWS
Storm Water Management	SWRCB, RWQCB	
Flood Management	DWR	USACE
Water Recycling	DWR	
Water Conservation	DWR, SWRCB, CUWCC	
Water and Wastewater Treatment	RWQCB, DHS	
Wetlands Enhancement and Creation	SWRCB, RWQCB	
Recreation and Public Access	DWR, Department of Parks and Recreation	USACE
NPS Pollution Control	SWRCB, RWQCB	RWQCB
Watershed Planning	DWR, SWRCB	
Land Use Planning	DWR	
Creating Linkages to Regional Infrastructure	DWR, SWRCB	
Includes Regional Partners	DWR, SWRCB	
<b>Statewide Priorities</b>		
Reduce Conflicts Between Water Users and Resolve Water Rights Disputes	DWR, SWRCB	
Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that are Established or Under Development	SWRCB, RWQCB	
Implement Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan	SWRCB, RWQCB	
Implementation of Recommendations of the Floodplain Management Task Force	DWR, SWRCB	
Assist in achieving One or More Goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program	DWR	USBR
<b>IRWM Program Preferences</b>		
Integrated Projects with Multiple Benefits	DWR, SWRCB	
Support and Improve Local and Regional Water Supply Reliability	DWR, SWRCB	Reclamation
Contribute Expediently and Measurably to the Long-Term Attainment and Maintenance of Water Quality Standards	SWRCB, RWQCB, DHS	EPA
Eliminate or Significantly Reduce Pollution in Impaired Waters and Sensitive Habitat Areas, including Areas of Special Biological Significance	SWRCB, RWQCB	EPA
Safe Drinking Water and Water Quality Projects that Serve Disadvantaged Communities	DWR, SWRCB, RWQCB	USBR