

3. IRWMP OBJECTIVES

The ARB IRWM Management Committee (Management Committee) has developed a regional vision and mission while developing prioritized goals and objectives for the region. This process included identification of regional needs and issues based on the Water Forum Process, consideration of statewide priorities, and consideration of the ARB IRWMP priorities and objectives. The Management Committee developed seven goals and supporting objectives that are consistent with the overall theme of the numerous objectives founded in the various planning documents for the region. The goals and objectives are used in the ARB IRWMP to provide a basis for decision making, guiding work efforts, and evaluating project benefits, impacts and conflicts. Furthermore, the mission, goals and objectives are consistent with the regional water management efforts of the various planning agencies, have received consensus support and approval from the partners and cooperating groups, and are listed below, in order of priority.

3.1. ARB IRWMP Mission

The mission of the ARB IRWMP stakeholders is to preserve the economic and environmental health and well-being of the region through the development of a program that focuses on watershed stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a reliable, cost effective, and responsible manner.

3.2. Determination of Objectives

Over the last decade the members and partners of the ARB IRWM Management Committee (Management Committee) have participated in a succession of regional water management planning efforts that led to the development of the objectives for the implementation of this Program. These steps have included, but are not limited to:

- As described in **Section 1.2.1**, the Water Forum process involved more than 40 stakeholders, each having their own independent goals and objectives for the region. The Water Forum developed a consensus based process that arrived at solutions based on scientific data and quantification of impacts and benefits. The seven year process led to the development of the landmark WFA, that each of the stakeholders became a signatory to. The award winning WFA outlines a process for how to properly preserve the lower American River, while still providing a reliable water supply to the region. The Water Forum Successor Effort (Successor Effort) continues to provide an outlet for organizations to express their water management concerns and an opportunity to

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resolve potential conflicts. Many of the objectives of the ARB IRWMP were developed during the Water Forum process and continue to be addressed as part of the Successor Effort.

- The ARBCA RWMP laid the groundwork for the first multi-agency water supply master plan with the premise that after the Water Forum process, water agencies need to begin to work together and realize the synergies that exist with the larger group versus efforts by a single agency.
- RWA projects, programs (e.g., ARBCUP, Regional Water Use Efficiency Program, etc.) and activities such as coordination and oversight of the ARB IRWMP is an example of how an umbrella agency can effectively bring positive change to the region while maintaining their goal of regional cooperation.
- SGA's projects, programs, and activities (e.g., SB1938-compliant GMP, SAFCA/Reclamation Groundwater Banking and Exchange Pilot Study, CALFED EWA Pilot Study, etc.) are considered to be the first of their kind for the region and are used as examples for the region in the preparation of other groundwater basin GMPs. SGA staff and their expertise are used for the benefit of the region in coordinating groundwater management activities for consistency and linkage where similar groundwater management activities are needed in a region.
- SCWA's Zone 40 Water Supply Master Plan and associated programs and activities (e.g., implementation of a conjunctive use water program to support existing and new growth, Eastern Sacramento County Replacement Water Supply Project (use of remediated groundwater), Management of Water and Environmental Resources Associated with the Lower Cosumnes River, etc.) have become the premier conjunctive use program for the central Sacramento County region. SCWA started the concept of conjunctive use with the formation of Zone 40 in 1985 and have been working towards that goal ever since to provide reliable water service to a service area that will more than triple in new growth over the next 20 years. Zone 40's recently adopted Water Supply Master Plan lays out the regional conjunctive use program using groundwater and surface water supplies in accordance with the WFA PSA, use of recycled water, and best use of remediated groundwater that is discharged to the American River by Aerojet and Boeing in the northeast portion of the central Sacramento County groundwater basin.
- The FRWA project's associated environmental documentation (e.g., protection of the Lower American River) and benefits to regional water supply reliability are linked with the conjunctive use solution for Zone 40 as well as to providing dry year supplies to regions in the East San Francisco Bay served by EBMUD.
- The Central Sacramento County Groundwater Forum and associated GMP are ending their four year process that will result in a governance structure and GMP for groundwater management of the central Sacramento County groundwater basin. The forum is a stakeholder process that has resolved many of the issues and conflicts that existed between urban, agriculture and rural land uses. The groundwater management goals are measurable with tangible solutions if goals are exceeded. The GMP also includes a no fault Well Protection Program that provides a well replacement guarantee for existing private well owners that may be impacted by any existing or future urban conjunctive use program.

- The formation of the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority and their efforts in supporting groundwater management strategies and development of a South Sacramento County Groundwater Basin GMP and other groundwater recharge strategies are providing the goals and objectives from a predominantly agricultural community.
- Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) is a lead water supply agency in the Placer County portion of the ARB IRWMP region. PCWA has consistently taken a proactive role in the planning and development of water supply infrastructure that maximizes the continued use of surface water entitlements. They also participate in other regional programs such as the City of Roseville's GMP and the Sacramento River Water Reliability Study for completion of the Sacramento River diversion project.
- City of Roseville has taken a lead role in the development of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects and the use of recycled water in the region. The City has completed numerous studies and is working directly with the Regional Water Quality Control Board in developing policy for ASR projects in the region. The City has also taken the lead in developing a regional GMP for the Placer County area that has brought PCWA, the City of Lincoln, and Placer County together for regional policies in future groundwater use.
- City of Lincoln has worked independently in developing reliable water supplies through conjunctive use programs using surface water purchased from PCWA and Nevada Irrigation District, indigenous groundwater, and best use of recycled water.
- El Dorado Irrigation District negotiated with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2003 to acquire Jenkinson Lake at Sly Park and have acquired CVP surface water contracts with the Bureau and a water right for diversion from Folsom Reservoir that was awarded in 2001 by the State Water Resources Control Board. They have been extremely proactive in the use of recycled water with extended application to front and back yard residential landscaping, agriculture irrigation management and water efficiency programs.
- SAFCA's mission is to reduce flood risk thereby minimizing the impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and, consistent with these flood risk reduction goals, to preserve and enhance the environmental and aesthetic values that floodways and floodplains contribute to the quality of life in the Sacramento region. Under the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Act of 1990, the California Legislature has given SAFCA broad authority to finance flood control projects and has directed the Agency to carry out its flood control responsibilities in ways that provide optimum protection to the natural environment.

In addition to previous regional planning efforts, individual IRWMP stakeholders were consulted to collect information on each stakeholder's specific goals, objectives and issues. Common goals and objectives were summarized to form a list of regional objectives. Based on this information, the Management Committee developed a list of objectives to be addressed in the ARB IRWMP.

3.3. American River Basin Planning Objectives

Identified regional planning objectives for the ARB include reliable drinking water supplies, stormwater and flood management, groundwater management, consideration of environmental water supplies and ecosystem restoration, recycled water development and implementation, and improvement and protection of water quality in both surface water and groundwater. Each of these objectives is described in more detail below.

3.3.1. Water Supply Objectives

- Identify and develop specific integrated facilities and operations that will enhance regional and individual drinking water supply availability and reliability.
- Identify and cultivate promotion of multi-jurisdictional infrastructure and joint operational planning partnerships to enhance total water supply system capacity/capability and reliability to the region.
- Recognize the importance of reliable and affordable water supplies for self-supplied and agricultural groundwater users.
- Develop i) a water accounting framework for evaluating the increase in water supply yield of specific projects and programs and ii) a financial accounting methodology for equitably distributing capital and operating costs of those projects and programs in relation to the benefits received. These efforts are to support equity discussions between regional partners.
- Develop analytical tools to enable evaluation of proposed projects and programs for example, updating the existing groundwater model for the portion of the ARB IRWMP region that overlies the Central Valley aquifer. The updated groundwater model will assist in groundwater supply management and protection of groundwater quality.

Plan for and implement programs and projects that develop the highest level of reliability in public drinking water supplies and equitably distribute capital and operating costs.

3.3.2. Stormwater and Floodplain Management

- Lead a regional effort to ensure 200-year flood protection strategies are developed through a collaborative, watershed-wide approach designed to maximize opportunities for comprehensive management of water resources and minimize flooding potential through proactive measures of flood control in unprotected areas.
- Minimize impacts from stormwater discharges to receiving water quality in sensitive river systems and the Delta through established BMPs and watershed management activities.

Provide the highest practicable level of achieving flood control and stormwater quality in the region.

3.3.3. Groundwater Management Objectives

- Recognize that the region will have up to four adopted GMPs among its stakeholders with each being specific to its own unique groundwater basin but complementary with linkages all of the GMPs. Implementation of the provisions of each GMP will be the responsibility of their respective groundwater basin governance bodies (e.g., SGA for north of the American River in Sacramento County, Central Sacramento County, South Sacramento County, and Western Placer County).
- Identify and resolve issues connected to conjunctive use water management practices and groundwater contamination such as those at Aerojet and the former McClellan and Mather Air Force Bases.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of existing regional groundwater monitoring systems to aid in accurately assessing the condition of the regional groundwater basin in terms of its long-term health and sustainability. The existing monitoring systems will be evaluated for its effectiveness in monitoring impacts to groundwater elevations, groundwater gradients, and migration of known contaminant plumes. This effort will include the identification of data gaps and potential threats to the health of the basin, and include a recommendation for improvements to groundwater monitoring systems.

Protect and enhance groundwater resources and groundwater quality in accordance with adopted GMPs in the region.

3.3.4. Ecosystem Restoration Objectives

- Coordinate with agencies developing plans that identify potential areas for ecosystem restoration and environmental and habitat protection and improvement, and how best to implement restoration projects in the region. These plans should include identifying stakeholders and forming appropriate partnerships and establishing other requirements necessary for implementation.
- Lead a region-wide effort to preserve the environmental health and well-being of the region by identifying opportunities to restore and enhance the natural resources of streams and watersheds during the development of regional water management programs and projects in partnership with environmental stewards.
- Identify opportunities where the ARB IRWMP objectives are consistent with and assist in meeting the CALFED Bay-Delta Program mission and objectives of water supply reliability, water quality and ecosystem restoration. The IRWMP planning objectives comply with the solution principles outlined in the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision by providing a means for identifying projects that reduce conflicts in the system, are equitable, affordable, durable, implementable and have no significant redirected impacts.

Coordinate with agencies developing plans that identify and implement ecosystem restoration projects along sensitive wildlife habitat areas in the region and Bay-Delta.

3.3.5. Recycled Water Objectives

- Identify potential opportunities for expanding recycled water use in urban and agricultural areas and in industrial applications, thereby extending existing water supplies by reducing demands on surface and groundwater supplies.
- Reduce Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) of chemical constituents of primary concern by decreasing effluent flows from wastewater treatment plants to receiving waters. This includes providing recycled water to both urban and agricultural land use areas where use of such water is permissible by state and federal regulatory agencies.

Move forward in the long term planning of recycled water use to improve water use efficiency in the region, reduce TMDLs for certain constituents in receiving waters of treated wastewater effluent.

3.3.6. Potable Water Quality Objectives

- Identify groundwater programs and projects that improve the water quality of potable water supplies through improved source water quality (e.g., wellhead protection) and treatment alternatives for public and private wells impacted by groundwater contamination.
- Develop a program for identifying and evaluating the physical, regulatory and legal issues associated with operationally interconnecting adjacent water distribution systems and blending water supplies from different water purveyors and agricultural water districts to achieve the highest water quality that is economically affordable to the end user.
- Maintain and protect water quality in groundwater and surface waters (i.e., raw sources of water supply prior to treatment for consumptive use) through education and local programs that target point sources and non-point sources of contamination.

Continuously look for innovative solutions in providing the highest level of protection in raw water sources used for potable drinking water supplies.

3.3.7. Other Objectives

- Document and maintain consistent databases of current land use plans in the region, refine existing water demand estimates for a variety of land uses, and estimate future water supply needs in the region.
- Evaluate the regional water efficiency program currently being implemented by RWA and identify potential improvements that could be made to that program for region-wide implementation.
- Develop a strategy for the region's stakeholders to successfully procure external funding for potential projects and programs (including state and/or federal grant funding) as individual members or as a group.

Implement regional water management strategies that provide the highest level of understanding and financial support for regional programs and projects to meet the ARB IRWMP objectives.

- Evaluate data and information from ongoing and recently completed plans for stormwater management, recreational and public access, and environmental and habitat protection/improvement. This information is important for integrating these water management strategies within the ARB IRWMP.

3.3.8. Process for Developing Additional Objectives

After adoption, Management Committee members will follow the Stakeholder Involvement Plan described in the “Stakeholder Involvement” section (**Section 13**) of this report to refine and develop Program objectives. This process will be used for editing and developing additional objectives as the region changes and matures in the future.

3.4. Addressing Regional Water Management Conflicts in the ARB IRWMP Region

Regional water management strategy conflicts arise due to differences in the perceived implementation and priority of proposed projects and programs recommended in the IRWMP to meet the ARB IRWMP planning objectives. Recognizing the potential for these conflicts as part of the development of this ARB IRWMP is a step toward cooperative planning that will aid in the prioritization of integrated water management strategies for the region and allow the Management Committee members to minimize and resolve conflicts prior to implementing a conflict resolution process. Conflict resolution was one of the core reasons for the creation of the Water Forum Process that many of the Management Committee members participated in at various levels. The result was of the Water Forum was one of consensus and understanding of why the implementation of the solutions in the WFA are so important.

Examples of acknowledging these differences between the regional implementation of projects and programs as recommended by the ARB IRWMP and the planning objectives described above are listed as follows:

1. With any agency or interest group is a set of internal mission, goals, and values that may differ either significantly or slightly from those of other Management Committee members. This difference can propagate into large-scale conflicts if left unchecked. To overcome this likely scenario of conflict, a methodology similar to the Water Forum was used in the development of this ARB IRWMP by having each of the members develop an interest paper that clearly defines their underlying goals that are motivating the requested projects and programs to be included as part of the water management strategies. Through this process, the members begin to understand that their goals cannot be met unless there is consensus and cooperation in meeting the goals of the other member agencies or interest groups. Prioritization and implementation of the water

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management strategies described in **Section 4** would not have been possible unless there was the combined understanding between the members of what is achieved in meeting their own interests and the interests of other by each recommended strategy.

2. Recognizing and addressing incompatibilities of land use is another potential area of conflict that has been recognized by past planning efforts and addresses by some form of solution. A good example is the difference in goals and values in achieving reliable water supplies between agriculture, agriculture residential (or rural), and urban development. Each land use type has its own set of challenges and socioeconomic constraints. The urban water agency possesses a rate base of customers that can support the implementation of large water management strategies, while agriculture and rural areas are typically single-owner supplied with insufficient resources to replace or change their current source of supply. For the most part, urban water agencies in the ARB IRWMP region recognize the constraints of the single-owner supplied areas and make allowances for activities that are being implemented in the urban areas that may negatively affect the agricultural and rural areas. Solutions range from not imposing groundwater management objectives on the single-owner supplied areas to guaranteeing the replacement of existing wells that are damaged by urban management activities.
3. State-wide conflicts are also a reality to the ARB IRWMP region, not unlike many of the other IRWMP planning regions of California. Solutions to these conflicts are being addressed partially through the implementation of the IRWM Program requirements. Recognition of the conflicts is the first step; resolving the conflict requires resources beyond the individual regions. However, through the State DWR's and the SWRCB's guidance and support of projects in regions that show a clear nexus with state-wide benefits, a resolution to some of these conflicts may become a reality.

Certainly, the above examples are not exhaustive of all of the conflicts within the region and in no way does this IRWMP purport to resolve all of the conflicts. The emphasis of the ARB IRWMP is first understanding the conflict in terms of the goals and objectives of the conflicting agencies or interest groups, and then finding a solution that best achieves those goals. The Management Committee will serve as a forum to present and attempt to resolve these issues.