

Friday, May 1, 2020

## **Memo: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan [IRWMP] Update**

### **Background.**

The IRWM Program was created in 2002 to foster collaboration and implement effective regional water management solutions. California has 48 IRWM Regions within 12 Funding Areas. Under Proposition 1, each Funding Area receives an allocation of grant funding. To receive this funding, each Region must create an IRWM Plan that meets state guidelines. **The NBWA is an original member of the IRWMP and must adopt any updates to the plan.**

The Bay Area's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is a nine-county effort to;

- Coordinate and improve the water supply reliability,
- Protect water quality, manage flood protection,
- Maintain public health standards, protect habitat and watershed resources, and
- Enhance the overall health of the San Francisco Bay. For more information about IRWMP see <http://bayareairwmp.org/>

### **Past and Current Update**

First prepared in 2006 and revised in 2012, the 2019 Plan updates were done to conform to Department of Water Resources (DWR) requirements in the 2016 IRWM Plan Guidelines. The Plan has now been approved by the DWR, and now must be adopted by the regional agencies to allow the Bay Area access to Proposition 1 money. Required changes fell into three categories:

- Updates on the code citation for the requirement (minimum effort)
- More detail to existing guidelines, such as which groundwater constituents must be discussed in the Plan (medium effort)
- Requires climate change impacts on the Region be added to the plan (high effort)

To address the requirements above, the plan now:

- Discusses climate change vulnerabilities in the Bay Area;
- Identifies how management strategies can help address climate change challenges;
- Outlines processes and strategies used to engage underrepresented populations, such as Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal communities, in regional planning;
- Includes additional details on the work performed under the Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP);
- Adds detail related to regional groundwater contaminants and management plans; and
- Makes minor changes to conform to 2016 IRWM Guidelines.

### **Process**

A draft of the 2019 Plan Update was circulated to the Bay Area IRWM members and posted online for public comment prior to the September 23, 2019 Coordinating Committee [CC] meeting. Comments were received from East Bay MUD, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the SF PUC, the Coastal Conservancy, and the City of Hayward. Most comments were either directly added, or the text corrected per comments. The update was unanimously approved by the CC on October 28, 2019 and approved by DWR on March 21, 2020.

### **Recommendation**

To be eligible to receive funds under Proposition 1, each CC member agency must adopt the plan. After all have adopted, funding allocated for Round 1 of Proposition 1 Implementation can be awarded to selected projects. **Recommend action: adoption.**