



North Bay Watershed Association Board Meeting
February 1, 2024

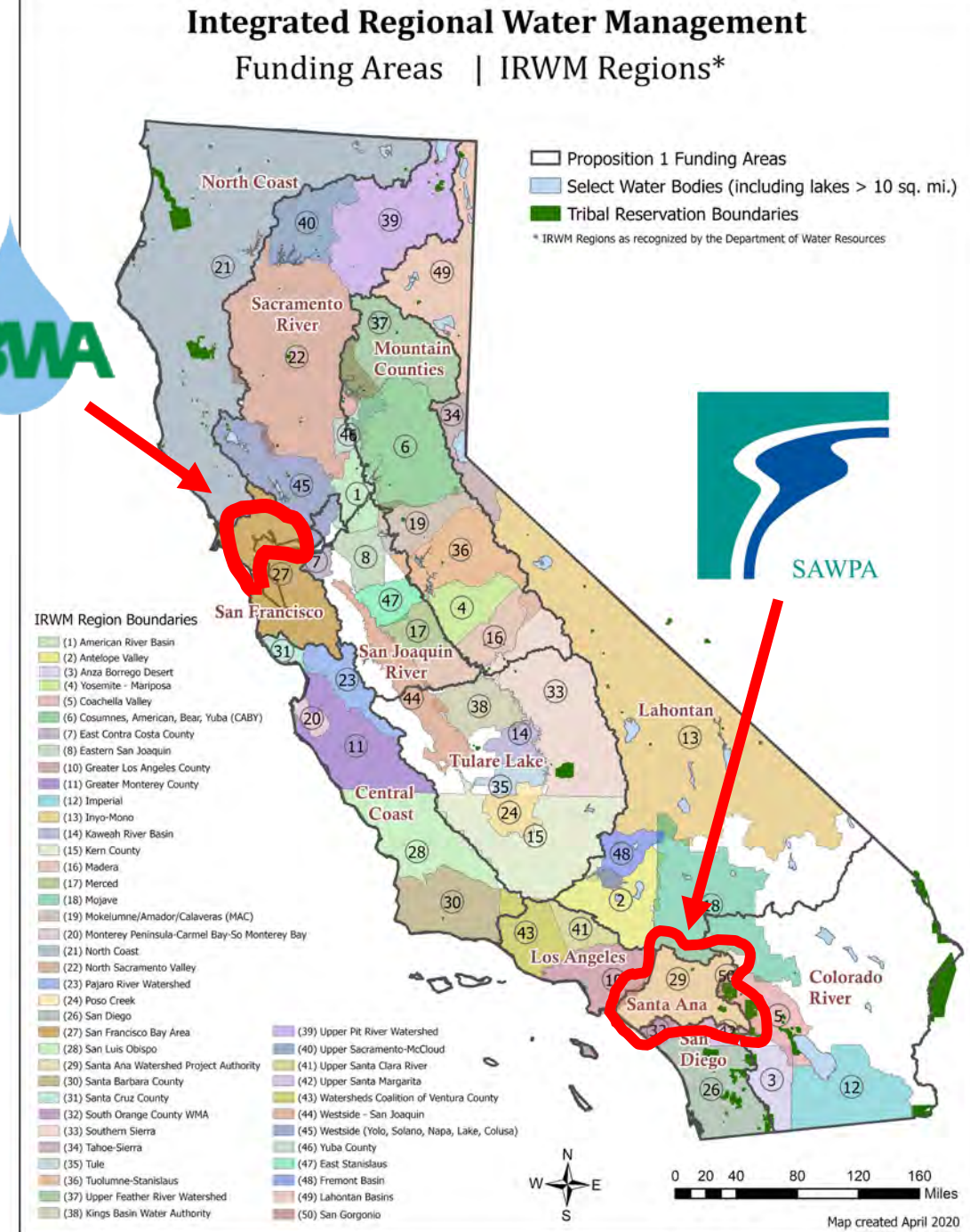
IRWM and Roundtable of Regions

Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

About Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

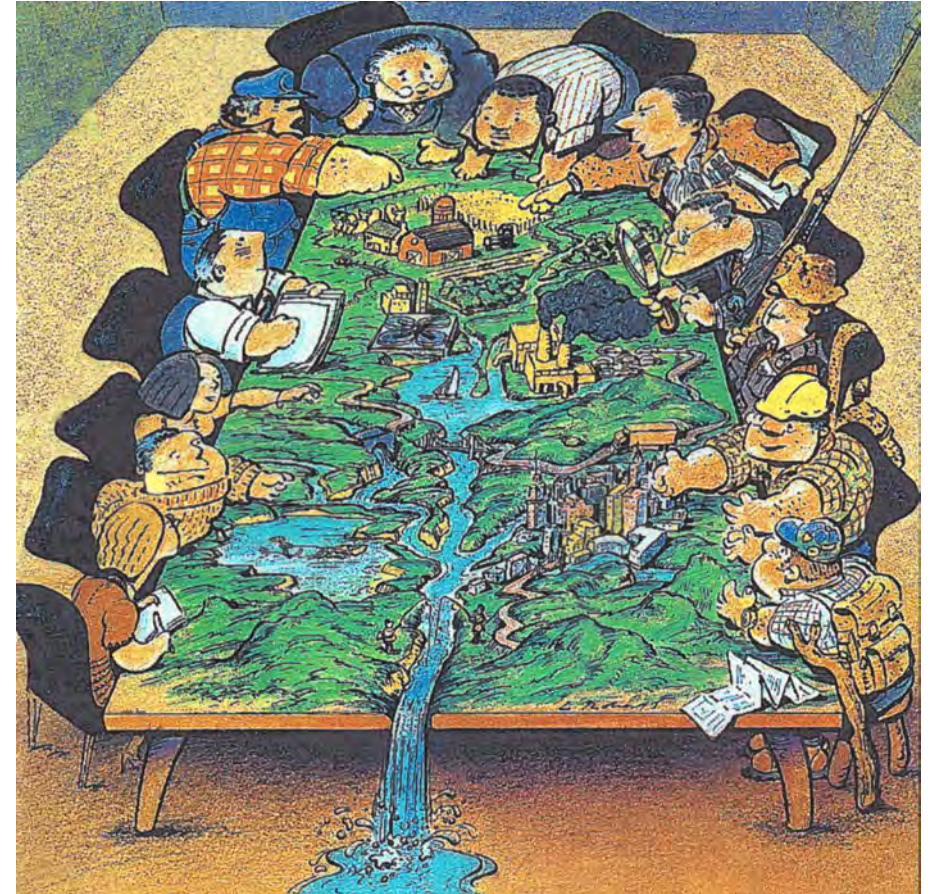
- Joint Powers Authority based in Riverside.
- Five member agencies.*
- Service area covers the Santa Ana River Watershed.
- Been involved in IRWM since 2000 (Prop 13 Water Bond).

*Eastern MWD, Western MWD, San Bernardino Valley MWD, Orange County Water District & Inland Empire Utilities Agency.



Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

- IRWM formally began as a state-wide program in 2002 with passage of Senate Bill 1672.
- Collaborative effort to plan and implement water management projects on a regional scale.
- What it does:
 - Brings Silos Together
 - Team Approach
 - Bottom Up
- Since 2002, various bond measures such as Prop 1, have provide \$1.5 Billion in IRWM funding to projects that are selected through local IRWM planning in 48 regions.



Allocation of IRWM Funding

- Starting with Prop 50, IRWM funding has always been allocated by funding areas
- Local match has always been a requirement:
 - Starting with Prop 1 (2014) the match has increased to 50% of project costs.

Funding Areas Used in Proposition 1



NBWA Members Who Have Had an IRWM-Funded Project

Member	IRWM Projects
<u>Bel Marin Keys Community Services District</u>	Yes
<u>City of Petaluma</u>	Yes
<u>County of Marin</u>	Yes
<u>County of Napa</u>	Yes
<u>County of Sonoma</u>	Yes
<u>Marin Municipal Water District</u>	Yes
<u>Napa Sanitation District</u>	Yes
<u>Solano County Water Agency</u>	Yes
<u>Sonoma County Water Agency</u>	Yes
<u>Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District</u>	Yes

Total IRWM Grant Funding to SF Bay Area to date

Proposition 84 Round 2	\$ 20,000,000.00
Proposition 84 Round 3	\$ 32,178,423.00
Proposition 84 Round 4	\$ 21,469,024.50
Disadvantaged Community & Tribal Involvement	\$ 4,800,000.00
Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding	\$ 5,000,000.00
Proposition Round 1	\$ 22,750,000.00
Proposition Round 2	\$ 32,214,479.00
TOTAL	\$ 138,411,926.50

About Roundtable of Regions



- Began in 2006.
- Started as partnership, led by engaged staff and two co-chairs.
- Very engaged with Department of Water Resources regarding State's management of IRWM grants.
- Network extends limited resources and amplifies results of all participants.
- Executed Charter Agreement in April 2019 (amended in April 2020).

Network Coordinator

- Since 2018, SAWPA has executed cost share agreements with 12 funding parties and entered into various task orders with two different consultants we refer to as the “network coordinator”.
 - JM Consultants (2018 to 2022)
 - WSC, Inc. (2022-present)
- The current cost share agreement in place pools **\$72,900** from the parties to fund WSC Inc. for FYE 2023.
 - SAWPA used an April 2022 RFP to bring on WSC Inc. as the current network coordinator.



Consultant Scope of Work (Partial List)

- Administration Tasks –
 - Ensure accurate and up-to-date contact list.
 - Support the development of agendas and distribute through the membership list.
 - Coordinate with the members of the steering committee and co-chairs.
 - Prepare and distribute occasional web-based surveys to Roundtable members.
- Programmatic Tasks –
 - Work with Steering Committee, or Ad Hoc workgroups, to schedule and develop materials for a conference as needed.
 - Coordinate and draft IRWM transition plan to assist IRWM regions with expanding their networks to climate, watershed, and fire resilience.
 - Coordinate the preparation and distribution of brief white papers as needed.

Future of IRWM Program



- For DWR, it's the Watershed Resiliency Program
 - Grant Guidelines released last week
- Key Takeaways from Guidelines:
 - Aims to enhance regional climate resilience through integrated watershed management.
 - Aims to encourage effective collaboration across sectors such as water supply, flood management, groundwater management, forest conservation, ecosystem preservation, and land use planning.
 - Aims to encourage inclusivity, and “efforts must involve and engage new and/or disenfranchised partners who have been previously underrepresented in water management planning and decision-making processes to ensure equitable outcomes.”
 - Aims to Leveraging and enhancing coordination between existing programs and collaborations, such as established IRWM groups and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, is key.

Funding for Watershed Resiliency Program

- General Fund allows for \$49.9 million for local assistance (grants)
- Funding will largely be used to convene watershed networks, conduct comprehensive watershed climate resilience planning through a collaborative process, quantify vulnerabilities across sectors, develop adaptation strategies, identify adaptation pathways, and develop watershed resilience plans (or updated regional plans) with an emphasis on equity.
- Funding will be awarded **via directed expenditures for a representative set of pilot planning projects** to test the watershed resilience approach and establish a foundation for future programs .

Eligible Projects

- Projects are required to address both drought resilience and the identification and assessment of climate risks on a watershed scale.
- While the primary emphasis of this program is to fund planning projects for watershed resilience as described above, due to the enabling drought related legislation, other eligible project types may be allowed, such as:
 - Drought resilience planning.
 - Construction or installation of permanent connections to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that provide immediate relief to potable water supplies, and other projects that support immediate drought response.
 - Emergency water interties.
 - New wells or rehabilitation of existing wells.
 - Fish and wildlife rescue, protection, and relocation.
 - Education, outreach, direct installation programs, rebate programs, and other activities to increase water conservation.

SAWPA Climate Resilience Strategy in the Santa Ana River Watershed

- **SAWPA efforts** are focused on:
 - Building on past efforts to perform **integrated watershed management**
 - Building on **SAWPA's OWOW efforts**
 - **Engage** with stakeholders
 - **Positioning region** for future funding opportunities
 - Building on state priorities related to **climate change risks, watershed resilience, and equity in water resources**
- **Approach** aligns with:
 - DWR's IRWM Program
 - Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Integrated Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Program (ICARP)



ICARP

INTEGRATED CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCY PROGRAM

Network Coordinator - Benefits to Various Regions Like North Bay

- Maximizes limited resources across the State and amplifies the importance of IRWM to State leaders,
- Elevates the Roundtables ability to communicate important issues with DWR,
- Network Coordinator keeps Roundtable on task and on track to ensure IRWM is successful statewide,
- Allows partners to continue to shape the focus of the Network Coordinator's scope of work, and
- Network coordinator and Roundtable are increasingly advocating for IRWM-related funding to State leadership.

Questions