

Handout 3B – Governance Considerations

15 October 2012, Coordinating Committee Meeting

1. Requirements for Governance in IRWM Plan

The *Proposition 84 & Proposition 1E Integrated Regional Water Management Guidelines August 2010* include the following requirements for governance:

“The IRWM Plan must document a governance structure that ensures the IRWM Plan will be updated and implemented beyond existing State grant programs. The IRWM Plan must include:

- The name of the RWMG responsible for development and implementation of the Plan. An RWMG must meet the definition of CWC §10539, which states:

“RWMG means a group in which three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management, as well as those other persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of a plan that meets the requirements of CWC §10540 and §10541, participate by means of a joint powers agreement, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), or other written agreement, as appropriate, that is approved by the governing bodies of those local agencies.”

The IRWM Plan must include a description of the RWMG and explain how the makeup of the RWMG meets the definition of CWC §10539 (above), and is sufficient in breadth of membership and participation to develop and implement the IRWM Plan.

- The RWMG and individual project proponents who adopted the Plan
- A description of the IRWM governance structure
- A description of how the chosen form of governance addresses and ensures the following:
 - Public outreach and involvement processes
 - Effective decision making
 - Balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM process
 - Effective communication – both internal and external to the IRWM region
 - Long term implementation of the IRWM Plan
 - Coordination with neighboring IRWM efforts and State and federal agencies
 - The collaborative process(es) used to establish plan objectives

- How interim changes and formal changes to the IRWM Plan will be performed
- Updating or amending the IRWM Plan”

2. Considerations for Governance Discussion

1. The current MOU that established the RWMG to develop the IRWM Plan and apply for State planning grant funds does not cover implementation of the IRWM Plan. The MOU states that “The completed IRWMP may recommend a different Governance structure for Plan Implementation.”
2. The members of the current RWMG are Lake County Watershed Protection District, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Colusa County Resource Conservation District, Solano County Water Agency and Water Resources Association of Yolo County.
3. At a minimum, the RWMG (governance structure) established to implement the IRWM Plan must meet the standards shown above from the *Integrated Regional Water Management Guidelines August 2010*. Participants may be interested in accomplishing additional tasks through the RWMG as are being considered and discussed within the IRWM Plan development process.
4. Once the functions of the implementing RWMG are identified, then approach to forming the RWMG (e.g., MOU, joint powers agreement, etc.) can be discussed and selected.