

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

The Path to a Resilient Water Resources Future



History

In 2002, the State Legislature passed the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Act (SB 1672) to encourage local entities to improve water quality and water supply reliability to meet the state's overall agricultural, domestic, industrial and environmental water needs. IRWM Regions are self-organized, geographically based groups, and the 48 regions serve 99% of California's population.

A Unique Approach With Multi-Benefit Results

IRWM is more than a grant program. It is an established structure that brings together cities, counties, water districts, community and environmental groups, Tribes and others to build diverse partnerships that write regional plans, construct infrastructure projects, and implement water conservation and water-energy savings programs on a regional scale. This approach increases regional self-reliance, reduces conflict, and manages water to achieve climate resilience.

IRWM differs from traditional approaches to water resource management by integrating all facets of water management and climate solutions to achieve multi-benefit results.



The Future of California's Resilience

IRWM Regions have created regional planning capacity that strongly positions them as the best vehicle in planning for future climate resiliency as envisioned in the Water Resilience Portfolio.

The State should continue to leverage this unique tool through investment in IRWM.



State and Local Investments

Locals invest over \$4 for every \$1 invested by the State.

Props 50, 84 and 1 have supported more than 1,300 multi-benefit projects. Prop 1 has specifically targeted disadvantaged communities and Tribes.

Leveraging State Funding

\$1.45 B State Funds

\$5.6 B Local Match

7 Benefits of IRWM

- #1 LEVERAGES** funding sources
- #2 PROMOTES** regional governance
- #3 INCENTIVIZES** multi-benefit projects
- #4 DISSOLVES** water management silos
- #5 INVOLVES** Tribal governments and underrepresented communities
- #6 ENCOURAGES** diverse stakeholder collaboration
- #7 INTEGRATES** climate change in comprehensive plans

Other Resources

Roundtable of Regions:
www.roundtableofregions.org

Department of Water Resources:
water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management

ACWA IRWM Policy Principles:
www.acwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/PP-Integrated-Regional-Water-Management-IRWM-9-11.pdf



Region At-A-Glance

Region Description

The 1,300-square mile Pajaro River Watershed supports diverse environments and urban and agricultural land uses. The Pajaro River feeds the Monterey Bay, a federally protected National Marine Sanctuary. The river supplies water and provides recreational opportunities to the diverse communities within the watershed.

Counties Within the Region

Santa Cruz, San Benito, Santa Clara, and Monterey Counties

Governance Description

The Pajaro River Watershed IRWM Program decision-making authority consists of a Regional Water Management Group, composed of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, San Benito County Water District, and Valley Water. This group solicits input from 3 advisory entities - a Stakeholder Steering Committee (SSC) and its associated subcommittees, the Implementation Project Sponsors, and general stakeholders.

Population Served

140,000

IRWM Funding Brought to the Region

\$31,627,927

Amount of Funding Leveraged by Locals

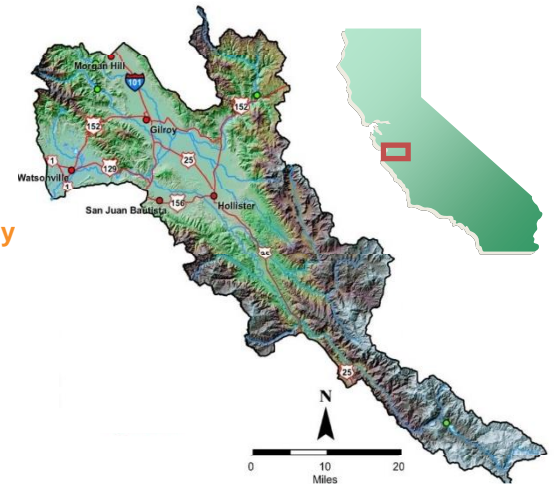
\$90,683,019

California Senate and Assembly Districts

State Senate - District 17, 12

State Assembly – District 30, 29

Region Map



Top Region Priorities

- Preserve the economic and environmental wealth and well-being of the Pajaro River Watershed.
- Perform watershed stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a practical, cost effective, and responsible manner.
- Provide multiple benefits such as water supply, groundwater management, flood management, and water quality.



Region Successes and Highlights

1. Identified needs and improved participation of under-represented communities
2. Completed planning studies and implemented projects to address groundwater water quality concerns
3. Implemented projects to improve local water supply availability, water conservation, flood risk reduction, and habitat improvement

Region Contact

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