

Section A. Regional Agency

IRWM Plan Standard:

“Describe the regional water management group or regional agency responsible for development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. Include the member agencies and organizations and their management responsibilities related to water. Demonstrate that all agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and privately owned water utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, that were necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the IRWM Plan were involved in the planning process.”

A1. Description of the Regional Agency

Describe the regional water management group or regional agency responsible for development and implementation of the IRWM Plan.

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is a collaborative effort being led by the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), in coordination with the twenty four (24) agencies that make up the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC). The District, in coordination with the WRAC, is responsible for the development and implementation of the IRWMP as described below.

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The District was established by the State Legislature in 1945 with the passage of the "San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act". The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors; its boundaries are co-terminus with the County of San Luis Obispo and its board members and staff are the same as those who act separately on behalf of the County of San Luis Obispo. Pursuant to the 1945 legislation, the primary services of the District include or cover:

- 1) flood and storm waters;
- 2) conserving waters for beneficial purposes;
- 3) protecting life and property;
- 4) preventing waste or diminution of the water supply;
- 5) obtaining, retaining, and reclaiming waters for beneficial use, including the purchase and sale of water within the district; and
- 6) providing for incidental recreation activities.

As the primary agency with responsibility for regional water planning and the implementation of regional water supply projects, the District essentially acts in two capacities.

First, it functions as a regional water resource planning agency to gather data, identify issues, coordinate stakeholder review, and make recommendations on solutions. Second, it implements specific projects and programs, typically on a sub-regional basis, relating to

the services identified above. The general regional data gathering, planning and coordination efforts are funded in the District's budget from its general property tax allocations. The latter (sub-regional projects, programs and services) are typically funded from revenues provided by participating agencies, organizations, and other parties benefiting from the services.

In addition to the preparation of this IRWMP, the District's other regional priorities include the following:

- Groundwater banking feasibility efforts
- Regional environmental permitting
- Hydrological data gap analysis - with special emphasis on environmental needs and natural groundwater recharge areas
- Flood management planning
- Development of a groundwater monitoring agreement with the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin stakeholders
- The Nacimiento Water Project
- Ongoing coordination with the County of San Luis Obispo's Resource Management System (RMS) – a component of the County's General Plan
- Digital and electronic conversion of historical hydrological data
- Preliminary efforts on web-based data retrieval
- Stakeholder efforts on Six-Community drainage study.
- Monthly Meetings with the Water Resources Advisory Committee to review and develop recommendations on the items listed above, among others.

Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC)

Each incorporated city, water serving independent special district, resource conservation district, private water agency, State agency, agricultural and environmental entity within the District is invited to participate on the WRAC. Currently, twenty four (24) local agencies and organizations are actively participating on the WRAC. The WRAC is an appointed advisory body made up of citizens and governmental representatives, including elected officials, which advise the District's Board of Supervisors on water resource projects and policies in the region. WRAC has 29 members representing 24 agencies, organizations or associations. For over 50 years, WRAC hearings have been the primary forum for the regional review of water resource issues and details. WRAC's many purposes include developing recommendations to the District's Board - thereby making WRAC the most obvious forum for stakeholder participation in ***Integrated Regional Water Management*** planning, and the District the most obvious Regional Agency to lead those efforts. Table A1.1 identifies the member agencies of the District's Water Resource Advisory Committee.

While setting goals for 2004, District staff and the WRAC recognized that an update to the 1998 Countywide Master Plan would soon be warranted. They also recognized the need to align regional efforts with state wide water planning efforts (the California Water Plan and Roadmap to 2030). In addition, the approach and format promulgated by the

State's IRWM guidelines is consistent with historical water planning efforts in the San Luis Region. While the IRWM Plan is not a substitute for the Countywide Water Master Plan – the documents work in concert - this new approach to regional water planning was embraced by the Region. As a result, the District, in coordination with the WRAC, proceeded with preparation of the San Luis IRWMP.

Table A1.1 Water Resource Advisory Committee Membership List

Agency/Organization Represented	Agency/Organization Interests
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Water Purveyor
Cal Cities Water	Water Purveyor
California Mens Colony	Water and Wastewater
Cambria CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Camp San Luis Obispo	Water and wastewater
City of Arroyo Grande	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Atascadero	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Grover Beach	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Morro Bay	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Paso Robles	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Pismo Beach	Municipal water and wastewater
City of San Luis Obispo	Municipal water and wastewater
County Farm Bureau	Agriculture
Cuesta Community College	Water and wastewater
County Board of Supervisors District 1	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 2	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 3	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 4	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 5	Water Resources
Environmental at Large	Environmental
Heritage Ranch CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee	Nacimiento Reservoir
Los Osos CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Nipomo CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Oceano CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
San Luis Coastal RCD	Natural Resources Conservation
Templeton CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Upper Salinas RCD	Natural Resources Conservation
Agriculture at Large	Agriculture
District staff	Regional water interests

A2. Responsibilities Related to Water

Include the member agencies and organizations and their management responsibilities related to water.

Numerous agencies and organizations have roles in water resource management in the region. The District is not involved in all of the efforts. Sub-regional partnerships and associations that exclude the District can be very efficient when the District has no substantial role or need to be involved. Nevertheless, the District's role in support of regional water resource management through IRWM planning is intended to help those independent sub-regional efforts by integrating the various regional efforts. By supporting, recognizing and illustrating the efforts that are ongoing throughout the region, the following benefits of the IRWMP are anticipated:

- An improved and enhanced understanding throughout the region on the collective efforts of the agencies, organizations and other stakeholders involved in various aspects of water resource management.
- Improved and enhanced communications on the collective regional efforts.
- Collaboration opportunities will develop that may not otherwise have surfaced.
- An improved and enhanced illustration of regional efforts will help State and Federal agencies become more knowledgeable about the region, including regional efforts, and priorities – with emphasis on improving regulatory relations and practices.
- Improved and enhanced integration of water resource management will help promote efficiencies in government, including opportunities to change and adapt.

In addition to the District, numerous agencies, organizations, and associations represent portions of the constituents of the San Luis Region including:

- Public Agencies
- Private Water Companies
- Non Profits
- Land Trusts
- Environmental Organizations

A description of these agencies and their water management responsibilities is included below. The agencies are grouped into the following three sections:

- San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)
- Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) member agencies
- Other entities not participating on the WRAC

San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

The District's water management responsibilities can be categorized into various 'zones' in the region. Table A2.1 identifies those zones, the focus of the zone or project, and the

description of the service provided by the District. Figure A2.1 “Map of Flood Control Zones of San Luis Obispo County” illustrates the geographical coverage of these services.

Table A2.1 District Zones and Projects

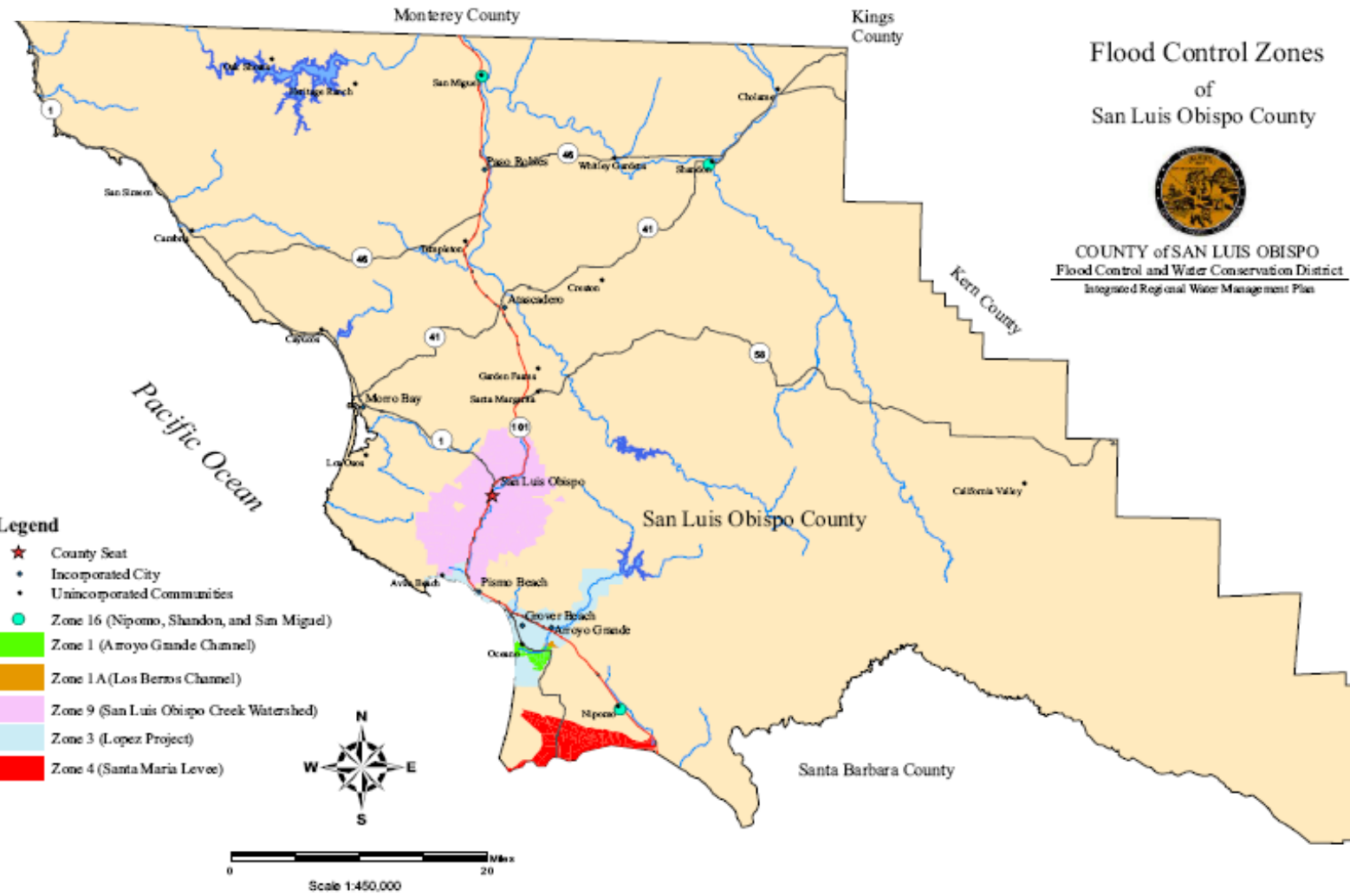
Project	Focus	Description of Service Provided
Zone 1/1A	Flood Control	Created in 1959 to maintain flood control levees on Arroyo Grande Creek.
Zone 3	Water Supply	Provides water supply and treatment from Lopez reservoir to south county municipalities. The Zone is currently upgrading treatment facilities and in 2004 prepared a Habitat Conservation Plan for Arroyo Grande creek. The HCP is currently in Federal review.
Zone 4	Flood Control	Santa Maria levee – operated by Santa Barbara Flood Control and Water Conservation District with financial participation by Zone 4.
Zone 9	Watershed	Funding for flood control activities and watershed management plans for the San Luis Obispo Creek watershed
Zone 16	Flood Control	Maintenance of drainage basins from primarily residential development – substantially in the Nipomo Mesa area but coverage in other areas of the region.
Salinas Dam	Water Supply	Provides water supply from Santa Margarita Lake at Salinas Dam to the City of San Luis Obispo. This facility is currently in the logistical planning phase to transfer ownership from Federal to local jurisdiction and terminate existing lease arrangements.
State Water Project	Water Supply	The District is a State Water Contractor providing supply within the region. Efforts are coordinated with the Central Coast Water Authority and the State Department of Water Resources.
Nacimiento Project	Water Supply	Implementing a pipeline project to supply water from Nacimiento Lake to the communities of Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo and others.

Each of the projects listed in Table A2.1 has an associated advisory committee made up of all of the entities within the zone boundaries. These advisory committees meet to review and advise the Board of Supervisors on policies and proposed projects in the region.

Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC)

Twenty four (24) local agencies and organizations are currently participating on the WRAC. Each of these agencies provides a water management service in the region. Table A1.1 identifies the member agencies of the WRAC and lists the services provided by the agency.

Figure A2.1



Other Entities Not Participating on the WRAC

There are fourteen agencies in the region with water-related management responsibilities, which are not in the WRAC, because they have chosen not to participate, they are not an independent water-servicing district or they are represented by the County. These entities are Community Services Districts, County Service Areas, or Sanitation Districts. The responsibilities for these agencies are identified in Table A2.2. These entities were contacted individually to inquire about participation in IRWM planning.

Table A2.2 Responsibilities for Non-WRAC Agencies in San Luis Obispo County

Agency	Water Supply (1)	Wastewater (2)	Water Quality (3)	Storm Water (4)
Avila Beach CSD	X	X	X	ND
San Miguel CSD	X	X	X	ND
San Simeon CSD	X	X	X	ND
Squire Canyon CSD				X
CSA 1, Nipomo(*)		X		
CSA 7, Oak Shores(*)		X		ND
CSA 10, Cayucos(*)	X		X	ND
CSA 16, Shandon(*)	X		X	ND
CSA 18, Los Ranchos(*)		X		ND
CSA 23, Santa Margarita(*)	X		X	
South County Sanitation District		X		
Port San Luis Harbor District	X	X	X	
Garden Farms County Water District	X		X	
Cayucos Sanitary District		X		

- (1) Agency is responsible for supplying water, domestic and/or agricultural
- (2) Agency provides wastewater disposal and/or treatment
- (3) Agency is responsible for drinking water quality
- (4) Agency has responsibilities pursuant to NPDES Phase II Stormwater Regulations
- (ND) Not designated as a NPDES Phase II community
- (*) Agency is under the jurisdiction of the County of San Luis Obispo, and inherently represented by County officials.

A3. Involvement in the Planning Process

Demonstrate that all agencies and organizations, including, but not limited to, public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and privately owned water utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, that were necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the IRWM Plan were involved in the planning process.”

Each agency, organization, and association establishes its autonomous direction as allowed under their charter and/or enabling law. All agencies and organizations necessary to address the IRWM Plan objectives and water management strategies were involved in the planning process. Stakeholders involved in developing the IRWMP

include the agencies participating on the WRAC, which advises the Board of Supervisors of the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Board); the County of San Luis Obispo Departments of Public Works, Planning and Building, and Agriculture; the seven Cities and six Community Services Districts; State agencies including the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Health Services; other governmental entities including the Counties of Santa Barbara and Monterey; and land trusts and other non-governmental environmental organizations in the region. Attendance sheets are located in Appendix III

With the understanding that the IRWMP is intended to promote integrated water resource management, the County of San Luis Obispo's Public Works department (District staff) took the lead for IRWM. In order to facilitate the stakeholder participation for the IRWMP, an IRWM Team (Team) consisting of the following Public Works staff was formed:

- Deputy Director
- Environmental Division Manager
- Utilities Division Water Resource Engineer
- Environmental Resource Specialist
- Utilities Staff Engineer
- Other support staff

The Team then worked with the WRAC - the appropriate forum to initiate and implement stakeholder participation. WRAC likewise developed an IRWM subcommittee with representatives of municipalities, private water purveyors, agricultural and environmental stakeholders. The WRAC IRWMP Sub-committee was formed consisting of members representing:

- Environmental
- Environmental and Coast
- South County
- Agriculture
- North County
- Water Purveyors

The City of San Luis Obispo's Utilities Conservation Coordinator served as an ex-officio member along with County staff. The WRAC members chosen for the IRWMP Sub-committee resulted in a balanced representation of water interests. The Subcommittee's purpose was threefold:

- 1) Review IRWM Plan Objectives & Strategies
- 2) Identify & review IRWM projects
- 3) Review & recommend project prioritization

The subcommittee involvement occurred through workshops and meetings. In addition to the subcommittee members, workshops were also open to any WRAC member and the public. The WRAC has been and will continue to be the main forum for stakeholder participation. WRAC provides a direct link to its 24 member agencies and also provides a link to the public and other stakeholders interested in water resource management.

A4. Adoption by Participating Agencies

The WRAC unanimously endorsed the IRWM Plan at their meeting of November 2, 2005. Additionally, the IRWM Plan was also presented to the individual agencies and groups for their review and comment: The Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo; the Community Service Districts of Los Osos, Nipomo, and Templeton; the Atascadero Mutual Water Company and the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Ag Liaison Board. Letters of endorsement were received from the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo, as well as the Templeton, Los Osos, and Nipomo CSDs and the Atascadero Mutual Water Company. On December 6, 2005, a resolution accompanied by these endorsements, was brought before the District Board of Supervisors, as the Regional Agency, to adopt the IRWM Plan.

Upon receipt of feedback from the State on the San Luis Region IRWM Plan, the District initiated the update process outlined in Section F4. A public workshop was held on May 23, 2007, to present the proposed update to the IRWM Plan, gather feedback and solicit interest in additional participation. Comments and projects were submitted to the District for updating the IRWM Plan. The 2005 adoption resolution, participant lists and support letters are included in Appendix IV.