

Item No. 8 Adjacent IRWM Relationships and Coordination

A description of the IRWM region’s relationship and coordination with adjacent existing or developing IRWM regions.

Identify any overlapping areas and explain the basis for the overlap. Discuss whether there is a clear relationship and acknowledgement by both regions that the overlap is acceptable.

Requirement

Explain whether the regional boundary will leave any uncovered or void areas immediately outside or within the boundary.

Describe any areas within the region that are excluded or create a void area and explain why this is reasonable and appropriate.

Describe and distinct water management differences between adjacent or overlapping IRWM regions and the proposed IRWM region to support being separate IRWM regions?

It is important to note that not only do the region boundaries need to make sense from hydrological, water system, and water issue perspectives; but we also need to consider a broader view of how all the IRWM boundaries fit together to achieve benefits statewide. Consider the shape of the IRWM; and how it relates to other regions nearby.

Determine if the RWMG has successfully managed overlaps or gaps within and outside of the region boundary. If there are overlapping IRWM regions, is there a clearly defined relationship between the IRWM planning regions? Are there indications the overlapping regions have discussed their water management issues and coordinated on activities occurring in overlapping areas?

Review Criteria

Is there sound reasoning for having more than one RWMG planning water management issues for the same area? Are there distinct water management differences between adjacent or overlapping IRWM regions and the proposed IRWM region to support being separate IRWM regions?

Does the submittal describe any areas within the region that are excluded or create a void area and explain why this is reasonable and appropriate? Has the boundary been drawn so that the region leaves uncovered or void areas within the region or immediately outside the boundary? Will the region boundary create a planning gap in the region? Are there overlaps, gaps, or holes in the region coverage that do not seem to make sense?

The San Luis Obispo IRWM region boundary is coterminous with the San Luis Obispo Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) boundary, which is also the County jurisdictional boundary. The San Luis Obispo IRWM region is adjacent to three other IRWM regions, Monterey County to the north, Kern to the east and Santa Barbara to the south. The developing Monterey County IRWM region’s southern boundary is coterminous with the San Luis Obispo region’s northern boundary such that there are no void spaces or overlap. The two IRWMP’s share a ground water basin and reservoir watershed, the cooperation and management of the basin and watershed is described below. The eastern San Luis Obispo

IRWM region's boundary is coterminous with the Kern County IRWM region's western boundary and their County jurisdictional boundary. There is only a small portion of overlap which is explained in more detail below. To the south, the San Luis Obispo IRWM region's boundary is coterminous with the Santa Barbara County IRWM region's boundary as well as their jurisdictional boundary. San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara share interests in two ground water basins and a watershed, which is further explained below. All three boundaries have no void areas with neighboring IRWM regions and only one minor overlapping area as mentioned above. How the shared resources are managed is explained below.

San Luis Obispo/Monterey County IRWM Region Boundary

The San Luis Obispo northern regional boundary follows the county line between San Luis Obispo County and Monterey County and is also the IRWM boundary for the developing Monterey County IRWM. Although the two IRWM regions do not overlap nor do they leave any uncovered areas, there are two significant water resources requiring close coordination, the Nacimiento Lake Reservoir and the Salinas Valley ground water basin. Both of these water resources are covered by other agreements and/or cooperative management plans.

Management of Lake Nacimiento and its watershed are covered by existing agreements and cooperative water management plans such as the operational agreement for Nacimiento Lake as well as the Nacitone Watershed Management plan. The most significant influence on the northern Salinas Valley ground water basin, and the portion of the Paso Robles Sub-Basin covered by the Monterey County Valley IRWM region, is generated from Lake Nacimiento releases, which is operated by Monterey County. The District will be taking the lead on developing a groundwater management plan for the Paso Robles Sub-Basin, the development of which Monterey County Water Resources Agency will be a part of.

San Luis Obispo/Kern County IRWM Boundary

The eastern San Luis Obispo IRWM region's boundary is coterminous with the Kern County proposed IRWM region's boundary. The two IRWM regions do not significantly overlap nor do they leave any uncovered areas. Along the boundary, there are no shared natural resources, it is a sparsely inhabited area, and the Northern Temblor Mountain range which is a geographical feature which closely follows the county boundary is a watershed boundary as well. A small portion of the Kern IRWM boundary, the south westerly corner of the West Kern Water District, extends into San Luis Obispo County. In order to include this entire water district within the Kern IRWMP, there will be a small area of overlap with the San Luis Obispo IRWM regional boundary. This area of overlap was discussed between the two IRWM regions, and it was determined that because no water resources within those areas of overlap need to be managed, the overlapped areas in question are not areas of significance that would cause any confusion or controversy.

Opportunities do exist for coordinating with Kern County due to the proximity of full State Water allocation delivery capacity to the eastern boundary of San Luis Obispo County and the existing infrastructure. This can allow for possible Dry Year Sales agreements, groundwater banking and other water reliability programs. Coordination on these issues will continue.

San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara County Boundary

The southern San Luis Obispo IRWM region's boundary is coterminous with the Santa Barbara IRWM region's boundary and leaves no uncovered areas. Although the two IRWM regions do not overlap nor do they leave any uncovered areas, there are significant water resources requiring close coordination. The regions share the Santa Maria ground water basin. The management of the ground water basin is largely dictated by court directives and a mandatory management structure is in place as a result of the adjudication of the basin. In addition, the regions share the Cuyama Ground Water Basin and are coordinating on the Cuyama Ground water basin study currently being developed. There are also two water management groups in San Luis Obispo County and one in Santa Barbara County and all three report to one Water Master. Physical solutions must be coordinated between the water management groups and in accordance with Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County land use authority.