

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan  
April 2007

## 2.0 Goals and Objectives

This section outlines the goals and objectives formulated by the WRA for the Yolo County IRWMP. It presents the statewide priorities established by DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) that this IRWMP is aiming to meet, as well as water management strategies suggested in the Proposition 50 Guidelines and water resource management categories selected by the WRA to organize findings, issues, and actions.

### 2.1 Overview

The goals and objectives for water management have been developed through a variety of countywide planning efforts, including the *Yolo County Water Plan – 1984* (Borcalli, Ensign and Buckley, 1984) and the *Yolo County Water Plan Update – 1992* (Borcalli & Associates, Inc., 1992). In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding that formed the WRA and the WRA bylaws include statements of purpose and powers that are effectively goals for water resource management in Yolo County.

The WRA will coordinate with land use planning agencies to integrate water resource planning and land use planning activities (see Objective 5 below). One of the ways in which the WRA is achieving this objective is by coordinating this IRWMP process with Yolo County’s General Plan Update process. For this purpose, the WRA developed suggested water management policies for the General Plan. These potential policies are suggestions only and are not binding on any agency in this form. The County may choose to use some suggested policies, may modify specific policies and include them, or may choose not to include any of the suggestions. The suggested policies are appended to this IRWMP (**Appendix C.**, “Water-Related Policy Options for the Yolo County General Plan”). Similarly, objectives for water-related policies were developed for the General Plan that is taking place concurrently with development of this IRWMP. These objectives were developed for the respective water management categories and are included herein as well.

Preliminary information from the General Plan update was used to generate some of the assumptions in this IRWMP about future conditions in Yolo County. In particular, future water demand as referenced in the potential actions and development patterns used in this IRWMP, were based upon preliminary results of the Yolo County General Plan Update.

#### 2.1.1 Goals

The goals of this IRWMP are identified as follows:

- Ensure an adequate water supply – both in quantity and quality – for the residents of Yolo County, present and future, in a manner that is efficient, economical, and environmentally beneficial.

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- Ensure high quality surface water and groundwater resources throughout Yolo County on a sustainable basis to serve the needs of all beneficial uses, including urban, agricultural, environmental, and recreational uses.
- Reduce the risk to the people and property of Yolo County from hazards associated with storm runoff and flooding.
- Enhance, improve, and maintain aquatic and riparian ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity throughout the county.
- Provide superior water-related recreational opportunities for Yolo County's growing population.

### 2.1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this IRWMP are identified as follows:

1. Coordinate and conjunctively manage surface water and groundwater supplies to avoid the potential adverse impacts from surface water supply development and use and from groundwater extraction (e.g., water quality degradation, environmental deterioration, and land subsidence).
2. Formulate a comprehensive water management, conservation, and reuse program for municipal, industrial, and agricultural waters users.
3. Provide a mechanism or process that facilitates the rational treatment of proposals for importing water, for the intra-county transfer of water, and for the export of water.
4. Ensure open and frequent communication with the public.
5. Integrate water resource planning and land use planning.
6. Maximize the extent to which priority projects help meet statewide priorities.
7. Assist disadvantaged communities with basic infrastructure improvements.
8. Help meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) being developed for mercury in the Cache Creek watershed.
9. Enhance the aquatic and riparian environment.
10. Use recycled water to the maximum extent possible.

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11. Identify measures to be implemented to reduce point-source and non-point source pollution.
12. Comply with applicable water discharge requirements.
13. Provide recreational opportunities that balance public investment interests and consideration of effects upon private property owners
14. Provide adequate storm drainage and flood control, consistent with recommendations of the State's Floodplain Management Task Force.

### **2.2 Statewide Priorities**

This IRWMP meets statewide priorities, established by the DWR and SWRCB. These statewide priorities are:

- Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues.
- Implement TMDLs that are established or under development.
- Implement Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, plans, and policies.
- Implement the SWRCB's Non-point Source Pollution Plan.
- Implement as applicable, the Delta Vision and Delta management Plan, and assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.
- Implement recommendations of the Floodplain Management Task Force, Desalination Task Force, Recycling Task Force, or State Species Recovery Plan.
- Address environmental justice concerns.
- Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

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Section 5 describes in detail how the statewide priorities were used to evaluate potential actions for each of nine “integrated actions” (described in detail in Section 5.4) of this plan, as well as 18 additional stand-alone potential actions. Section 5.5.3 of this IRWMP discusses how statewide priorities were used to evaluate *all* potential actions.

### 2.3 Water Management Strategies and Water Resource Management Categories

To achieve the objectives of its IRWMP the WRA considered several water management strategies suggested in the Proposition 50 Guidelines. These strategies are listed in **Table 2-1**.

<b>Table 2-1 – Water Management Strategies Considered by the WRA to Meet IRWMP Objectives</b>	
• Conjunctive Use	• Surface Storage
• Ecosystem Restoration*	• Water and Wastewater Treatment
• Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement*	• Water Conservation*
• Flood Management*	• Water Quality Protection and Improvement*
• Groundwater Management*	• Water Recycling*
• Imported Water	• Water Supply Reliability*
• Land Use Planning	• Water Transfers
• Non-Point Source Pollution Control	• Watershed Planning
• Recreation and Public Access*	• Wetlands Enhancement and Creation*
• Storm Water Capture and Management*	

\*These water management strategies must be considered to meet the minimum IRWMP Standards pursuant to CWC §§ 79562.5 and 79564.

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The WRA organized the water management strategies into the five following Water Resource Management Categories.

1. Water supply and Drought Preparedness
2. Water Quality (Surface Water and Groundwater)
3. Flood Management and Storm Drainage
4. Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystem Enhancement
5. Recreation

**Table 2-2** shows the relationship between individual Water Management Strategies and the five Water Resource Management Categories. These five water resource management categories provide the framework for developing this IRWMP. Specific objectives were developed by the WRA for each category and are presented below. These objectives, except for those presented for recreation, are incorporated as water-related policies in the County’s General Plan, which is currently being updated. The respective categories are used throughout the development of this IRWMP to identify and organize findings and issues, from which potential actions are identified and integrated. Specific objectives were developed for each of the water resource management categories. These objectives are presented below under the respective categories.

### Water Supply and Drought Preparedness

#### Objectives

- Provide reliable and sustainable surface water from a variety of sources sufficient to serve urban, agricultural, environmental, and recreational uses (as planned by Yolo County’s water purveyors and consistent with this IRWMP) in normal, above normal, and prolonged drought periods, which is protective of natural resources and surface water flows.
- Manage Yolo County’s groundwater resources on a sustainable yield basis that provides water purveyors and individual users with reliable, high quality groundwater to serve urban, agricultural, environmental, and other uses during normal, above normal, and prolonged drought periods.
- Develop conjunctive use and groundwater protection programs within the next 10 years, consistent with this IRWMP and the needs of water purveyors, which maximizes the efficiency, sustainability, and value of Yolo County’s surface and groundwater.

# WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

O F Y O L O C O U N T Y

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**Table 2-2 – Relationship Between Water Management Strategies Identified in the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines and the Water Management Categories in this IRWMP**

Water Management Categories	Water Management Strategies*																	
	Ecosystem Restoration*	Environment, and Habitat Protection and Improvement*	Flood Management*	Groundwater Management*	Imported Water	Land Use Planning	Non-Point Source Pollution Control	Recreation and Public Access*	Storm Water Capture and Management*	Surface Storage	Water and Wastewater Treatment	Water Conservation*	Water Quality Protection and Improvement*	Water Recycling*	Water Supply Reliability*	Water Transfers	Watershed Planning	Wetlands Enhancement and Creation*
Water Supply and Drought Preparedness				X	X	X				X		X		X	X	X	X	
Water Quality							X				X		X				X	
Flood Management and Storm Drainage			X			X		X									X	
Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystem Enhancement	X	X				X		X									X	X
Recreation						X		X									X	X

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- Work with the area's water purveyors within the next five years to develop state-of-the-art urban and agricultural water use efficiency programs that meet statewide guidelines and provide substantial and measurable water use reductions throughout Yolo County.

### **Water Quality**

#### Objectives

- Meet state and federal standards for water quality protection in all surface and groundwater resources, working closely with water purveyors, landowners and businesses, citizens, and state, federal, and local agencies and non-profits.
- Develop continuous monitoring, management, and protection programs and institutional capacity to ensure that water quality continues to meet standards for surface water and groundwater sources.
- Work in a collaborative manner with state and federal agencies and both public and private water dischargers to ensure a fair and open process of achieving long-term countywide and regional water quality protection standards for point source and non-point source pollutants.

### **Flood Management and Storm Drainage**

#### Objectives

- Meet agreed upon standards to reduce flood risk in all areas of Yolo County within 20 years, taking into consideration resource constraints and environmental impacts.
- Become a model area for flood risk reduction and management approaches that incorporate environmental protection and restoration efforts, and enhance recreational opportunities, while serving flood management needs.
- Develop innovative storm water management requirements, guidelines, and best practices within five years that enable Yolo County to meet state and federal permit requirements, as well as improving storm water runoff quality and reducing impacts to surface water resources.

### **Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystem Enhancement**

#### **Objectives**

- Establish priority aquatic and riparian habitat areas consistent with the emerging Yolo County NCCP/HCP, for enhancement within five years; and establish the necessary management and funding responses to meet NCCP/HCP restoration and protection goals.
- Become a model area for integrating agricultural production and habitat conservation through the use of sustainable agricultural water use practices and habitat enhancement incentives that are compatible with agricultural production.
- Utilize a variety of tools (such as the land development and permitting process, state and federal grants, and university resources) to achieve a sustainable and effective monitoring, management, and reporting process for priority aquatic and riparian habitats in Yolo County within 10 years.

### **Recreation**

#### **Objectives**

- Maintain, improve, and expand public access for recreational use of publicly-owned water, waterfronts and banks, and open space.
- Create new recreational facilities as part of public investments in water supply and conveyance, water quality, natural resource conservation, flood control, and storm water management infrastructure and operations.
- Integrate complementary recreational access and facility improvements within IRWMP implementation and projects.
- Harness joint funding and development methods to leverage investments across recreational, flood control, water supply, natural resource conservation, water quality and other IRWMP project objectives.
- Establish public recreation benefits as a performance standard for public investment in projects that protect private property or provide for private property development.