

3.0 Plan Development

This section describes the process and consideration of the WRA in developing this IRWMP.

3.1 Overview

Input from stakeholders and the public were crucial components in the development of this IRWMP. Public input was gathered through a variety of means, including in three public workshops. Six additional, more focused meetings were held in April 2006, where input on potential actions was gathered from stakeholders.

3.2 Community Outreach

3.2.1 Public Participation Program

The following approaches were applied to involve the community in the IRWMP development process:

- Maintained a user-friendly web site (www.yolowra.org) with the following publicly accessible items:
 - Draft IRWMP sections and related documents
 - Community workshops, including meeting agendas and minutes
 - WRA Board, Executive Committee and WRA TC meeting announcements, agendas and minutes (including agenda items)
 - Comment forms
 - List of frequently asked questions
 - Brief overview of the IRWMP
- Conducted three community workshops in November 2005, May 2006, and October 2006 to inform the public about the IRWMP process, and seek input on water-related issues and potential solutions.
- Solicited input from the public during the open meetings of the WRA Board, Executive Committee, and WRA TC that included discussions of the IRWMP.
- Published three IRWMP newsletters describing the process.

3.2.2 Disadvantaged Communities and Environmental Justice

Based upon the Proposition 50 Guidelines, there are two communities that would be considered disadvantaged within Yolo County. They are the East Yolo County and Knights Landing County Census Designations (CCD). The Knights Landing CCD includes the towns of Dunnigan and Yolo, and the East Yolo CCD includes a strip of land along the Sacramento River from the north County line to Clarksburg, including West Sacramento. Although they may not meet the Proposition 50 Guidelines, other communities, such as Esparto and Madison, are disadvantaged due to failing or deficient infrastructure or drainage and flooding problems that require attention. The WRA TC attempted to involve these communities in the public planning process; however, it was recognized that their participation might be limited within the framework of formal public meetings or workshops. Therefore, an effort will be made to enlist their participation through small group meetings.

A representative of the WRA TC visited with the reclamation districts along the Sacramento River, as well as with the General Plan Advisory Committees of unincorporated communities to discuss their concerns and update these communities about the IRWMP. Special attention was given to informing the communities of the potential to resolve existing infrastructure problems. Several communities, including Esparto, Madison, Knights Landing, East Yolo, and Dunnigan are subject to growth, but their infrastructure for water, sewer, etc., is considered inadequate. These disadvantaged areas, upon meeting the criteria of Proposition 50, were incorporated into the IRWMP process, and specific actions to improve infrastructure and reduce flood hazard were incorporated into this IRWMP. There will be a focused effort to include representatives from the respective communities in the implementation activities.

3.3 Community Workshops

Three community workshops were hosted by WRA to seek input from the public regarding water issues and potential solutions. The workshops were held in November 2005, May 2006, and October 2006, and included presentations from key individuals involved in developing the Yolo County IRWMP. Attendees were given opportunities to ask questions of the team and to engage in dialogue with team members, both in a plenary meeting part and in break-out sessions focusing on particular geographic areas. Summaries of the three community workshops are provided in Appendix D.

3.4 Stakeholder Involvement

The WRA held six meetings with stakeholder groups to solicit comments on the IRWMP development and to seek input on potential actions. A total of 32 stakeholders were interviewed. **Table 3-1** presents the interests that were represented.

I n t e g r a t e d R e g i o n a l W a t e r M a n a g e m e n t P l a n
A p r i l 2 0 0 7

| Table 3-1 – Stakeholder Organizations and Interests Interviewed by the WRA to Solicit Input on Potential Actions | |
|---|---|
| Area of Interest | Represented Organizations or Interests |
| Putah Creek | City of Davis, City of Winters, Landowners (2), Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, Putah Creek Council, UC Davis Putah Creek Reserve |
| Cache Creek | Aggregate mining companies, Cache Creek Conservancy, Tuleyome |
| West Yolo County | California Audubon, Yolo County Audubon |
| North Yolo County | Landowners (2), Reclamation District 108, Yolo County Farm Bureau |
| Yolo Bypass | California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Water Resources, Landowners (2), Reclamation Board of California, Yolo Basin Foundation, Yolo Wildlife Area |
| Non-WRA Yolo County Agencies | California Urban Water Agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Agency, Yolo County Resource Conservation District |

Stakeholder representatives provided several potential actions and commented on water issues and priorities for water resource management. Appendix E provides summaries of the stakeholder meetings outcomes.

WRA made a concerted effort to involve stakeholder groups in developing implementation strategies for the IRWMP. In particular, the WRA TC and its consultants met with the Yolo Basin Working Group, Department of Fish and Game, DWR, Yolo Basin Foundation, the Yolo County HCP/NCCP Joint Powers Authority and the Putah Creek Stream Keeper to discuss action implementation strategies.

3.5 Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination Challenges

Although the WRA made an effort to reach stakeholders throughout the Yolo County through community workshops, newsletters, newspaper announcements, and the WRA Website, additional efforts will be required to engage stakeholders regarding specific issues during implementation of this IRWMP.

For example, WRA, working in partnership with the YCFCWCD, Yolo County, and the City of Woodland, conducted a series of interviews and meetings to determine an approach to developing a community consensus on protecting the north and northeast parts of Woodland and unincorporated areas. Those interviewed included agency representatives and other community members who offered insight into the process. Most importantly, the interviews solicited ideas for a new approach to a solution. Based on these interviews, a process was proposed to finding a solution to the flood management problem.

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Other specific efforts will be needed as a part of planning and implementing the proposed actions in this IRWMP. However, no particular standard format can be proposed, because the stakeholder engagement process will need to be tailored to the particular issues and each stakeholder group. Section 6.5 provides additional discussion regarding the public outreach needed as a part of developing the specific strategies to implement actions.

3.6 Identification of Issues and Potential Actions

3.6.1 Identification of Issues

WRA identified major water resource issues for each of the five water management categories. Members of the WRA TC drafted the first set of issues for the water management category, which were then reviewed by the other TC members and by other senior staff at the WRA member agencies (see Section 4 “Findings and Issues”).

3.6.2 Identification of Potential Actions

Potential actions can be projects, programs or policies. The potential actions included in this IRWMP were obtained from the following sources:

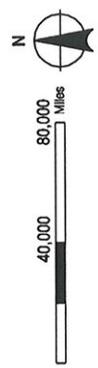
- WRA TC and its consultants
- Interviews with WRA member agency staff
- Community input received at community workshops held in November 2005 and May 2006 (see Section 3.3 “Community Workshops”)
- Stakeholder Interviews (see Section 3.4 “Stakeholder Involvement”)

For each action the following attributes were provided: (1) related water management categories, (2) brief description, and (3) corresponding geographic area. Most actions were assigned to one of the water management categories they were most clearly associated with. In addition, foundational actions were identified as a sixth category of potential actions. Foundational actions are projects or programs that form a foundation for resource management. Foundational actions may include planned or existing ongoing studies, modeling projects, or monitoring programs used to collect, simulate, or predict information.

The planning region was subdivided into subregions or subwatersheds, based on a combination of watershed- and political boundaries (**Figure 3-1**). Each individual action was assigned to one or more subareas.

Yolo County IRWMP Geographic Subareas of Yolo County

- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - Major Roads
 - Subareas:
 - Cache Creek
 - Colusa Basin Drain
 - Willow Slough
 - Putah Creek
 - Woodland
 - Davis
 - Yolo Bypass
 - Sacramento River

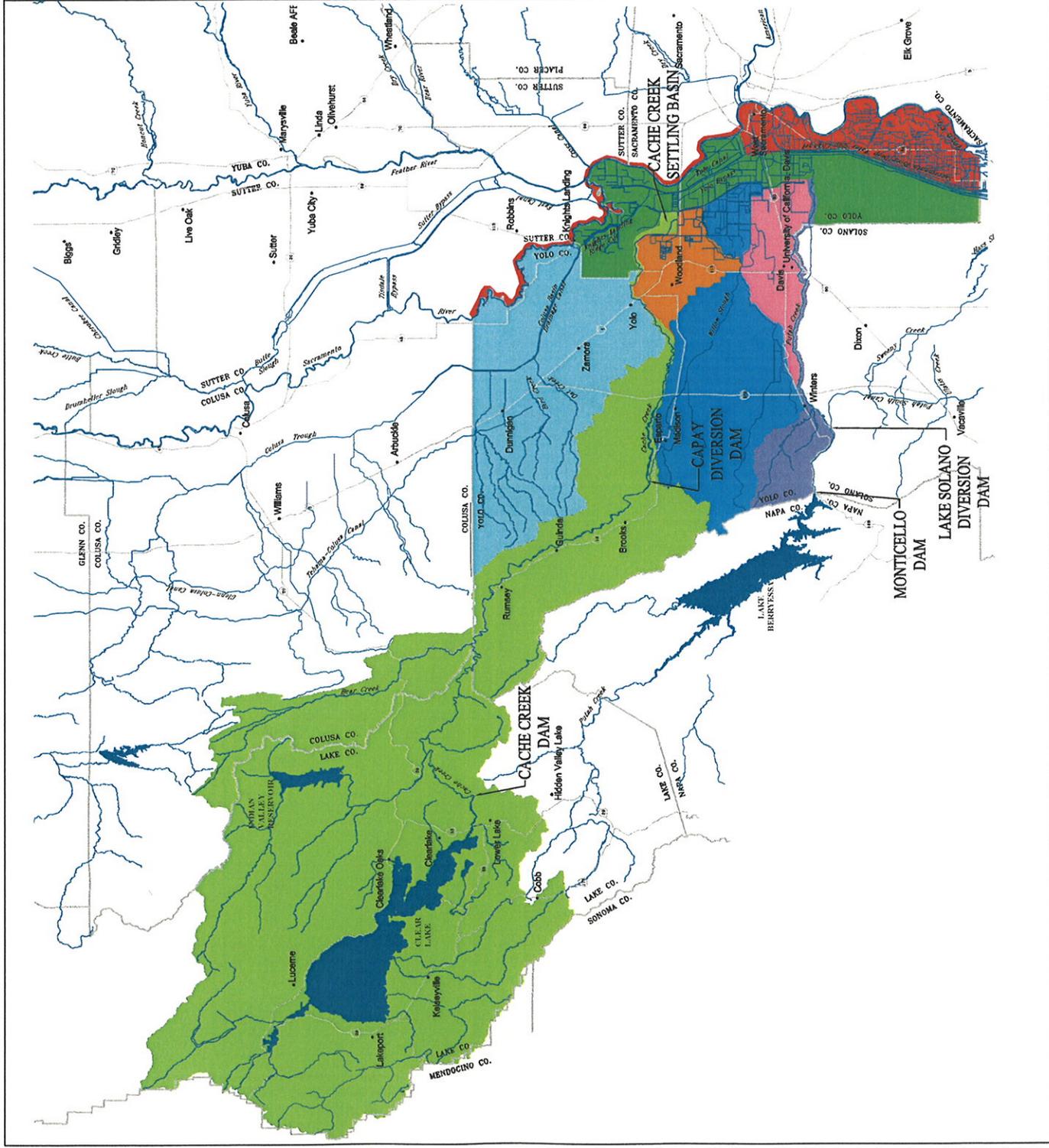


Source: Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, Appendix A

WATER RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION OF YOLO COUNTY



FIGURE 3-1



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3.7 Action Integration

Whenever actions would confer improved benefits or reduced environmental impacts by being aggregated, they were combined, provided that they served a particular common or related set of objectives. Potential individual actions were combined into mutually dependent integrated actions. Actions were also integrated if they were located within the same subregion or subwatershed.

Integrated actions were designed to make better use of water resources by expanding the beneficial uses of water, increasing efficiency, reducing conflicts, increasing environmental and recreational benefits, or by simply widening the geographic area or enlarging the population where benefits were conferred.

However, there were also individual actions that did not require pairing with one or more other actions to be effective. Some individual actions did not gain additional resource benefits from integration, and were simply considered important as stand alone efforts worthy of implementation.

3.8 Evaluation and Prioritization of Actions

Each of the integrated actions and each of the remaining individual actions (not part of an integrated action) were evaluated to determine which of the objectives and identified water resource issues were addressed by the action. Integrated actions that addressed a greater number of objectives and a greater number of issues were considered to have a higher priority.

3.9 Regional Coordination

Yolo County shares several significant water resources with its surrounding regions. For example, Putah Creek is shared with Solano County, Cache Creek is shared with Lake County, and the Sacramento River and Yolo Bypass are shared with Sutter and Sacramento Counties, among others. Regional coordination of water resource management is therefore of the utmost importance.

The water resources of Yolo County are closely linked to those of the surrounding areas and efficient management of the water resources requires regional coordination. This section highlights adjacent regions of importance for coordination and comparable planning programs these regions are engaged in. This section draws on a regional coordination meeting held on August 4, 2006 among representatives of WRA, DWR, Lake County, Regional Water Authority (RWA) (representing the American River Basin water agencies), Northern California Water Association (NCWA) (representing the Sacramento Valley water agencies), and Solano County Water Agency (SCWA). Regional coordination is also discussed under work plans for specific integrated projects in Section 6 “Implementation Strategy.”

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3.9.1 Solano County

An IRWMP has been prepared for Solano County by the SCWA and its member cities and districts (Solano Agencies 2005). The Solano County plan addresses 10 strategic issues:

1. How can supply best match demand through the long term?
2. What measures are necessary to manage the County's groundwater resources?
3. What measures should be taken to encourage sending water of the appropriate quality to the appropriate end user?
4. What measures can be taken to improve runoff quality?
5. How can flood management services best be managed?
6. What should participation in multi-county flood control entail?
7. How can environmental resources best be managed?
8. How can state and federal funding opportunities best be leveraged?
9. What measures would best address safety and security issues?
10. How should the region prepare for climate change?

The actions with the highest priority for implementation in the Solano County IRWMP are:

- Continue ongoing water resource efforts (including regional);
- Administer Solano Project contract and defend water rights;
- Administer State Water Project (SWP) contract;
- Work with SWP, State water contractors, and CALFED to explore water supply and storage opportunities outside the region;
- Improve water treatment technology for water supplies;
- Increase North Bay Aqueduct capacity and utilization;
- Quantify countywide demand and supply;
- Transfer water within the county;

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- Optimize delivery of water to end users based on quantity and quality;
- Purchase contingency supplies at the wholesale level;
- Improve conveyance at Putah Diversion Dam;
- Increase opportunities for conjunctive use;
- Increase use of groundwater;
- Increase participation in the Mojave Exchange Agreement;
- Develop final SCWA flood control funding/construction/maintenance policy from existing “interim principles”;
- Implement water use efficiency efforts; and
- Clarify regulations in developing areas to minimize runoff.

At the regional coordination meeting, David Okita, General Manager of the SCWA, identified four areas of potential regional coordination:

- Coordinated operation of the groundwater basin that is shared between Yolo and Solano counties,
- Addressing flood control issues along Putah Creek,
- Continued coordination on the LPCCC, and
- Reinitiate studies of the extension of the Tehama–Colusa Canal, to provide high quality water to Solano County.

3.9.2 Sacramento Valley

A draft IRWMP has been prepared by NCWA for the Sacramento Valley Region (Northern California Water Association 2006). Four primary objectives were identified in the Draft Sacramento Valley IRWMP:

- Increase regional water supply reliability
- Improve flood protection and floodplain management

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- Improve and protect water quality
- Protect and enhance the ecosystem

Prioritized actions were not identified in the draft, but will be presented in the final IRWMP.

At the regional coordination meeting, David Guy, Executive Director of NCWA, identified the following issues for regional coordination:

- Water quality, in particular rural nonpoint source pollution issues;
- Water supply, in particular the Tehama–Colusa Canal and Sacramento River related issues;
- Groundwater issues; and
- Education within the larger legislative arena.

Coordination through the Sacramento Valley RWQCB’s “Ag Waiver” program could lead to improved documentation, data quality control, and protection of water rights.

3.9.3 American River Basin

Sixteen members of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), a joint powers authority representing water providers in Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer Counties, and the US Army Corps of Engineers have prepared an IRWMP for the American River Basin (Regional Water Authority 2006). Although the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) is not part of the RWA, it closely coordinates with the IRWMP.

The goals of the IRWMP are:

- Plan for and implement programs and projects that develop the highest level of reliability in public drinking water supplies, and equitably distribute capital and operating costs.
- Provide the highest practicable level of achieving flood control and storm water quality in the region.
- Protect and enhance groundwater resources and groundwater quality in accordance with adopted groundwater management plans in the region.
- Coordinate with agencies developing plans that identify and implement ecosystem restoration projects along sensitive wildlife habitat areas in the region and Bay-Delta.

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- Move forward in the long term planning of recycled water use to improve water use efficiency in the region, reduce TMDLs for certain constituents in receiving waters of treated wastewater effluent.
- Continuously look for innovative solutions in providing the highest level of protection in raw water sources used for potable drinking water supplies.
- Implement regional water management strategies that provide the highest level of understanding and financial support for regional programs and projects to meet the American River Basin IRWMP objectives.

Water quality and flood control are two areas where water management in Yolo County (in particular at the Yolo Bypass and west bank of the Sacramento River) and the American River Basin could be coordinated.

3.9.4 Lake County

Although Lake County is not currently developing an IRWMP, it is actively engaged in several large scale water management projects. These include:

- ***The Full Circle Wastewater Treatment Program***—A program that will build the necessary infrastructure for a wastewater treatment system that can be accessed by the communities surrounding Clear Lake. The new system will connect areas not currently served by the regional wastewater treatment system, and will ensure high quality water supplies for surrounding communities, while protecting the lake from wastewater, and may provide water to the Geysers geothermal power generating area.
- ***The Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project***—A project that will eliminate flood risk to structures and 1,280 acres of agricultural land and will restore damaged habitat and the water quality of the Clear Lake watershed. The project is under development by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Lake County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.
- ***Adobe Creek Conjunctive Use Project***—The Adobe Creek Conjunctive Use Project utilizes the existing Highland Springs Reservoir to help meet the goals of the Big Valley Groundwater Management Plan through conjunctive use. Additional surface water will be stored in Highland Springs Reservoir in the spring. This water will be released in the summer to recharge the groundwater in the western portion of Big Valley.

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- **Clear Lake Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Plan**—A plan to manage the aquatic plants in Clear Lake that is integrated with the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s eradication program of the noxious aquatic weed hydrilla.

At the regional coordination meeting, Pamela Francis, Water Resources Program Manager for Lake County, indicated that numerous opportunities exist for regional coordination, in particular for flood control, water supply and water-related recreation. Lake County and the YCFCWCD have coordinated water resource management through a “2 x 2 Ad Hoc Committee” meeting in November 2005, which included two Lake County supervisors, two representatives of YCFCWCD and staff.

3.10 Implementation Strategy Development

Work plans were drafted for the first three to five years of further development and implementation of certain integrated actions. Lead partners involved with some integrated actions felt it was premature to identify preliminary budgets and time lines for performing prerequisite tasks so none are included. The work plans describe the lead agency, partners, and stakeholders for each integrated action and the prerequisite studies and investigations that need to be conducted to develop each integrated action. For each potential component action was noted which prerequisite actions/tasks would benefit them. A preliminary schedule and estimated cost range was developed for each prerequisite study.

Further prioritization of initial action development and implementation activities identified in the work plans will be required by the lead implementing entity. This will reconcile the reality of limited budgets, staffing and a clear vision by stakeholders to proceed on a wide variety of actions simultaneously.

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