



Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Regional Advisory Committee

Project Charter

Date: 4/27/16

Rev. #2

Project Purpose

The Merced Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) represents the broad interests and perspectives in the region to assist in the completion of the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) Plan, which will encourage cooperative planning among various aspects of water resources management in the Merced Region. The RAC reviews regional water management issues and needs, goals and objectives, plans and projects, and future funding and governance and advises the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), and ultimately the governing bodies, on these topics.

Benefits

Improved understanding, analysis, coordination, and cooperation on regional water management challenges and opportunities.

Objectives/Focus

- Review water management issues and needs
- Develop near- and long-term goals and objectives
- Identify information needs
- Identify and evaluate actions and projects to improve regional water management
- Identify and recommend governance structures and funding sources for implementation
- Review and comment on draft IRWMP

Core Topics

- **Water Supply** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future water supply resources and needs for agricultural, urban, recreation, and environmental purposes.
- **Water Quality** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future water quality issues.
- **Flood and Stormwater Management** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future flooding and stormwater management needs and integrated flood and stormwater management strategies.
- **Wastewater Management** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future wastewater management needs and resources.
- **Water-related needs of disadvantaged communities** – Identifying and understanding critical water-related needs of disadvantaged communities.
- **Water-related needs of environmental resources** - Reviewing, discussing, and understanding water-related needs of environmental resources and sensitive ecological areas.
- **Water-related needs for recreation** – Identifying and understanding water needs for recreational activities in the region.
- **Watershed management** – Reviewing and understanding best practices to manage water supply and water quality in the region's watersheds.

Related Topics

The following topics are related to the core discussions of the Regional Advisory Committee. These topics will not be discussed in the group except as they may be relevant to informing and advancing the purpose and outcomes of the discussions regarding Integrated Regional Water Management.



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- **Land Development** – Topics and issues related to General Plans in the region, except as they relate to the IRWMP. The IRWMP is an umbrella document intended to identify how the region can best meet water management and water quality needs of the land uses identified in the General Plans.
- **Claims or Lawsuits Related to Past Incidents** – The Regional Advisory Committee is not the forum for addressing or resolving individual landowner’s claims or other legal actions related to past flooding, water supply, water quality, or other issues. To the extent that information from past impacts can help inform future monitoring, thresholds, and impact avoidance, they will be discussed.
- **Assumptions used in local planning documents** – The IRWM Plan is an umbrella document which builds upon and coalesces information contained within local planning documents. The Regional Advisory Committee is not the forum for revisiting technical analyses performed in support of local documents. To the extent there is discomfort with assumptions used in local planning documents, those issues will be discussed and documented.

Deliverables and Major Milestones

When	What
June 2012	• Draft Plan Inventory TM • Draft Land Use Planning TM
July 2012	• Draft Goals and Objectives TM • Resource Management Strategies TM
Aug 2012	• Draft Project Solicitation and Review Process
Sep 2012	• Draft Planning Process Governance TM • Call for projects
Oct 2012	• List of prioritized projects
Dec 2012	• Draft CEQA/NEPA TM • Draft Tech Analysis section
Jan 2013	• Draft Plan Performance and Monitoring section • Draft Data Management section
Feb 2013	• Draft Finance section • Draft Implementation Governance Section
Mar 2013	• Draft IRWM Plan
Apr 2013	• Draft Highlights Document
May 2013	• Final IRWM Plan

Meetings & Process

- Approximately 12 monthly meetings of 2 to 4 hours between May 2012 and June 2013.
- Technical work groups and conference calls between meetings as necessary to exchange specific topical information.
- Stakeholder and public workshops at key milestones to inform and engage the broader community.



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- Technical support from the Merced Irrigation District, City of Merced, Merced County, and the consulting team as needed.

Communications & Decision-making

- **Communications** – The meeting participants will maintain responsibility for bringing forward issues, concerns, and ideas from their communities and constituents who are not able to attend the meetings. RAC members are also expected to inform and educate constituents of the information and discussions from each meeting.
- **Decision-making** – The three governing bodies (the Merced Irrigation District, City of Merced, Merced County) maintain overall decision authority for the IRWM Plan and planning process. The governing bodies have delegated day-to-day management and decision-making to the Regional Water Management Group. The Regional Advisory Committee is a forum for discussion and information exchange on regional water management topics among community representatives. The RWMG representatives will participate in RAC meetings. Joint recommendations of the RAC to the RWMG and governing bodies are encouraged, but not required.

The RAC Governing Procedures provide additional details on the communications and decision-making agreements of the RAC and RWMG.

Participants

The Regional Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and will be announced on the IRWMP website (www.mercedirwmp.org). The following are the members and alternates for the Regional Advisory Committee.

Name	Organization	Category
Members		
Hicham ElTal	Merced Irrigation District	RWMG, Flood control
Mike Wegley	City of Merced	RWMG, Stormwater
Ron Rowe	Merced County	RWMG
Constance Farris	Meadowbrook Water Co.	DACs, EJ Interests
Jim Marshall	(Retired) City Manager	Local Government
Jean Okuye	Merced County Farm Bureau	Environment
Lydia Miller	San Joaquin Raptor / Wildlife Rescue	Environment
Cynthia "Cindy" Lashbrook	East Merced RCD	Environment
Kathleen M. Crookham	Retired Supervisor, owner of a cattle ranch	Local Government
Gordon Gray	Snelling MAC	Recreation
Paul van Warmerdam	PH Ranch	Agriculture
Thomas Grave	Merced Alliance / Responsible Growth	Environment
Larry S. Thompson	Thompson Insurance Agency	Other Business
Terry Rolfe	Phase I Construction	Other Business
Johnnie Baptista	Winter Water & Sanitary District	Community
Kole Upton	La Grand WD Dir, Chowchilla WD Dir, SOI Merced County Dir, Farmer	Agriculture



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Name	Organization	Category
Bob Giampoli	Live Oak Farms	Agriculture
Daniel De Wees	Grazing lands	Agriculture
Martha Conklin	UC Merced	Other Institutional
Jose Antonio Ramirez	City of Livingston	Water supply
Robert D. Kelly	James J. Stevinson, a Corporation	Water supply
Craig Smith	Former Assistant City Manager	Community
Jim Cunningham	Cunningham Ranch	Agriculture
Alternates		
Irene De La Cruz	Between Friends / Entre Amigos Publication	DACs, EJ Interests
Marjorie Kirn	Merced County Assoc. of Govts	Local Government
Bill Hatch	Protect Our Water	Environment
Bill Spriggs	Self-employed	Local Government
Dena Traina	Resident / Provost & Pritchard	Recreation
Gino Pedretti, III	Pedretti Ranches	Agriculture
Jerry Shannon	Shannon Pump Co.	Other Business
William (Skip) George	Commercial Construction Co. of Merced	Other Business
Brad Samuelson	Fagundes Bros. Dairy	Community
Walt Adams	Licensed Pest Control Advisor	Agriculture
Tom Roduner	Roduner Farms	Agriculture
Scott Magnuson	Riparian Land Owner	Agriculture
Thomas Harmon	UC Merced	Other Institutional

Completion Criteria

- Complete Draft and Final IRWMP
- Prioritized list of regional water management projects
- Governance process description

Charter Update

- Review and update Charter in January 2013