

## Upper Feather River IRWM Program

**To:** Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group

**From:** Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting, Inc.

**cc:** Tracey Ferguson, AICP, Plumas County Planning Director

**Date:** August 31, 2023

**Re:** Upper Feather River IRWM Quarterly Report (2023 Quarter 2)

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This Quarterly Report covers quarter 2 of 2023 and provides an update to the Upper Feather River (UFR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group (RWMG) on activities associated with implementation of the UFR IRWM Plan and coordination with stakeholders and surrounding IRWM regions. The following is an update on coordination and implementation efforts during the last quarter.

### **Regional Water Management Group**

The last meeting of the RWMG was in March 2022, as a quorum was not met to hold an in-person meeting in the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023.

The SVGMD requested a support letter from the UFR RWMG for their grant application for \$5,445,000 for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program's SGMA Implementation Round 2 funding for the Sierra Valley Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation and Planning. DWR has recommended the project receive full funding in its [Draft Award list](#). See Attachment 3 for the support letter.

### **Prop 1 Round 1 (P1R1) & Prop 1 Round 2 (P1R2) Implementation Projects**

On April 6, 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) executed a Grant Agreement with Plumas County under the Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation Grant. Since that time, the County has executed three amendments with DWR, including Amendment 1 on October 13, 2022, Amendment 2 on November 10, 2022, and Amendment 3 on July 20, 2023.

The Amendments have included changes in the schedule for Project 1 (Sierraville Public Utilities District), schedule and work plans for Project 2 (Indian Valley Community Services District), and budget adjustments to include additional grant funding for Project 1 (\$505,000 in Urban Multi Benefit Drought Funding) and Project 2 (P1R2 funding in the amount of \$136,512).

Under Amendment 3, rather than executing a separate grant agreement for the P1R2 award for IVCS's Project 2, DWR and Plumas County amended the P1R1 Grant Agreement to administer the funds under a single agreement. Amendment 3 is summarized below under the P1R2 Implementation Projects.

Project	P1R1 (\$)	P1R2 (\$)	UMBDRP (\$)	Total Grant Funding (\$)	% Billed to Date
Grant Admin (Plumas)	70,876	7,185	20,000	98,061	37.7%
Project 1 (SPUD)	627,660	0	505,000	1,132,660	43.9%
Project 2 (IVCSD)	304,000	136,512	0	440,512	2.5%
<b>Grant Award Totals</b>	<b>1,002,536</b>	<b>143,697</b>	<b>525,000</b>	<b>1,671,233</b>	

#### Project 1 – Sierraville Public Utilities District (revised budget of \$1,132,660)

The Sierraville Public Utilities District Project 1 *Alternative Water Source Development Project* is underway and approximately 38% has been invoiced to date. Construction activities were delayed somewhat due to the extended 2023 winter; however, Sierraville PUD is confident they will be able to wrap up construction by the end of 2023, as planned.

#### Project 2 – Indian Valley Community Services District (revised budget of \$440,512)

The Indian Valley Community Services District Project 2 *North Main Water Use Efficiency, Reliability, and Extension Project* is an overall effort to upgrade aging and damaged infrastructure that will support the rebuilding of Greenville. Approximately 770 feet of water main pipeline will be replaced, 60 feet of laterals, and 4 new hydrants will be installed. A contractor has been selected and construction is expected to start in Q3 of 2023.

### **IRWM Roundtable of Regions**

UFR continues to participate in the [IRWM Roundtable of Regions](#) bi-monthly meetings as well as the Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Working Group meetings, which are generally held quarterly.

A DACI Working Group meeting was held via Zoom on May 10, 2023, the meeting summary is included as Attachment 1. The meeting focused on presentations from the various funding areas on the regional outcomes of the DACI programs. Meeting materials and recording can be viewed [here](#).

The quarterly meeting was held via Zoom on June 21, 2023. Topics included a presentation from the Water Commission, a call for Steering Committee members, and updates on the regional outreach meetings. The presentation on the results of the regional meetings is included in Attachment 2. Meeting materials and recording can be viewed [here](#).

More Roundtable of Regions activities and information can be found on their website at: <https://www.roundtableofregions.org/>.

### **FY 2022-23 Financial Summary**

Hinman & Associates Consulting, Inc.'s contract with Plumas County to provide support services to the UFR IRWM Plan Program follows the fiscal year (FY). The FY2022-23 contract budget was \$25,000, which included support labor as well as website hosting costs. Following is a summary of expenses for the FY that ended on June 30, 2023.

Tasks/Expenses	Amount (\$)
Strangecode Web Hosting Service	276.00

Domain Renewal (GoDaddy)	21.17
<i>UFR IRWM Plan Program Support Services</i>	
Coordinator Activities	11,700.49
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,997.66</b>

UFR staff coordinated distribution of funding opportunities to the Region's stakeholders and maintained the UFR IRWM Plan implementation project list, identifying potential funding connections and connecting local project sponsors. Staff also continue to participate in local and regional watershed and IRWM coordination efforts including the Plumas Watershed Forum meetings and the Roundtable of Regions general and technical advisory meetings. Additional routine tasks included stakeholder email list maintenance, website updates, and regular coordination meetings with Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director.

A new contract with Hinman & Associates Consulting, Inc. has been executed for FY2023-24 in the amount of \$20,000.

### **Action Items from March 11, 2022, UFR IRWM RWMG Meeting**

The following summarizes the five action items from the last meeting of the RWMG and status as of June 30, 2023; four of the five action items are complete and the other one is in process.

- **IN PROCESS:** Staff was directed to develop recommendations for the vacant public member seat for discussion at the next RWMG meeting.

The public member seat was established to include representation from the Almanor Basin of the UFR Region and has been vacant since 2020. Staff continues to coordinate with District 3 Plumas County Supervisor, Tom McGowan, to find a new public member to represent the Almanor Basin.

- **COMPLETE:** Staff was directed to advocate with the Roundtable of Regions for water storage and headwaters funding and projects.

Staff relayed the UFR Region's support for water storage in general and funding for storage and headwaters project at the Roundtable of Regions' northern regional meeting held on April 19, 2023. Staff will continue to advocate for these issues in future opportunities as well.

- **COMPLETE:** Staff was directed to assist with disseminating information regarding the Plumas Watershed Forum to IRWM regional stakeholders.

Staff has been coordinating with Rob Thorman, Assistant Director, Plumas County Public Works Department and Coordinator for the Plumas Watershed Forum. Staff has assisted with distributing Watershed Forum meeting notices and invitations and has solicited interest with participation in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Forum.

The Watershed Forum RFP for Concept Proposals released in January 2023 resulted in two submissions: Taylorsville Mill Race Farmers' Dam (Spillway) Resurfacing and Renovation Project (budget estimate \$513,070) and the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management

District (SVGMD) Synergistic Sierra Valley Groundwater Recharge and Irrigation Efficiency Project (budget estimate \$1,300,000). Of note, the SVGMD Project is also an implementation project identified in the UFR IRWM Plan.

A TAC meeting was held in early June 2023 to review the two concept proposals. Both were recommended by the TAC to the Core group to submit a full proposal. Full proposals were due in late July 2023 and are under review through October 2023, with the award notification anticipated in November 2023. For more information and to view the proposals, go to the Plumas Watershed Forum website at: <https://www.plumascounty.us/2363/Documents-and-Policies>.

- **COMPLETE:** Staff will assist IVCSO in preparing and submitting the P1R2 grant application.

Staff assisted IVCSO with the P1R2 grant application, which was successfully submitted on August 18, 2022 and awarded on December 12, 2022 in the amount of \$143,697. The Prop 1 Round 1 Grant Agreement has been amended (Amendment 3) to include the Round 2 award in the existing Agreement.

- **COMPLETE:** Staff will file and post the Plan Performance Annual Report on the Upper Feather River IRWM website.

The Upper Feather Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Performance Annual Report 2016-2021 has been posted to the IRWM website at: <http://featherriver.org/plan-performance-reports/>.

### Next RWMG Meeting

Staff will continue to keep the RWMG Chair (Paul Roen) and Vice Chair (Trina Cunningham) apprised of any pressing issues that arise. Additionally, staff will coordinate with the Chair and Vice Chair regarding scheduling the next in-person meeting in the fall of 2023. Please contact Uma Hinman, UFR staff, at [uhinman@comcast.net](mailto:uhinman@comcast.net) or (916) 813-0818 with any questions.

### Attachments:

1. *Roundtable of Regions May 10, 2023, DACI Working Group Meeting Summary*
2. *Roundtable of Regions June 21, 2023, Regional Meetings Summary PowerPoint*
3. *UFR Support Letter for Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Grant Application to DWR for Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Round 2 Implementation Program*



# **General Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

# Agenda

- Introductions
- California Water Commission
- Steering Committee Vacancies
- Area 2 – Regional Meetings
- Legislative Update
- DWR Updates
- Member Open Forum
- Adjourn

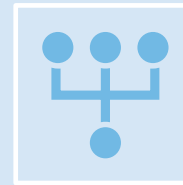
# **Steering Committee Vacancies**

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## STEERING COMMITTEE VACANCIES



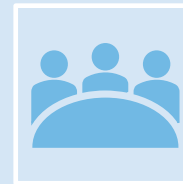
Steering Committee is recruiting two new members



This is a critical time, and these positions will help shape the future of the Roundtable and IRWM



We are looking for people who can be actively engaged and spend time contributing to the Transition Plan through writing, meetings, reviewing, advising, etc.



Steering Committee members serve two-year terms, starting 7/1



## STEERING COMMITTEE

**Those practitioners who represent areas not covered by the current members are especially encouraged to apply.** While all applicants will be considered, the Steering Committee will make an effort to achieve better representation of our member regions.

- Lynn Rodriguez, Co-Chair, Ventura County
- Ian Achimore, SAWPA
- Sam Cohen, Tribal Representative
- Lesley Dobalian, San Diego
- Maggie Dutton, Contra Costa
- Jing Wu, Bay Area



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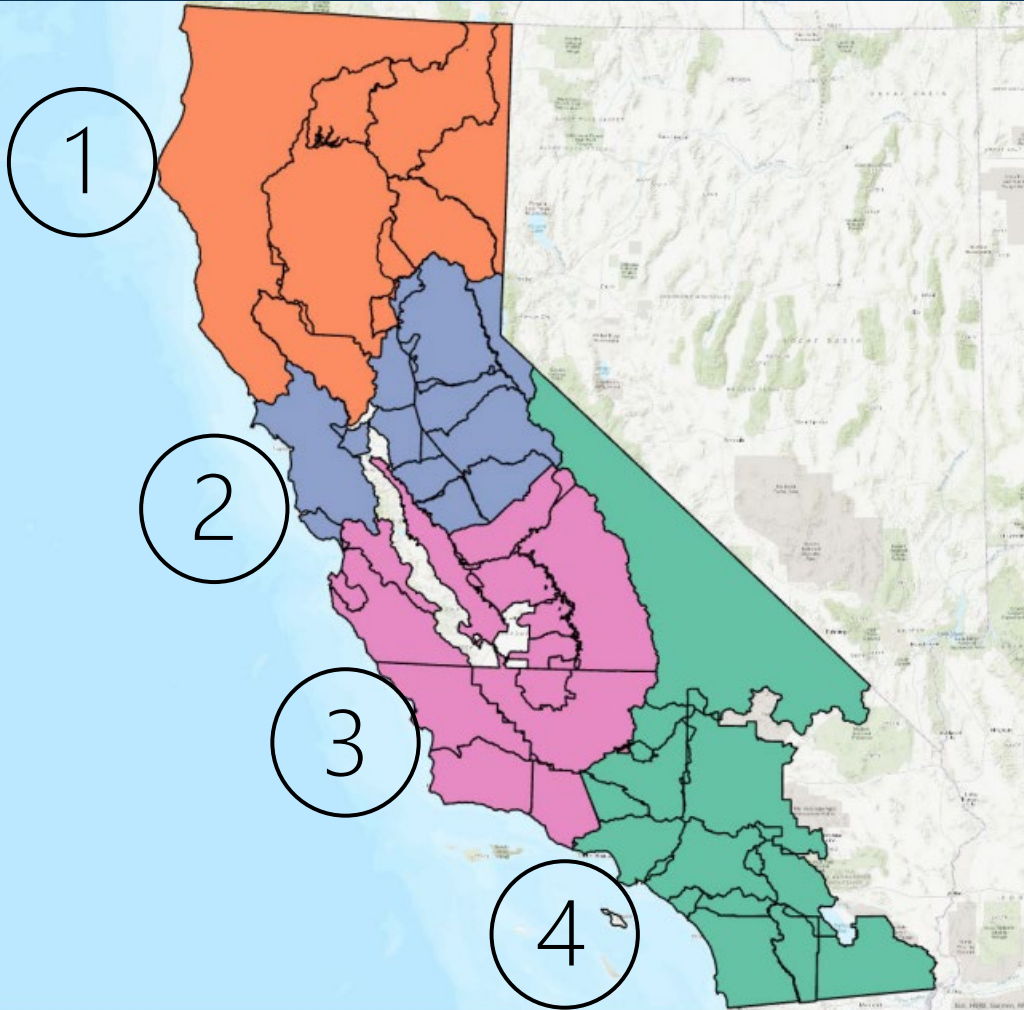
## INTERESTED?

Email Amy Stevens by this Friday, June 23, if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else!

**[astevens@wsc-inc.com](mailto:astevens@wsc-inc.com)**

# **Area 2 – Transition Plan Update**

# Regional Meetings



- Divided the state into the four regions shown on the left.
- Roundtable Members registered for the region that best represented their IRWM area.
- Meeting Dates
  - April 18 – South Central (3)
  - April 19 – North Central (2) & Northern (1)
  - April 25 – Southern (4)

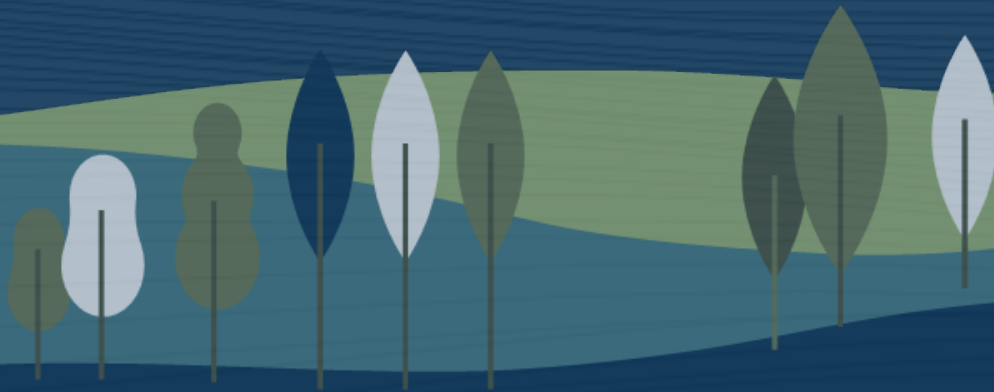
# Project Objectives

- Help guide the planning efforts of DWR and other state agencies
- Collect, specific quantifiable feedback
- Identify regional needs and successes
- Establish baseline funding requests to support the program
- Build upon 2017's [DWR Stakeholder Perspectives on IRWM](#)

# Summary Background

The following slides are a summary of the four regional workshops and include:

- Discussion questions
- Themes that were consistent across most or all regions / participants
- Region-specific items of significance (where applicable)



# Do you believe the IRWM approach needs improvement?

- Funding for administrative support, i.e., grant writing, inter-agency coordination and meeting management, regional coordinators, grant updates/reporting requirements.
- Funding for project planning not just implementation.
- Find ways to keep maintain and increase participation.
- Better coordination with other State programs, e.g., SGMA, Climate Initiatives. This would avoid conflicting priorities and allow everyone to leverage resources for increased funding and support.
- Consistent DWR engagement so the state agency better understands the projects and regional needs.
- DACs, tribes, and small systems don't have the resources to participate and have the greatest need for the grant funding.
- Quicker grant disbursement. The lag in getting funding is a problem for "immediate" needs is difficult.
- Improve the grant application process. The (comparatively) smaller IRWM grants coupled with the current application process dissuades some from applying.
- Keep evolving and align with state priorities.
- Continuity would help with the IRWM program. A lot of IRWM issues are complicated and it is difficult for entities to stay connected.
- We need more Support from the state to "reward" successful ongoing collaboration and planning at the regional level.

# What are some of your region-specific concerns, issues, benefits, etc. that can be overlooked when discussing IRWM at the statewide level?

## Themes

- People only get excited when there is grant funding available, and the most interest is from the special districts.
- The non-competitive has been good for the smaller regions.
- Recovery from multiple catastrophic disasters, i.e., wildfires, floods.
- Balancing SGMA/groundwater and surface water management.
- Lack of funding to improve wells.
- Many concerns do not fit exactly within the IRWM current grant guidelines but do impact water quality and supply. Examples provided were arsenic treatment and cleaning up encampments. Would like more flexibility from the state as there are more nuanced ways projects can be beneficial.
- Need a broader definition of DAC projects. DAC and Tribes feel like they are competing for funding.
- Maintenance and operations support.



# What technical assistance do you need to restart or continue your work?

## Themes

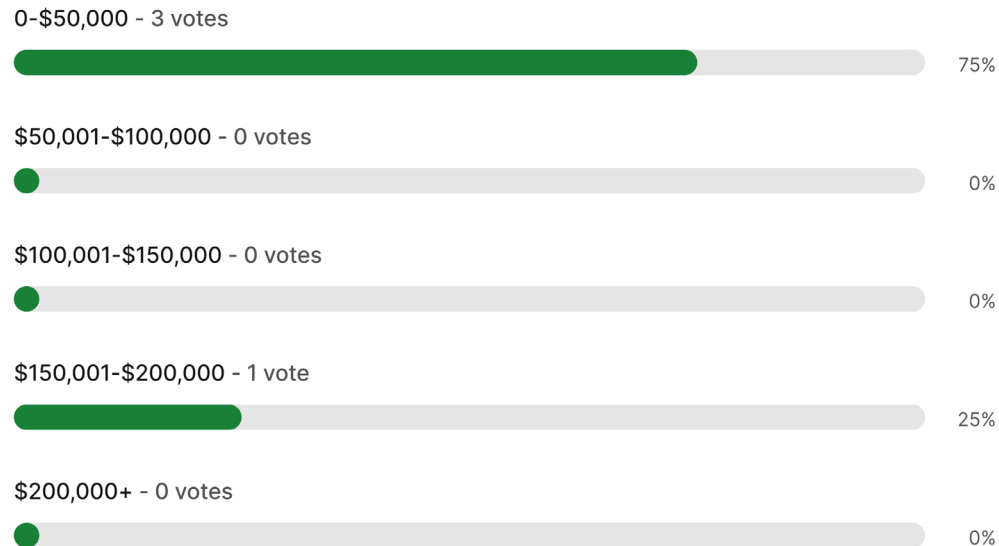
- Culturally-appropriate engagement funding to meet diverse needs.
- Technical staff training and retention.
- Grant writing support from a technical expert.
- More support for small water systems all the way around – capacity, mini-grants, reduced reporting requirements, not just drought relief.
- More streamlined grant process for everyone, especially removing barriers for DACs and tribes.
- Support and funding for IRWM plan updates.
- Funding for special studies, e.g., homelessness, DACs, affordability, rate setting.

# What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work as outlined by your plan?

## Northern California

What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work?

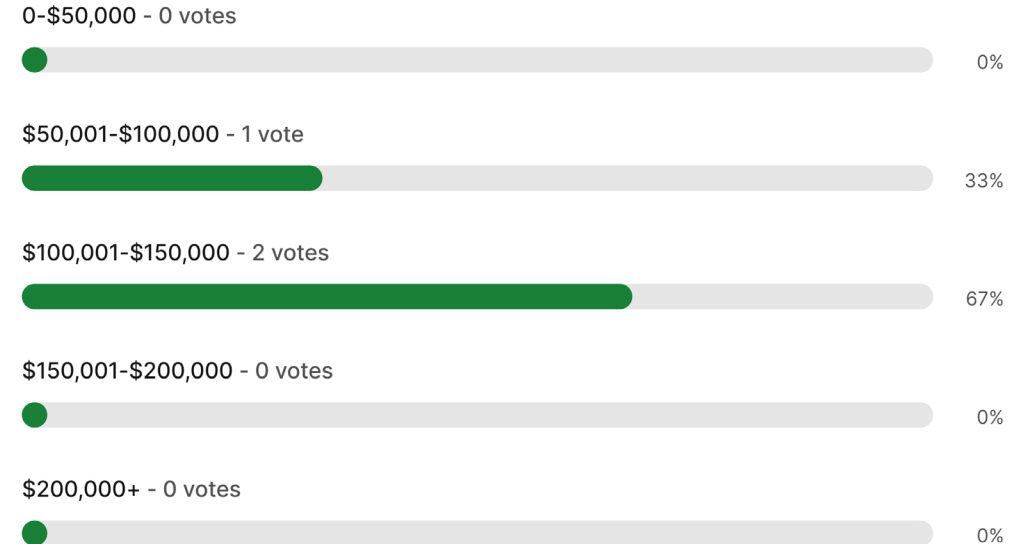
Multiple Choice Poll 4 votes 4 participants



## North Central California

What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work?

Multiple Choice Poll 3 votes 3 participants

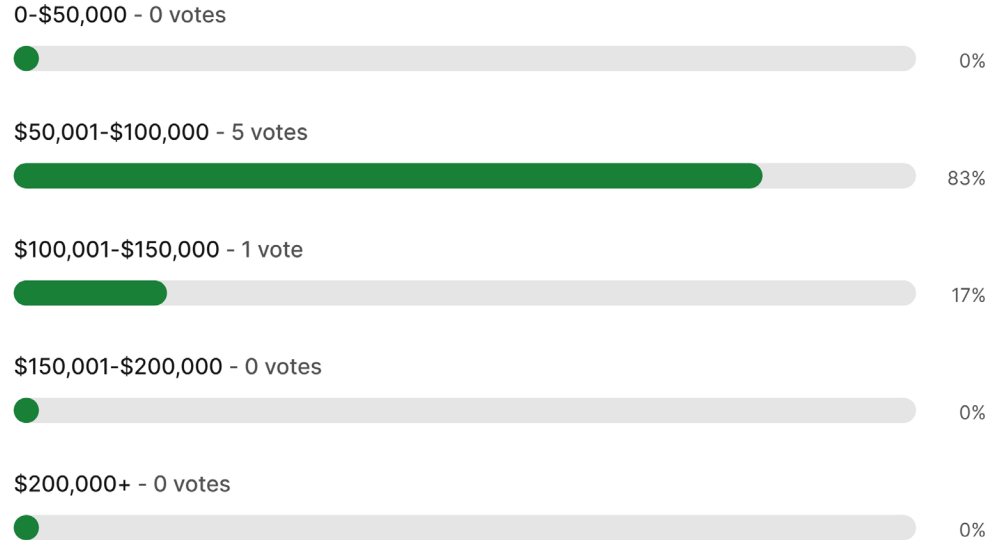


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## South Central California

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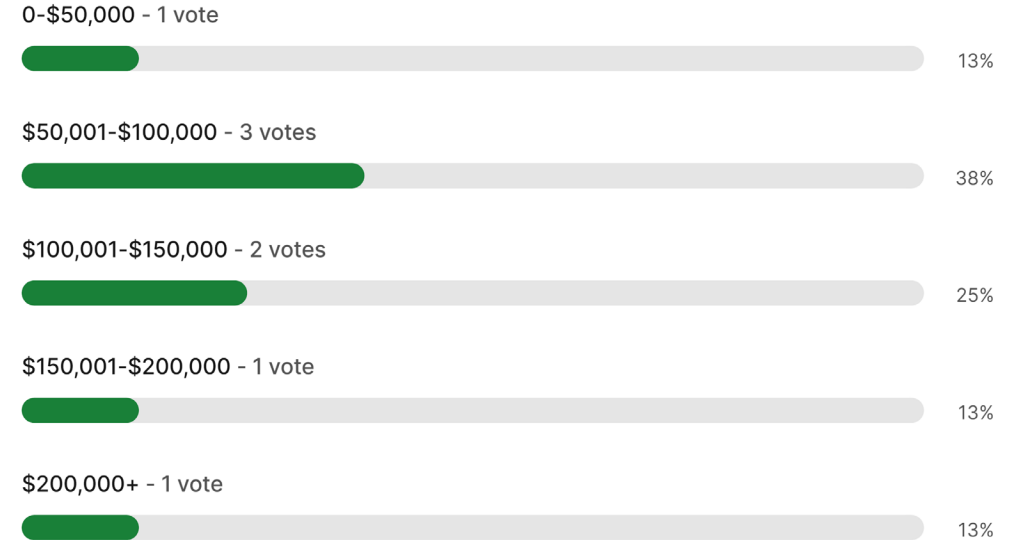
Multiple Choice Poll 6 votes 6 participants



## Southern California

What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work? Consider baseline as the funding needed to accomplish your IRWM plan.

Multiple Choice Poll 8 votes 8 participants

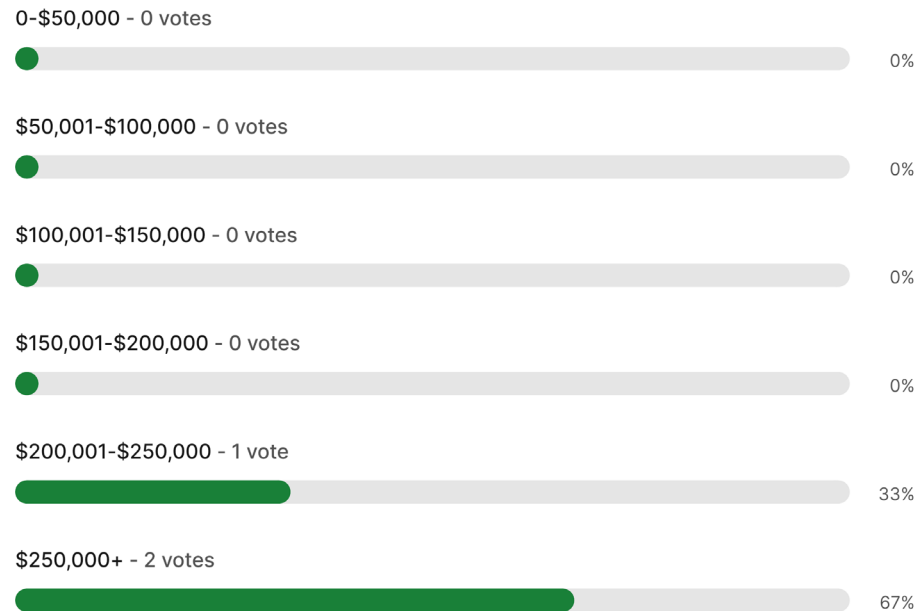


# What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

## Northern California

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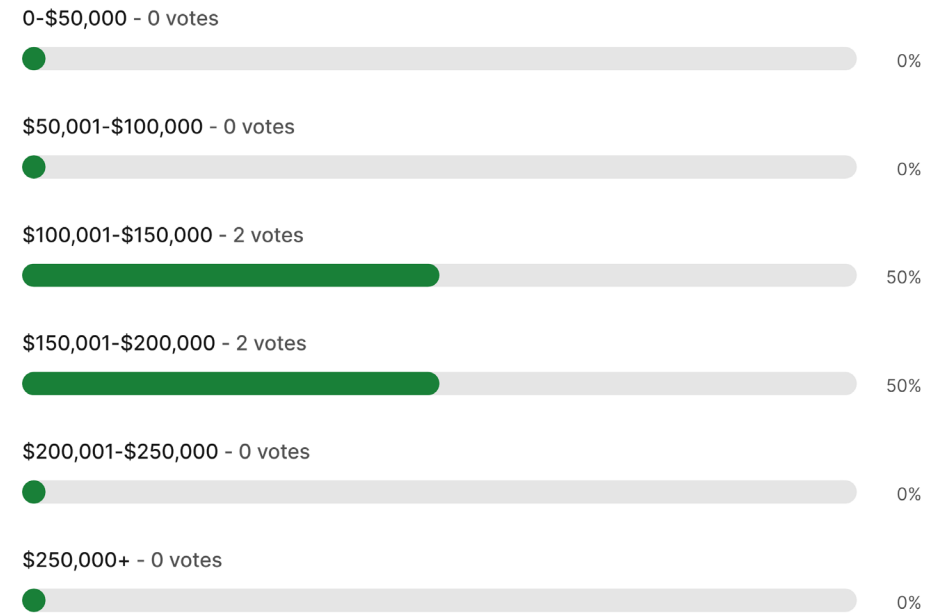
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Multiple Choice Poll 4 votes 4 participants

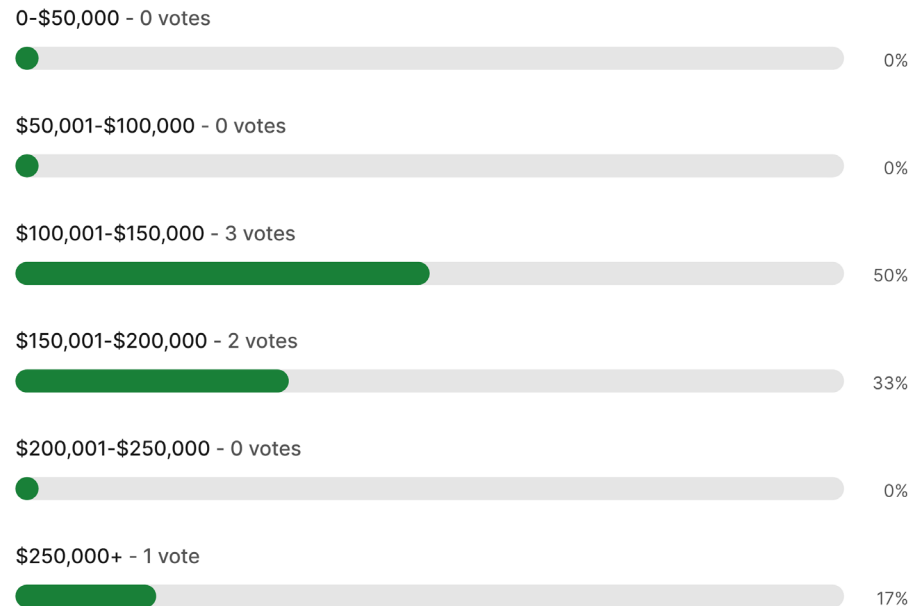


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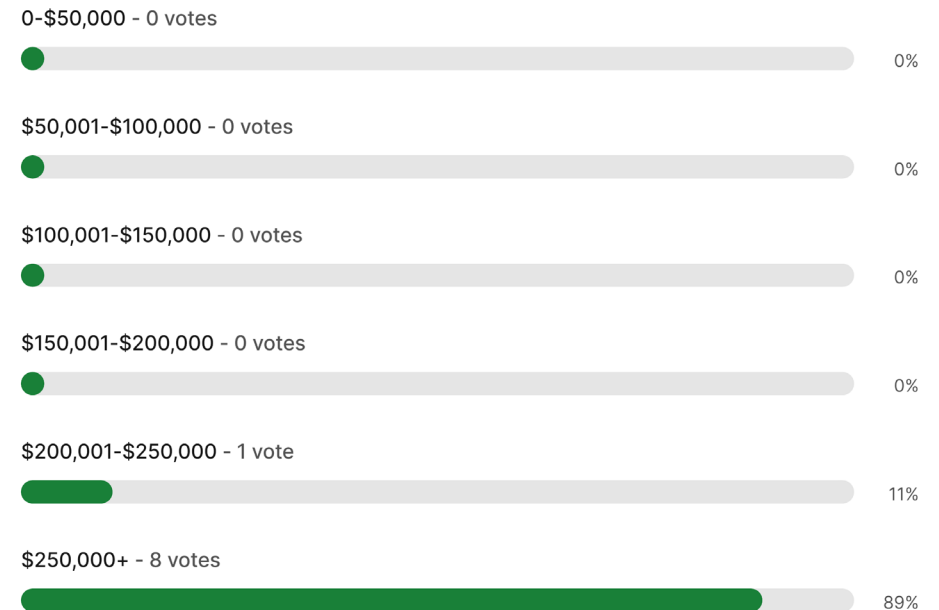
Multiple Choice Poll ☒ 6 votes  6 participants



## Southern California

What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

Multiple Choice Poll ☒ 9 votes  9 participants



# What are your projects that could be completed with additional IRWM funding?

## Themes

- Wastewater
- Green Infrastructure
- Preventative measures like conservation & water education.
- Hazard mitigation like stream restoration, hazardous fuels restoration, etc.
- Groundwater quality and quantity monitoring in communities unregulated by SGMA.
- PED (Planning, Engineering and Design) grants before seeking capital funds to avoid over-design/engineering that balloons costs.
- Groundwater Recharge
- Drinking water quality improvements.

# What would it mean to your program / agency if funding were decreased or eliminated?

## Themes

- Several IRWMs will dissolve completely; many are already on the verge.
- Collaboration and inter-agency coordination would drop or go away completely.
- Small systems will lose out on small opportunities. Many IRWMs help write the grants and manage the administrative side; those projects would start falling through the cracks.
- Loss of engagement from DACs, tribes, and small communities.
- Without funding and support, the sense of community built by IRWM would be gone. This community-building helps groups overcome previous disagreements.
- Community impacts are unquantifiable unless you viscerally experience it – abandonment, isolation, doom – some entities feel a lack of future without the collaborative opportunities to share and coordinate on day-to-day lessons learned.

# Provide Comments



All questions available via Survey Monkey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RoR-FollowUp>



# Next Steps

- Meetings with State Agencies
  - DWR – First meeting with Jenna on 5/23
  - Water Board
  - Office of Planning & Research
  - Strategic Growth Council
- Develop Transition Plan
  - Funding Sources
  - Legislative and Administrative Priorities
  - Practical Implementation Tools to Support Next Phase of IRWM
  - Ongoing meetings with DWR

**Interested in attending meetings and/or have a contact?  
Reach out to Amy – [astevens@wsc-inc.com](mailto:astevens@wsc-inc.com)**

# **Legislative Update**



# **Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority**

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## **Sacramento Update**

June 20, 2023

Michael Boccadoro &  
Beth Olhasso



**West Coast Advisors**  
*Strategic Public Affairs*

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Resource Bonds- March or November 2024?

- AB 1567 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023: \$15.1B
  - Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
  - Hearing date TBD
- SB 867 (Allen) Drought & Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate
  - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
  - Held hearing on Monday



## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Recent IRWM amendment to AB 1567 to increase funding from \$200M to \$350M.

SB 867 requesting an increase from \$300M to \$350M

**Thank you to everyone who supported with letters!**



## **FY 2023-2024 BUDGET**

- At least \$32B shortfall
- First Draft passed 6/15
- Governor pushing finding into climate bonds
- Governor's Trailer Bills
- CEQA- Judicial Review limited to 270 days for water projects, including Delta Conveyance



# Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m.





Roundtable of Regions

# Regional Meetings Summary

April 18-25, 2023





# Agenda



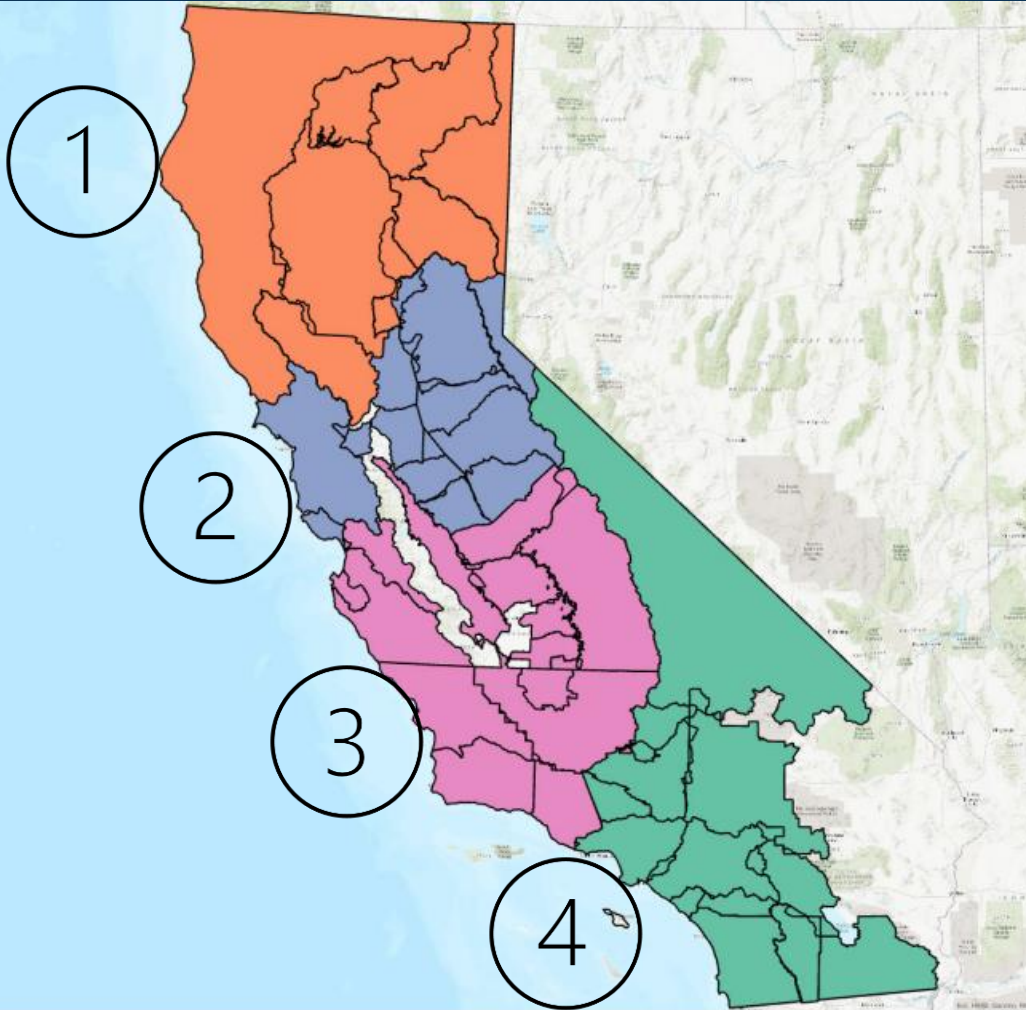
**Project Background**



**Discussion Themes**

# Project Background

# Regional Meetings



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# Project Tactics

- Four IRWM Regional Meetings
- Meetings with State Agencies
  - DWR
  - Water Board
  - Office of Planning & Research
  - Strategic Growth Council
- Develop Transition Plan
  - Funding Sources
  - Legislative and Administrative Priorities
  - Practical Implementation Tools to Support Next Phase of IRWM
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- Continuity would help with the IRWM program. A lot of IRWM issues are complicated and it is difficult for entities to stay connected.
- We need more Support from the state to “reward” successful ongoing collaboration and planning at the regional level.



# Do you believe the IRWM approach needs improvement?

## Region-Specific Responses

### Northern California

- The DWR Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) was excellent as it had standards a region needs to meet, and it ensured things were fair and transparent. It had standards in the planning process - but the level of standards of IRWM plans needs to be improved. Opening up the RAP process would be good, and as a part of that new IRWM regional boundaries could be redrawn.

### North Central California

- Mountain Counties only had \$13 million to split, so \$1.1M for each Region. Participants are dropping off because the grant funds are so sparse – the JPA dissolved. Need to understand the funding split based on need – a \$1M grant is just not worth the significant process to develop the application and implement the grant.

### Southern California

- Increase inclusion within IRWM leadership to ensure broader perspectives are considered.



# What are some of your region-specific concerns, issues, benefits, etc. that can be overlooked when discussing IRWM at the statewide level?

## Themes

- People only get excited when there is grant funding available, and the most interest is from the special districts.
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- Need a broader definition of DAC projects. DAC and Tribes feel like they are competing for funding.
- Maintenance and operations support.

# What are some of your region-specific concerns, issues, benefits, etc. that can be overlooked when discussing IRWM at the statewide level?

## Region-Specific Responses

### Northern California

- We are at the top of the watershed and feel we have a responsibility to ensure water is taken care of as it goes to lower regions.
- We are a small region, and a lot of the voluntary work is happening here.
- There is a political/economic infrastructure that makes it hard to convince political leaders to invest in conservation.
- DWR Bulletin 118 left out volcanic aquifers, which left Mount Shasta area as vulnerable to certain industries.

### South Central California

- Concerns about water affordability. Establish permanent program to address affordability. Defining affordability – can we consider housing affordability, cost of utilities, etc.

# What technical assistance do you need to restart or continue your work?

## Themes

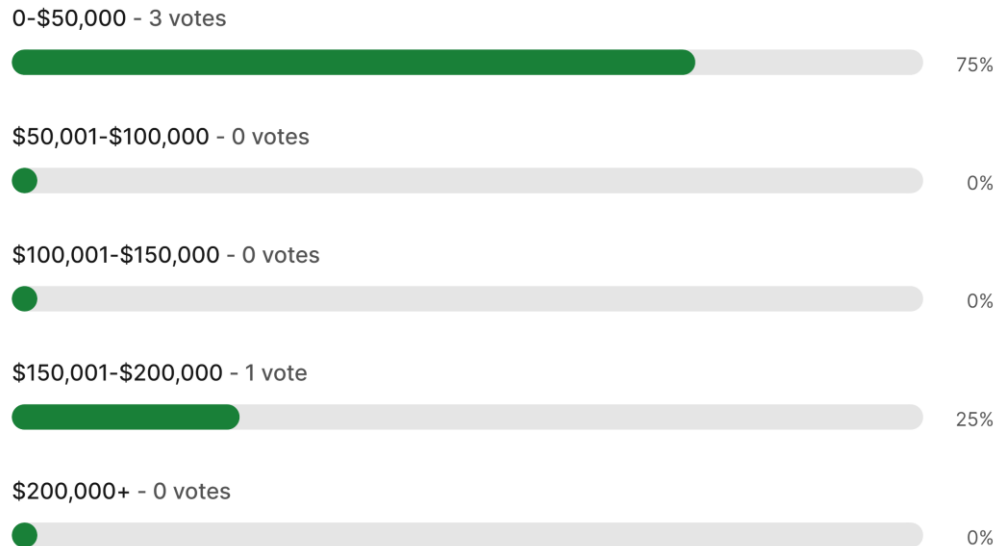
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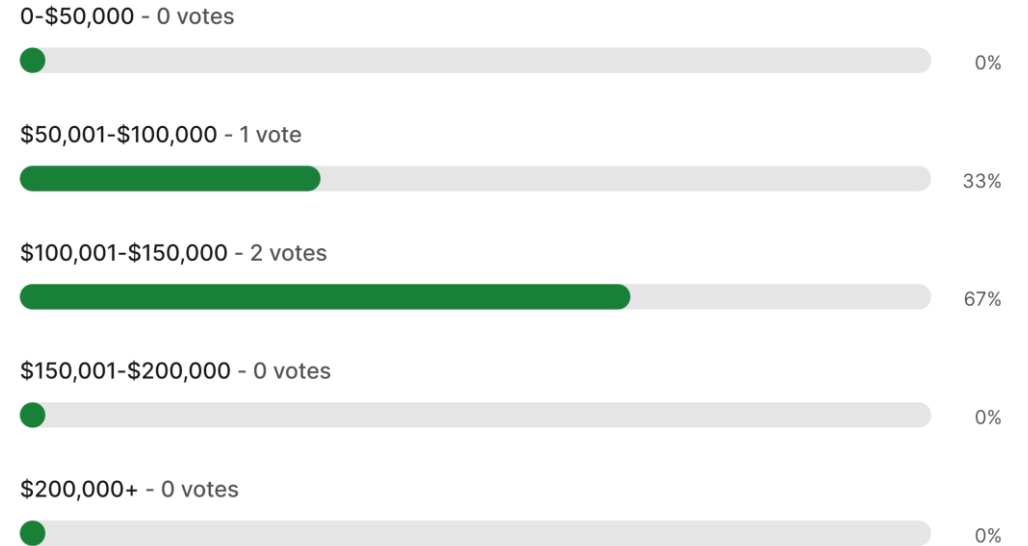
Multiple Choice Poll 4 votes 4 participants



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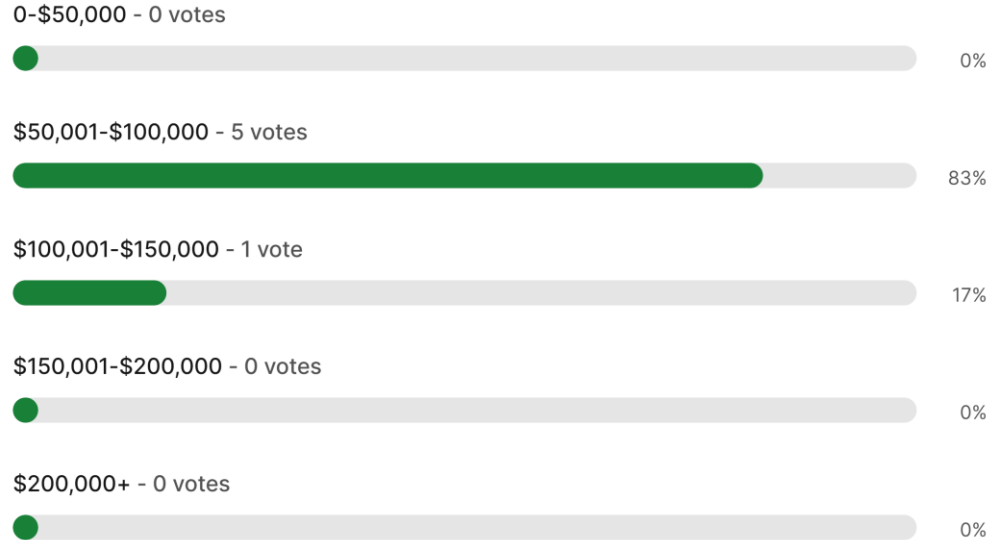


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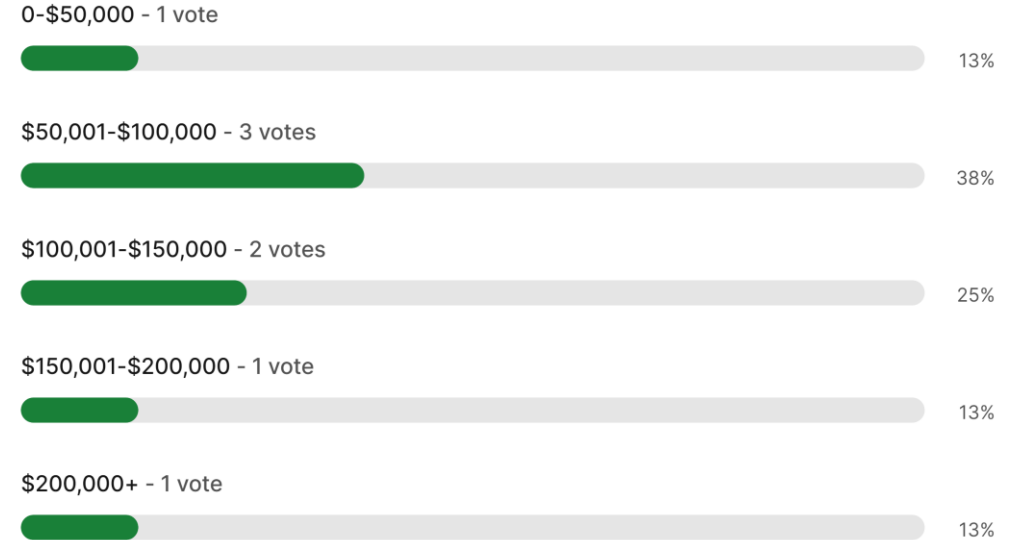


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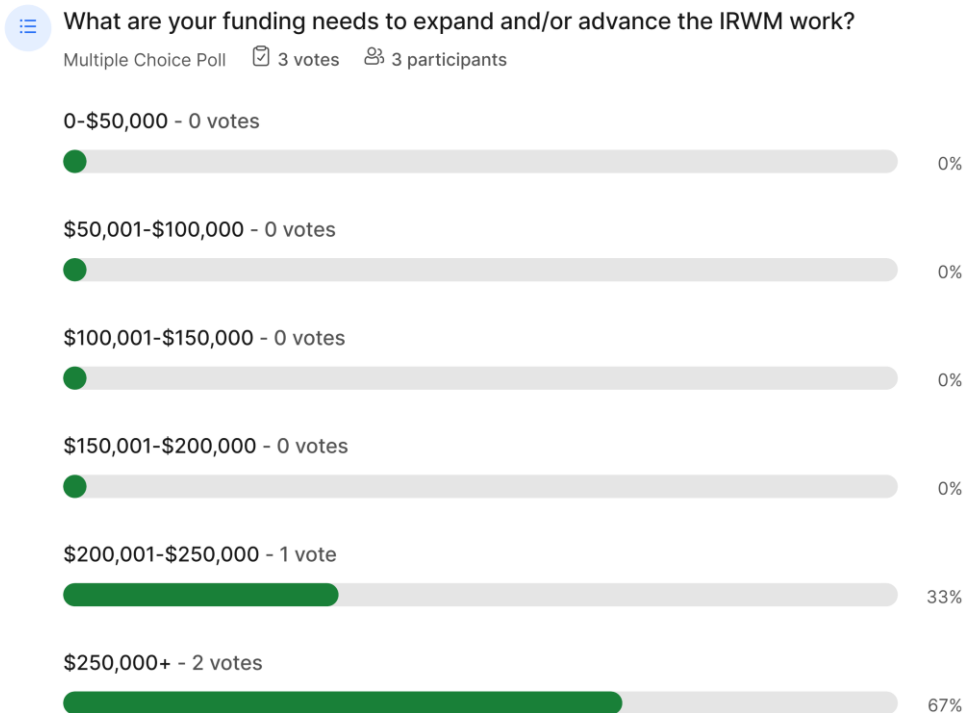
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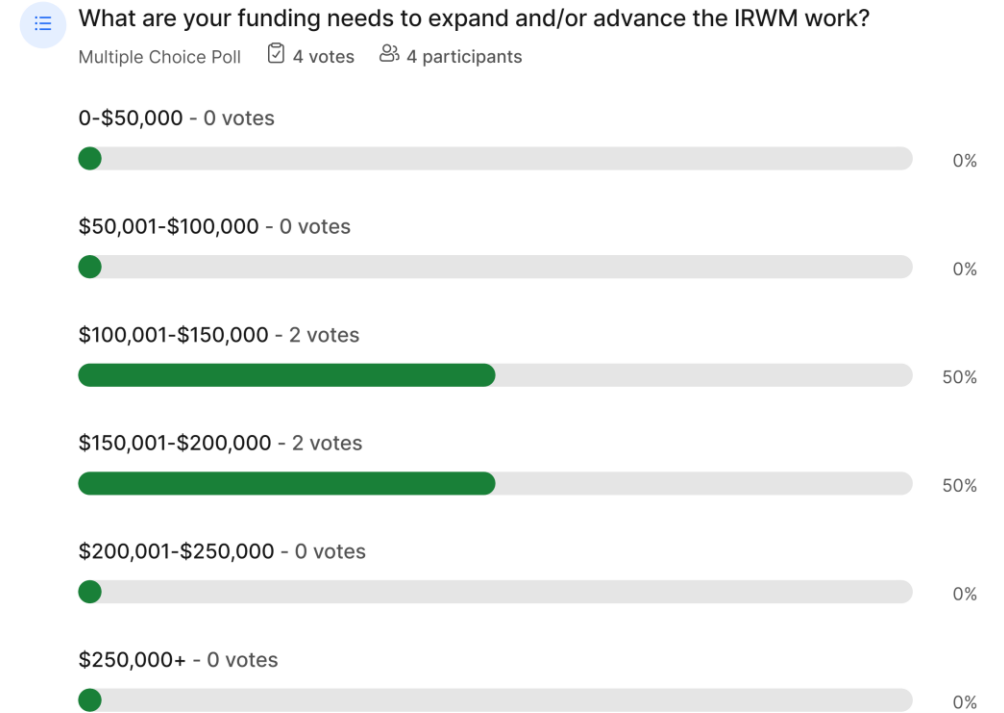
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# What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

## Northern California



## North Central California

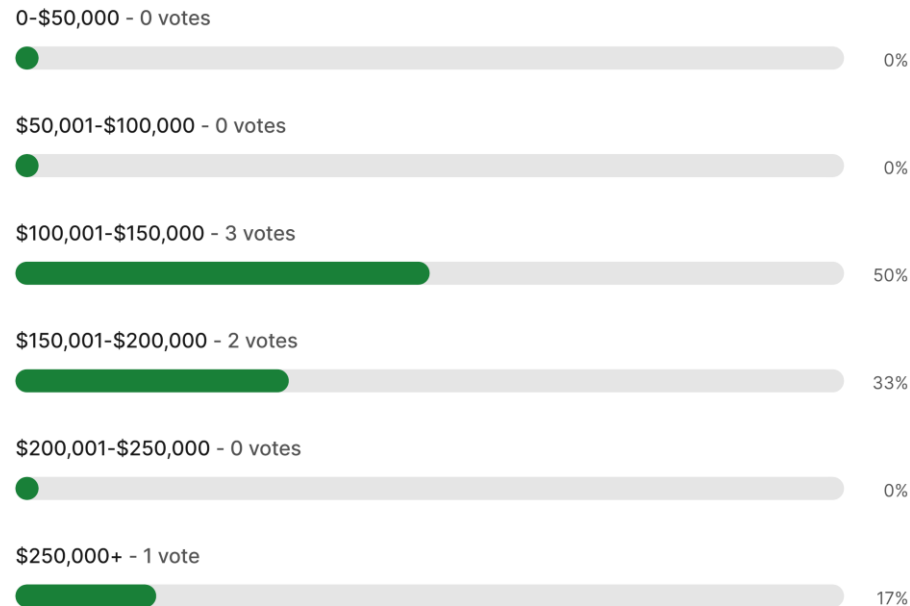


# What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

## South Central California

What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

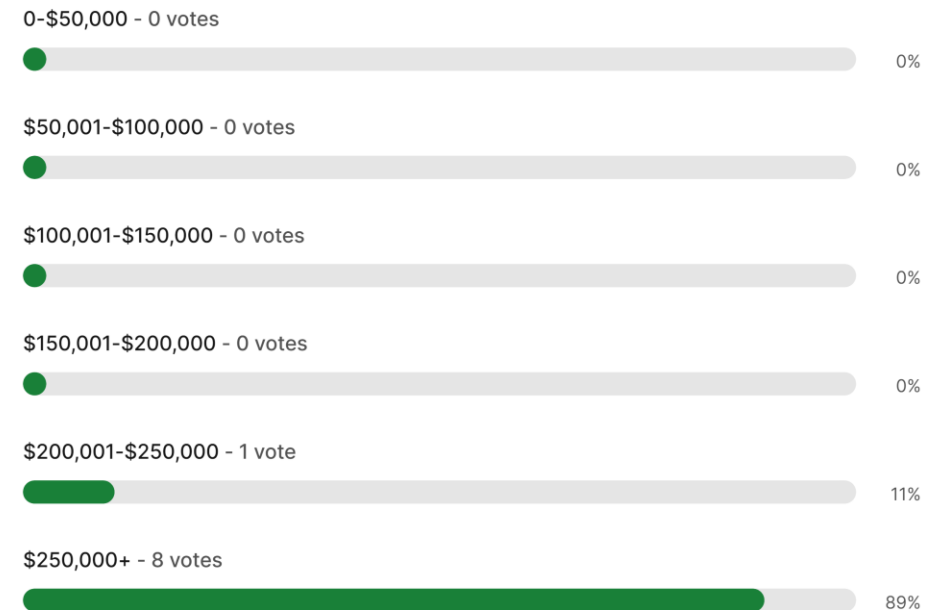
Multiple Choice Poll ☒ 6 votes  6 participants



## Southern California

What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

Multiple Choice Poll ☒ 9 votes  9 participants



# What are your projects that could be completed with additional IRWM funding?

## Themes

- Wastewater
- Green Infrastructure
- Preventative measures like conservation & water education.
- Hazard mitigation like stream restoration, hazardous fuels restoration, etc.
- Groundwater quality and quantity monitoring in communities unregulated by SGMA.
- PED (Planning, Engineering and Design) grants before seeking capital funds to avoid over-design/engineering that balloons costs.
- Groundwater Recharge
- Drinking water quality improvements.



# What are your projects that could be completed with additional IRWM funding?

## Region-Specific Responses

### Northern California

- Hidden Valley Lakes - energy and water production integration using gravity and solar.
- Beaver restoration that will take interagency permitting. It would be nice to have technical assistance and/or an interagency coordinator.

# What would it mean to your program / agency if funding were decreased or eliminated?

## Themes

- Several IRWMs will dissolve completely; many are already on the verge.
- Collaboration and inter-agency coordination would drop or go away completely.
- Small systems will lose out on small opportunities. Many IRWMs help write the grants and manage the administrative side; those projects would start falling through the cracks.
- Loss of engagement from DACs, tribes, and small communities.
- Without funding and support, the sense of community built by IRWM would be gone. This community-building helps groups overcome previous disagreements.
- Community impacts are unquantifiable unless you viscerally experience it – abandonment, isolation, doom – some entities feel a lack of future without the collaborative opportunities to share and coordinate on day-to-day lessons learned.

# Share your projects made possible with IRWM grants/funding. (Listed by Regions, Not Themes)

## Northern California

- The NCRP Projects are listed on the NCRP Project Tracker site: <https://www.northcoastresourcepartnershipprojects.org/>
- Prop 84 Funding is listed on the Upper Sacramento website. <https://www.uppersacirwm.org/our-irwm2016>
  - City of Mt. Shasta \$1.8 million for Big Lakes Water Main Replacement
  - City of Dunsmuir \$1.2 million for North and South Dunsmuir Water Main Replacement
  - Pacific Forest Trust \$293,000 for the McCloud Dogwood Butte Working Forest Conservation Easement
  - Trout Unlimited \$175,000 for Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
  - 2015 Prop 84 Funding City of Mt. Shasta was awarded \$4.3 million for two projects: \$2.5 million for water meter installation and drought preparedness & \$2.8 million for supply line replacement
- Funding to repair an arial stream crossing, before Mud Creek glacial melt flooding demolished 1/3 of McCloud's water supply
- Prop 1: \$50K for Pilot Project for SSWS and LSWS needs assessment \$1.6m to replace aging water infrastructure and new well support structures and pumps (DACs) Prop 84: \$700k for updated IRWM Plan Prop 50: \$7m for infrastructure projects (DACs), watershed restoration projects, water supply and resiliency studies
- 2022 DWR multi-benefit and urban drought relief - IRWM set-aside: pilot groundwater recharge project: <https://www.yologroundwater.org/dunnigan-groundwater-recharge>

# Share your projects made possible with IRWM grants/funding. (Listed by Regions, Not Themes)

## North Central California

- Sediment removal in the San Joaquin River funding area. 311,000 tons removed. Helped with flood hazard reduction and flood flow rates. It's an ongoing issue that needs to be done repeatedly. Domestic well testing for homeowners is another project being finished June 30th this year. Testing for nitrates and 22 other constituents. Water meter replacement (smart meters) for residents is another project, including DACs in the mountain county funding area.
- \*In the process of collecting more project lists\*

# Share your projects made possible with IRWM grants/funding. (Listed by Regions, Not Themes)

## South Central California (1 of 2)

- Water meter installation, groundwater recharge projects, well rehab projects to address water quality, developed a storm water resources plan to allow access to storm water funding through SWRCB.
- Richgrove Project (Poso Creek IRWM): Received project development funds to complete construction documents for their new well project, which includes connecting the Rodriguez Labor Camp.
- Sierra Vista Project (Poso Creek IRWM): Received project development funds to pay for an engineering report looking at a City of Delano sphere of influence, with the Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District as the applicant.
- Allensworth Project (Tule River Basin IRWM): Received project development funds for a meter replacement project and a solar array installation project.
- Ducor Project (Tule River Basin IRWM): Received project development funds to complete design and environmental documents for their storage tank replacement project.
- Lemon Cove Project (Kaweah River Basin IRWM): Received project development funds for the long-term pump test of their two test wells, which were later converted into production wells.
- Sultana Project (Kings Basin Water Authority IRWM): Received project development funds for the design and environmental documents for a stormwater collection and groundwater recharge project for the communities of Sultana and Monson.
- East Orosi Project (Kings Basin Water Authority IRWM): Received project development funds for the design and environmental documents for their new well and consolidation project.

# Share your projects made possible with IRWM grants/funding. (Listed by Regions, Not Themes)

## South Central California (2 of 2)

- Weldon/Rainbird Project (Kern IRWM): Received project development funds for the acquisition of a well site, which is an integral part of a regional water project.
- Lake of the Woods Project (Kern IRWM): Received project development funds for a project that installed well meters, analyzed water use, as well as conduct a water rate study for more effective operations and financial management.
- Frazier Park Project (Kern IRWM): Received project development funds to prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and prepare plans for a replacement well.

# Share your projects made possible with IRWM grants/funding. (Listed by Regions, Not Themes)

## Southern California

- City of Santa Ana multi-benefit stormwater capture project
- All 3 potable reuse projects in San Diego- Pure Water San Diego, Pure Water Oceanside, East County Adv Pure Facility
- San Diego IRWM projects - <https://www.sdirwmp.org/projects>
- More funding for drought resiliency projects like large inter-ties.
- San Juan Capistrano stormwater project treating an area comprising 82% DAC/SDAC, historical tribal lands, and providing a lot of community space. We really worked with DWR to recognize the stormwater DAC benefit. The small, but impactful footprint of that project would not have been as competitive for funding through other grant programs, and the match waiver made it possible.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bw9T07wJaV4> GLAC IRWM Prop 84 Round 1 Tujunga Spreading Grounds Enhancement Project
- Ongoing engagement with USCs and Tribes
- San Diego- North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition (recycled water) SAWPA- Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (groundwater recharge) Coachella- East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project (small system consolidation)
- SARCCUP water bank, Prado Dam sediment removal, many DAC projects, weather modification, budget based rates implementation.
- Weather Modification (cloud seeding)

# Anything we have not covered that could be helpful for the transition plan?

- Water Resilience Initiative could be a really good thing, because in some areas IRWMS were established based on political, not watershed drivers – could rectify this issue from the original program, including re-drawing regions based on watershed boundaries.
- Agree, there've been billions invested, hundreds of thousands of miles of watersheds improved, thousands of hours of discussion/collaboration invested – stopping IRWM means throwing away a multi-million investment instead of re-envisioning/using the framework.
- Intrigued about meeting with other state agencies about the work of IRWM – could be really interesting to make connections for the state.
- It would be helpful to have state funding and support for activities that tell the story of IRWM benefits, including check signing ceremonies, community celebrations, media outreach, etc.
- Watershed resilience has to include State Boards in the conversation.
- We need to have streamlined and regular meetings with the state.
- How can ACWA and other water-related orgs and buy in for this? Others need to be involved and harness the support of other orgs.





# Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Group

555 Main Street | Quincy, CA | 95971 | (530) 283-6214 | <http://featherriver.org> | [ufr.contact@gmail.com](mailto:ufr.contact@gmail.com)

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June 9, 2023

California Department of Water Resources (DWR)  
Division of Regional Assistance  
DWR Headquarters  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: Letter of Support for the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District (SVGMD) Grant Application to DWR for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Round 2—Application Number 2022SIR20030**

Dear DWR Directors and Division of Regional Assistance,

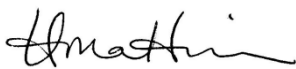
**The Upper Feather River (UFR) Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is writing in support of the SVGMD grant application and DWR's recommended award of \$5,445,000 for the SGM Grant Program's SGMA Implementation Round 2 funding for the Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation and Planning.**

This project and its intended outcomes of supporting Sierra Valley in achieving groundwater sustainability are of critical importance to the Sierra Valley community and its goal to sustainably manage its water resources by 2042; however, this project cannot be implemented without outside funding due to the limited resources of the SVGMD and surrounding community. Both Sierra County and Plumas County, where the Sierra Valley Subbasin is located, are both designated as "moderately high" or "high" for underrepresented communities (URC). In addition, areas near Loyalton, Sierra Brooks, Sattley, and Sierraville are considered Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) or Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs).

The proposed project will provide critical knowledge and generate data for Sierra Valley communities to improve their ability to cope with the current and future drought scenarios while implementing projects to reach sustainability. The groundwater recharge and irrigation efficiency elements of the project will result in substantial improvements in the ability to manage Sierra Valley's water resources.

**The UFR RWMG thanks DWR for the recommended Round 2 award and highly encourages DWR to fully fund the SVGMD, as outside funding is critical for implementation actions to occur as soon as possible.**

Sincerely,



Uma Hinman  
Upper Feather River IRWM Coordinator

On Behalf of:  
Paul Roen, Chair, Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Group