

## **ATTACHMENT 5**

### **Consistency with IRWM Plan Standards**

This section describes how the completed CABY IRWMP will address each of the IRWM Plan standards identified in the IRWM Grant Program Guidelines. This information has been summarized from the CABY IRWMP Proposal and on going meetings of the CABY Group.

#### **5.1. Regional Description**

The CABY planning region consists of the generally high water quality Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba river watersheds. The Group consists of five water agencies that obtain water from at least two of the rivers in the CABY region. Currently the water agencies do not use any groundwater. Only the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) supplies recycled water to some of its customers. Developing further recycled water supplies has been identified to supplement current water supplies.

The lower elevation boundary on the western side of the region was selected to be consistent with the western boundary of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (Attachment 6). The remaining boundaries are defined by the watersheds, the eastern boundary includes the headwaters, and the Yuba River northern watershed boundary and the Cosumnes southern boundary are the north and south borders. The rivers in the CABY region provide 30 percent of the Sacramento River flow.

Because of the interconnection of the four watersheds, operational policies and decisions by each respective water agency, in addition to other stakeholder policies affect the entire CABY watershed region. The individual efforts in water management and conservation have led to ineffective water policies, excessive spending, and poor environmental protection. A regional effort is needed to balance water use demands and conservation.

Much of the existing water supply and infrastructure was developed for power generation and mining operations, and then later adopted for public water supply and environmental protection. As mining and logging operations have decreased, recreation, tourism, and residential development have significantly increased, exerting a different demand on the water resources and water quality. Other land use in the CABY region includes agriculture. One of the objectives described in the IRWMP Proposal is to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply in the future for the citizens of the region. During the IRWM planning process analysis of existing data, further data gathering, watershed modeling, and assessment of the fractured rock aquifer will aid the Group in describing the quality and quantity of water resources in the region, water supplies, and demand for a 20-year planning horizon.

The region contains most of the gold rush era mining sites and many of the pioneer trails used by immigrants when moving to California and the many parks and historical sites that preserve history. The CABY region includes tribal populations of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. The CABY region also serves as an important environmental and ecologic resource, containing a number of sensitive, threatened, and endangered wildlife species. There is an abundance of wild and scenic locations with many outdoor activities including hiking, camping, and rafting. The CABY study area also contains seven Clean Water Act Section 303 (d) impaired watersheds or water bodies, and two of the rivers are considered to contain

impacted fish communities. All of these social and cultural aspects impact water management decisions.

#### 5.1.1. South Yuba Planning Effort

A planning effort that has been occurring in a portion of the CABY region has resulted in the South Yuba River Comprehensive Management Plan. The key partners in the planning effort are the:

- California Department of Parks and Recreation;
- Bureau of Land Management;
- USDA Forest Service; and
- Nevada County Planning Department.

The South Yuba River Plan fulfills many of the IRWM Plan standards. Discussion between the CABY participants has resulted in the decision to integrate the South Yuba effort into the overall CABY IRWM planning process. As a result, the prioritized projects developed in the South Yuba effort are integrated into this overall proposal. The CABY group intends to have the South Yuba planning effort integrated into its overall IRWM Plan.

## 5.2. Objectives

Regional objectives will be fully developed through a stakeholder process, however four initial objectives were identified in the IRWMP Proposal that address a number of water issues that all of the current members of the Group have determined mutually important. Within these objectives a number of water management strategies were identified to achieve these objectives.

The “water supply” objective is to provide clean and reliable water supply that meets the long-term needs of the watershed’s residents, local industry, agriculture, and natural resources. This objective will be met through a number of water management strategies that address, providing a sustainable potable water supply, assessing groundwater capabilities, monitoring surface flows to maintain healthy habitats, connection of trail systems, planning and management for draughts, recycled water, water conservation, assessing flooding characteristics, vegetation management, recreation, and climate change.

The fractured rock aquifer in the CABY region has not been fully investigated, therefore the “groundwater management” objective is to protect and improve the quality and quantity of groundwater supplies. The strategies to address “groundwater management” are to provide a better understanding of the fractured rock system and groundwater movement, management practices, and relationships between surface and groundwater resources.

Protecting and improving water quality is another important objective (“water supply”) for the CABY region including strategies that, implement BMPs, reduce forest fire vulnerability, protection of headwaters, recreation activities, restore streams to a state of geomorphic equilibrium, reduce mercury contamination, improve water and wastewater treatment technologies, and assess impacts of climate change.

The fourth objective, “environmental and habitat protection”, is to protect and enhance environmental resources. The strategies outlined for this objective include, protection and restoration of diverse habitats, monitoring of threatened or endangered species, buffers along

riparian corridors, natural floodplains, modified streams and flood protection facilities, interpretive features and impacts of climate change.

Conflicts in the region will be eliminated or reduced as a result of the CABY effort. Data collection efforts by multiple parties will be coordinated to eliminate overlap and lack of coverage. Projects will be selected in an integrated fashion to eliminate conflicts.

### **5.3. Water Management Strategies and Integration**

Watershed planning management strategy is an important aspect of the CABY Group because of the significance of the four rivers in this region, therefore all objectives and projects will integrate watershed planning management. The CABY region is a vital environmental and ecologic resource containing a number of sensitive, endangered, and threatened species, therefore, a number of water management strategies that protect and restore the environment and natural habitats have been defined. Within the watershed protection and environmental and habitat protection strategies water quality objectives are integrated to maintain and improve the high water quality of the mountain rivers and address mercury contamination. Management strategies for water supply reliability and groundwater management are also identified objectives because the existing systems were not constructed to provide reliable supply for the anticipated future demands of the rapidly growing region.

The CABY Group identified how their water management strategies, under the four overarching objectives, are compared to the recommended water management strategies identified in the Proposition 50 Appendix A, except desalination and imported water. The CABY region does not have brackish water sources and the region is a surface water supply area of origin and therefore does not import water.

### **5.4. Regional Priorities**

The CABY IRWM planning process and implementation will help address a number of the state wide and regional water resource priorities established by DWR, the SWRCB and the CVRWQCB and documented in a number of sources. Some of the regional priorities that will be addressed in the CABY IRWMP include establishing watershed planning and protection and education programs, integrate monitoring and research, dissemination of information, evaluation and remediation of mercury, evaluation of fractured rock groundwater systems, integration and collaboration among all stakeholders, and water quality improvements.

During the planning process the CABY Group will develop a set of performance measures that evaluate projects at the local level to determine if they are appropriate for other parts of the region. These performance measures will also investigate how they impact the region as a whole and address changes in the region, such as the rapidly growing population and climate change.

### **5.5. Implementation**

Implementation of the CABY IRWMP has not been fully defined and will be established during the CABY stakeholder process. The stakeholder process will develop criteria for selected projects, identify specific funding sources, and responsible parties to implement the plan over a long-term period.

The initial set of projects in the Implementation Proposal (Attachment 6) identifies specific CABY objectives these projects meet, responsibility for the management, timeline and the funding matches. As the CABY IRWMP further develops, additional projects will be identified to meet the CABY objectives, timeline for completion, and management responsibility.

## **5.6 Impacts and Benefits**

The benefits from a CABY IRWMP are numerous for the region and the state. The key benefits include the following:

- Development of planning processes, tools, and data for other IRWMP efforts throughout the Sierra Nevada and within the Bulletin 160 Mountain Counties region.
- Additional coordination, streamlining, and new partnerships.
- Compliance with State and Federal regulations.
- A forum for receiving regional support for water management projects.
- Optimize the use of federal, state, and local funding resources for improving water management.

The IRWMP would enable the results of local studies and research projects to be circulated throughout the region so that money can be saved from not duplicating them at a local level. In addition many of these projects can be extended throughout the Sierra Nevada region to watersheds facing similar water issues. The savings will increase funding on additional studies and projects of other topics and will result in a rational use of resources. Also, the IRWMP will provide the basis for communication and coordination between watersheds. Involvement of disadvantaged and tribal communities that frequently do not have a voice in planning processes such as the IRWMP will be encouraged throughout its development process.

Performance measures will be used as a guide to identify areas in the IRMWP that may need altering because of potential negative impacts and limit potential negative impacts to the region or outside of the region.

## **5.7 Technical Analysis and Plan Performance**

The CABY planning process will utilize existing data and reports to help develop and implement a regional plan. A significant amount of data is currently available; however additional resources and data will be required as part of the planning process. Many key studies, data sources, data gaps, and assessment tools have already been identified needed to achieve the CABY water resource objectives.

It is the intent of the CABY Group to obtain a better understanding of the groundwater and surface water systems and their interconnection prior to developing a full set of management strategies.

## **5.8. Data Management**

The CABY IRWMP Proposal outlines the use of existing data sets, further data monitoring needs, assessment tools that will be used to better understand the region, and development of a data management system.

As part of their initial objectives, the CABY Group is interested in better understanding the fractured rock aquifers and establish groundwater management practices to avoid contamination,

overdrafts and ensure longer-lasting, beneficial use of groundwater resources. This information will directly assist the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment Program goals “to improve comprehensive groundwater monitoring and increase the availability of information about groundwater quality to the public.”

Efforts to better understand the CABY watersheds will also provide additional support to the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Assessment Programs (SWAMP) by providing additional water quality monitoring and modeling using the WEAP 21. The CABY group will help fulfill SWAMP monitoring and data dissemination objectives of appropriately designing monitoring projects, collecting data, data management, data interpretation, and conveying information and results.

The individual agencies will be required to format the data as required by the appropriate statewide databases. A data management system will be developed with the intent of supporting statewide data needs and disseminate the information to the public. A website will be established to serve as a forum for discussions on objectives and strategies, display data, monitoring results, and reports.

## **5.9. Financing**

Financing the implementation of the IRWMP will be an important aspect during the initial planning and development. Funding matches for some projects have been identified and discussed in the Proposal (Section A5.5) and in Attachment 6, regarding the projects in the Implementation Proposal. The agencies are committed to the success of the IRWMP and have devoted much of their time to see to its success and ensure financial support.

## **5.10. Relation to Local Planning**

The CABY Group acknowledges that local information and efforts are a valuable resource providing a wealth of information, but fall short of providing a watershed management plan that encompasses the entire region and with cross-stakeholder involvement. Local entities that are responsible for developing plans include county planning agencies, water purveyors, and watershed collaborative groups, which are either existing members of the CABY Group, have been identified for potential future collaboration, organizations consulted, or as stakeholders in the planning process. A preliminary list of local planning documents will be further developed to integrate into the CABY IRWM planning process. Continued coordination with local efforts is necessary to ensure that all local issues are identified.

## **5.11. Stakeholder Involvement**

The Center for Collaborative Policy will work with the CABY Group to design, implement, and manage a consensus-based collaborative process to involve and include all the stakeholders in the program. Stakeholder and public involvement will involve different levels of organization; the Public Forum, the Planning Committee, Project Director, Subcommittees of the Planning Committee, and a smaller Coordinating Committee comprised of Planning Committee members.

**CABY IRWM Public Forum:** This is most inclusive element of the process where any interested organization or individual can participate. It will function as a means of communicating the planning effort, education, linking interested groups and individuals, gathering information, and providing input to the Planning Committee. There will be multiple tools to engage this broader

audience: a site on the World Wide Web, meetings, special briefings or workshops for the Public Forum and use of existing organizations' outreach, networks and meetings.

**CABY IRWM Stakeholder Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee will be a representative group that makes decisions about development of the IRWM Plan, with input from the Public Forum. The Planning Committee will consistently and persistently seek consensus in all its decision-making and will adopt a Committee Charter that reflects this principle. The Charter will also describe an alternative process for reaching decisions where no form of consensus can be achieved. Each Committee meeting will provide an opportunity for the general public to comment on issues relevant to the planning process.

**Stakeholder Subcommittees:** The Planning Committee will create subcommittees to focus on the four primary elements of the plan, which are water supply, water quality, ecosystem restoration and groundwater.

**CABY IRWM Coordinating Committee:** The Coordinating Committee will be created by the Stakeholder Planning Committee and will have responsibility for working with the project staff and Planning Committee facilitators on process issues.

**Project Director:** Responsible for managing the process and providing facilitation support and leadership at many of the project workshops and meetings.

The first phase of the stakeholder involvement includes, establishing basic committee structure, further identifying committee membership (including identification of additional stakeholders), and holding initial organization meetings. In phase 2, The Planning Committee will develop and approve an initial work plan covering data gathering, key planning topics, proposals for specific projects, and other important issues.

Tribal representatives and small family farmers have been identified by the CABY Group as important stakeholders to be included in the planning process. These are groups that historically have not been fully represented in processes such as the CABY IRWMP effort. The CABY Group will target additional ethnic and lower income organizations/ constituencies in the region for recruitment and participation on Committees. The CABY Group will supplement electronic communication with ground mail for the public and areas that may not have access to the internet. Through these efforts the CABY IRWMP will also be able to identify Environmental Justice and tribal concerns.

Coordination with state and federal agencies will be important during the development of the CABY IWRMP because Folsom Reservoir is a federally operated water facility located within the CABY region and the CABY region is a source of surface water supply for both the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP). The CABY group is also interested in coordination from CALFED state and federal agencies to meet a number of the actions identified in the CALFED ROD.