

## Attachment 13. IRWM Plan - Reduce Delta Water Dependence

### Acronyms

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AFY	Acre-Feet per Year
CCWA	Central Coast Water Authority
COSE	Conservation and Open Space Element
CSA	County Service Area
DWR	California State Department of Water Resources
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PPWTP	Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant
RWVG	Regional Water Management Group
SWP	State Water Project
WRAC	Water Resources Advisory Committee
WSA	Water Service Amount

## Chapter 1. REDUCING DELTA WATER DEPENDENCE

Attachment 13 consists of a summary with exhibits of the portions of the San Luis Obispo County Region’s (Region) adopted IRWM Plan that address how implementation of the Region’s IRWM Plan will reduce dependence on the water supply from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and assurance that any revised or subsequent IRWM Plan will continue to help reduce dependence on the Delta for water supply.

### 1.1 ADOPTED PLAN SUMMARY

The San Luis Obispo County Region’s IRWM Plan<sup>1</sup> (Plan) includes reduction of dependence on imported water in its Water Supply goal (Exhibit 1):

*“Improve regional water supply reliability and security, **reduce dependence on imported water**, reduce water rights disputes and protect watershed communities from drought with a focus on interagency conjunctive use of regional water resources without unfairly burdening communities, neighborhoods or individuals.”*

The Region’s only imported supply is via the State Water Project, which is supplied by water imported from Northern California via the Delta and subsequent infrastructure (see **Figure 1-1**). **Table 1-1** lists the entities within the Region that receive State Water, their water service amounts and their drought buffer allocations (described in the next section), and **Table 1-1** is a map of the Region showing the location of State Water facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> San Luis Obispo County. “San Luis IRWM Plan – Section C.” 2007.

## 1.2 DELTA WATER USE IN THE REGION

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) owns and operates the State Water Project (SWP). It is the largest state-built water and power project in the United States. The SWP first started delivering water to Californians in the 1960s and in 1963 the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), which is the lead agency for the Region, contracted with DWR for **25,000 acre feet per year (AFY)** of State Water. The SWP began delivering water to the Central Coast in 1997 upon completion of the Coastal Branch conveyance and treatment facilities, serving Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.



Figure 1-1. Region State Water Project Facilities

Table 1-1. Region State Water Project Subcontractors (all unit AFY)<sup>2</sup>

Contractor	Water Service Amount	Drought Buffer	Total Reserved
<b>Chorro Valley Turnout</b>			
Morro Bay, City of	1,313	2,290	3,603
California Mens Colony	400	400	800
County Operations Center	425	425	850
Cuesta College	200	200	400
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>3,315</b>	<b>5,653</b>
<b>Lopez Turnout</b>			
Pismo Beach, City of	1,240	1,240	2,480
Oceano CSD	750	0	750
San Miguelito MWC	275	275	550
Avila Beach CSD	100	0	100
Avila Valley MWC	20	60	80
San Luis Coastal USD	7	7	14
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>3,974</b>
Shandon	100	0	100
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>9,727</b>

The treatment facility for State Water delivered through the Coastal Branch, known as the Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant (PPWTP), is owned, operated and maintained by the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) for users in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The Coastal Branch conveyance system is owned by DWR, which also operates and maintains the raw water portion of the system. The portion of the aqueduct that conveys treated water is operated and maintained by CCWA. Agreements between CCWA, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, District and DWR are in place to establish these roles and relationships.

In San Luis Obispo County, decisions were made in the early 1990's by local municipalities and water purveyors that led to Water Service Amount (WSA)

requests for portions of the District's 25,000 AFY allocation of State Water. After extensive policy discussions regarding the use of State Water, the District entered into Water Supply Agreements with the agencies identified in Table 13-1. Master Water Treatment and Coastal Branch construction agreements

<sup>2</sup>This San Luis Obispo Region Integrated Water Management Proposal includes a project to construct a water turnout facility that will connect the water distribution system for County Service Area 16 (CSA 16) in Shandon, CA to the State Water Project pipeline. The community deferred building the turnout facilities due to cost when Phase II of the Coastal Branch and other turnouts in the Region were constructed in the 1990s. The Shandon State Water Turnout Project will allow CSA 16 to access and distribute its existing State Water allocation of 100 acre-feet per year to the community of Shandon (Table 13-1). Consistent with the IRWM Plan water supply goal, connecting Shandon to the State Water system will diversify its supply so that, when available, State Water can be used in lieu of the groundwater basin, and vice versa. The ability to conjunctively use supplies to allow for periods of groundwater basin recovery will reduce the dependence on State Water alone.

with CCWA were also approved for treatment of **4,830 AFY** of State Water, the cumulative total of WSA requests.

The SWP is considered a supplementary source of water supply as hydrologic variability, maintenance schedules, and repair requirements can cause reduced deliveries or complete shut down of the delivery system. Since delivery to the Central Coast began, the SWP has provided between 50 and 100 percent of the contracted allocations, but drought coupled with pumping restrictions in consideration of endangered species habitat lowered that amount to 35 percent in 2008 and 40 percent in 2009. To receive a greater portion of State Water, up to their full WSAs, during these shortages, most agencies have entered into “**Drought Buffer Water Agreements**”<sup>3</sup> with the District for use of an additional portion of the District’s SWP allocation, as shown in Table 13-1. For example, when the SWP can only deliver 50% of contracted allocations, an agency with a 100 AFY WSA and a 100 AFY drought buffer allocation can still receive its 100 AFY WSA – 50% of their 100 AFY WSA plus 50% of their 100 AFY drought buffer allocation equals 100 AFY<sup>3</sup>. **Use of Drought Buffer Agreements is one mechanism by which dependence on Delta water is inherently reduced in the Region.**

Table 13-1 also illustrates that the District has 15,273 AFY of unsubscribed SWP allocation (District allocation [25,000 AFY] minus Total Reserved [9,727 AFY] equals 15,273 AFY), commonly referred to as the “excess allocation.”<sup>3</sup> Hydraulics, treatment plant capacity, and contractual terms and conditions limit how the excess allocation can be used. **This physical limitation on the amount of water the Region can receive from the Delta is another mechanism by which dependence on Delta water is inherently reduced in the Region.** Additionally, options for use of this excess allocation in years that it is available that help to reduce dependence on the water when it is not available are included in the Plan as discussed in the next section.

### **1.3 RELEVANT PLAN OBJECTIVES AND PROJECTS**

The Region’s Plan includes four (4) Water Supply objectives and two (2) Groundwater Monitoring and Management objectives (listed below) that relate to the goal of reducing dependence on Delta water by either optimizing the use of the Delta water when it is available or look to other sources of supply. Detailed descriptions of these objectives are included in the Region’s Plan<sup>4</sup> and as Exhibit 2 of this attachment. Examples of projects in the Region’s Plan<sup>5</sup> that implement these objectives are included below and as Exhibit 3 of this attachment.

#### ***Water Supply Objectives***

- 1. Implement inter-agency projects including emergency inter-ties between systems, jointly developed facilities, water exchanges, and other methods of enhancing reliability through cooperative efforts over the development of new supplies.*
- 2. Maximize water conservation for both M&I and agricultural uses.*
- 3. Expand desalination water opportunities by 2010.*
- 4. Expand reclaimed water use to make up 5% of total water use by 2010 and 10% of total water use by 2020.*

#### ***Groundwater Monitoring and Management Objectives***

- 1. Evaluate and consider Groundwater Banking Programs.*

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<sup>3</sup> San Luis Obispo County Water Resources Division of Public Works. “SLOCountyWater.org.” 2013.

<sup>4</sup> San Luis Obispo County. “San Luis IRWM Plan – Section C.” 2007.

<sup>5</sup> San Luis Obispo County. “San Luis IRWM Plan – Section D.” 2007.

2. *Recharge ground water with high quality water.*

Table D1.2 of the Region’s Plan<sup>5</sup> demonstrates which projects and programs in the Plan meet these water supply and groundwater objectives. Section D of the Region’s Plan<sup>5</sup> includes descriptions of the projects and programs listed below that meet these objectives.

**Example Projects and Programs from the Plan within this Proposal that will Reduce Dependence on Imported Water:**

- City of Paso Robles Nacimiento Water Treatment Plant
- San Simeon Small Scale Recycled Water Project

## **1.4 RETAINING THE REDUCING DELTA WATER DEPENDENCE OBJECTIVE IN FUTURE PLANS**

The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) Memorandum of Understanding<sup>6</sup> (MOU) (Exhibit 4) includes the need to update the Plan to comply with new State guidelines. Since the new State guidelines include eligibility standards for including addressing reduction in dependence on Delta water in the Plan, future updates to the Region’s Plan will retain applicable goals and objectives.

Additionally, San Luis Obispo County’s Conservation and Open Space Element (COSE) of the General Plan was recently updated to include Water Resources Policy 1.3, which says use of reclaimed water, interagency cooperative projects, desalination of contaminated groundwater supplies, and groundwater recharge projects **should be considered prior to using imported sources of water** or seawater desalination, or dams and on-stream reservoirs<sup>7</sup> (Exhibit 5). Per Provision 4 of the MOU, the San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is the lead agency for the RWMG, and the District’s Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) is both the main advisor to the RWMG and made up of RWMG members. The WRAC reviewed and commented on the update to the COSE on September 2, 2009, with no changes recommended for the wording in the policy summarized above (Exhibit 5). Therefore, updates of the Region’s Plan<sup>7</sup> will retain the goals for reducing dependence on imported water independent of State guidelines and eligibility requirements.

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<sup>6</sup> San Luis Obispo County. “Integrated Regional Water Management Program Participants Memorandum of Understanding.” 2012.

<sup>7</sup> County of San Luis Obispo. “County of San Luis Obispo General Plan – Conservation of Open Space Element.” 2010.



### State Water Project History

**1963:** San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SLO County) enters into agreement with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for 25,000 Acre-Feet per Year of State Water Allocation.

**1992-1993:** 4,830 Acre-Feet of State Water allotted to various SLO County sub-contractors.

**1994-1998:** Polonio Pass Water Treatment Plant and pipeline design and construction; SLO County contracts with the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) for water treatment plant and pipeline operation and maintenance.

**1997:** Drought buffer agreements established as 'insurance' for dry years: 3,657 Acre-Feet total drought buffer allocated.

### Documents and Resources

- State Water Fact Sheet
- Capacity Study
- State Water Project Map - Statewide
- State Water Project Map - Coastal Branch
- Sanitary Survey Update Report 2001
- CCWA 2010 Urban Water Management Plan
- Board of Supervisors Policy on Excess State Water Supply - January 2003

### July 18, 1997: Water Flows

Sub-contractor	Water Service Amount	Drought Buffer	Total Reserved
<i>Chorro Valley Turnout</i>		~\$1,100 per AF	
City of Morro Bay	1,313	2,290	3,603
CA Men's Colony	400	400	800
County OP Center	425	425	850
Cuesta College	200	200	400
<i>Lopez Turnout</i>		~\$1,000 per AF	
City of Pismo Beach	1,240	1,240	2,480
Oceano CSD	750	0	750
San Miguelito MWC	275	275	550
Avila Beach CSD	100	0	100
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Shandon	100	0	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,830</b>	<b>4,897</b>	<b>9,727</b>



### Relations with the Central Coast Water Authority

- Exploring options to maximize use of facilities and allocations.
- Protecting the contractual rights of existing sub-contractor pipeline capacity is critical while exploring options for future use.
- Any new sub-contractor would need to 'Buy In' through

### Excess Allocation