

No. 48 - Fremont Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Region

Region Acceptance Process Summary

General Description of Region

The Fremont Basin Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region occupies an enclosed watershed in the southern half of the Lahontan Hydrologic Region. It fills an existing void area and is surrounded by the Inyo-Mono to the North, Kern to the west, Antelope Valley to the south, and the Mojave to the east. Small parts of the watershed are included in the boundaries of neighboring IRWM regions, but there are no significant overlaps.

The only entity with water management authority thus far that has agreed to form the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is the City of California City. It is not certain that other entities, such as the Mojave Public Utilities District, County of Kern, or the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency are willing to participate in the RWMG. Additional RWMG members are necessary to meet CWC §10539 requirements. The applicant has discussed possible consolidation with the Inyo-Mono IRWM region.

The overriding water management issue for the region appears to be groundwater management and determining a long-term safe yield available to support development of existing lots. There are also existing water and sewer infrastructure needs, many developed parcels having inadequate water supply lines or lacking public sewer.

Interview Conclusions - Approved

The applicant and RAP materials presented a clear rationale for the boundaries of the proposed region; therefore, the region is approved. To be eligible for Proposition 84 funding, the Fremont Basin RWMG must expand their RWMG to include entities necessary to develop and implement the IRWM Plan (California Water Code §10539). However, the applicant can compete for planning grant funding, which may assist it, in addition to other IRWM planning activities, in resolving concerns about the composition of the RWMG.