

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WESTSIDE SACRAMENTO
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to implement the Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Westside IRWMP) by the Westside Sacramento Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). The RWMG consists of the Lake County Watershed Protection District, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Solano County Water Agency, and Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency. The basis of the designation of the Westside Sacramento Region (Region) is generally the Putah and Cache Creek watersheds, as shown in Exhibit A. Implementation of the Westside IRWMP will increase regional coordination, collaboration, and communication regarding water issues among stakeholders in the Region. Implementation of the Westside IRWMP will also assist in obtaining funding for flood management, habitat restoration, and water-related projects that fulfill the goals and objectives of the Westside IRWMP.

This MOU supersedes the MOU signed by the RWMG in September of 2010, and amended in January and July of 2013, to develop the Westside IRWMP.

2. GOALS

To foster coordination, collaboration, and communication between the RWMG and other agencies responsible for water resources-related issues and interested stakeholders to achieve greater efficiencies, to provide for integration of projects, enhance public services, and build public support for vital projects.

To implement the Westside IRWMP to facilitate regional cooperation towards the challenges and opportunities in water supply reliability, water recycling, water conservation, water quality improvement, stormwater capture and management, flood management, wetlands enhancement and creation, and environmental and habitat protection and improvements.

The goals and objectives of the Westside IRWMP are detailed in Section 6 of the Westside IRWMP.

3. DEFINITIONS

Coordinating Committee: A committee comprised of representatives of the RWMG to work with other Regions in the Sacramento River Funding Area and the state to manage the Westside IRWMP and to seek out and apply for funding for projects and programs that address the goals and objectives of the Westside IRWMP.

Interested Parties: Entities, such as governments, agencies, business organizations, non-profit groups, tribes, and Public Utility Commission-regulated entities interested in ensuring long-term water supply, water quality, flood management, and water-related natural resources.

Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management Plan: The Westside IRWMP was prepared pursuant to California Water Code section 10530 et sec. It integrates the projects and management plans of water resource-related agencies and stakeholder organizations located in a defined region, in this case, the Westside Sacramento Region of the Sacramento River Proposition 84 Funding Area, in order to foster coordination, collaboration, and communication among those entities and to assist decision-makers in identifying and applying for grants and other funding in support of identified regional goals and objectives.

Westside Sacramento Regional Water Management Group: The RWMG consists of the Lake County Watershed Protection District, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Solano County Water Agency, and Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency and are signatories to this MOU.

4. IRWMP PARTICIPANTS

Westside IRWMP participants include the RWMG and any stakeholders interested in water-related issues in the Region.

5. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Need for an IRWMP

Integrated regional water management fosters increased coordination, collaboration and communication between water-related agencies and interested stakeholders that may result in more effectively managed resources, cost efficiencies, and better service to the public.

In addition, a qualified IRWMP is required by state law for receiving IRWMP implementation grants from Proposition 84 funds and will likely be required for any future state funding programs.

Scope of the IRWMP

The Westside IRWMP defines a clear vision for the management of water resources in the Region and highlights important actions needed to accomplish that vision through the year 2035. The Westside IRWMP is intended to be a useful planning tool, and nothing more. It does not provide discretionary approval for any given project. Rather, it provides a framework for improved understanding and actions to address the major water-related challenges and opportunities facing the Region through the planning horizon.

Geographical Scope of the IRWMP

The boundaries of the Westside Sacramento Region of the Proposition 84 Sacramento River Funding Area are shown in in Exhibit A.

6. GOVERNANCE

One of the key considerations for the Westside IRWMP is the governance structure chosen to perform the tasks necessary to develop and implement the Westside IRWMP. Section 11 of the Westside IRWMP provides the details of the governance structure to be used to implement and update the Westside IRWMP over the next 12 years (through 2035); it is summarized below.

The RWMG Governing Boards have appointed representatives to the Coordinating Committee (CC), comprised of one staff representative and an alternate from each member of the RWMG. All CC meetings will be compliant with the Brown Act (Government Code sections 54950-54963).

As described in the Governance Section of the Westside IRWMP, the CC will be responsible for coordinating implementation of the Westside IRWMP including, but not limited to, promoting progress on Westside IRWMP objectives, conducting stakeholder meetings, engaging the public, maintaining the Westside IRWMP website, pursuing grant funds for implementation, coordinating related efforts, finance implementation coordination activities, updating the project list, and, subject to the RWMG Governing Boards approval, updating the Westside IRWMP. Any decisions by the CC shall not cause an increase in expenditures beyond amounts authorized by the RWMG per the Cost Share provision of this MOU.

The CC will have a Chair and Vice Chair; the Chair shall be responsible for coordinating and running meetings as described in the Governance Section of the Westside IRWMP.

A summary of the major Governance components is found below, detailed descriptions of each component are found in Section 11 of the Westside IRWMP.

Decision Making

Decisions authorized by the RWMG, through their representatives on the CC, will continue to be made using broad stakeholder agreement as during development of the Westside IRWMP. If broad agreement cannot be made, the CC will vote on decisions, with a simple majority vote required for final decisions.

Roles and Responsibilities

Long-term Implementation of the IRWMP

Implementation of the Westside IRWMP will rely on actions taken by existing agencies and organizations within the Region. The RWMG as represented by the CC will provide leadership for

fostering cooperation, continuing coordination, tracking of Westside IRWMP performance, and updating the Westside IRWMP.

Public Involvement Processes

CC/Stakeholder input meetings will be held quarterly, or as needed, to discuss implementation issues. The CC may convene additional meetings as necessary to support fulfilling the objectives of the Westside IRWMP. The meetings will be announced and open to the public.

Coordination with Neighboring IRWMP Efforts, State Agencies, and Federal Agencies

Members of the CC will engage with neighboring IRWMP efforts and continue to communicate with California Department of Water Resources and other state and federal agencies that have interests or could impact meeting the objectives of the Westside IRWMP.

Making Changes to the IRWMP

The CC will review the Westside IRWMP at least once every five years to determine if the content needs to be changed in a significant way.

If significant changes are needed, the CC will lead the process for revising the Westside IRWMP. Once substantial revisions are made, the CC will request that the RWMG and project proponents adopt the revised Westside IRWMP.

Updating the IRWMP Project List

The CC may add projects to the Westside IRWMP, without formally amending the Westside IRWMP, that further the goals and objectives of the Westside IRWMP. The CC will invite stakeholders and project proponents at least once per year to submit additional projects for consideration to be included in the Westside IRWMP or updates to projects already included in the Westside IRWMP.

Pursue Funding for Implementation

The RWMG will not serve as fiscal agent for funding opportunities, but rather help identify a willing agency or organization with the appropriate authority and financial conditions to serve as a fiscal agency for each specific funding opportunity that is pursued.

As described in the Westside IRWMP, the CC will research, help identify and pursue funding opportunities that could help implement the projects and meet the objectives included in the Westside IRWMP.

Term

This MOU shall take effect upon signature or counter signature of the authorized representatives of the RWMG. This MOU shall expire on December 31, 2035, or upon its replacement by a subsequent MOU, or other instrument.

Cost Share

The CC will prepare an annual operating budget, linked to an annual work plan, to fulfill the roles of the CC. This budget will be presented and discussed at a CC/Stakeholder meeting. The RWMG (and potentially other agencies/organizations within the Region) may provide funds or in-kind services to fulfill the roles of the CC for the purposes of implementing the Westside IRWMP. The CC may direct the expenditure of funds for any roles defined for the CC in support of the Westside IRWMP.

The RWMG authorized \$80,000 as an initial operating budget for fiscal year 2013/2014 towards implementation of the Westside IRWMP, with each RWMG partner contributing \$20,000 in funds. As of 2022/2023, the CC has amended the annual contributions to \$21,500 per participating agency for a yearly operating budget of \$86,000.

The level and allocation of cash and in-kind services contributed by the RWMG members and other contributing agencies/organizations within the Region to fulfill the roles of the CC for the purposes of implementing the Westside IRWMP will be reviewed, adjusted, and approved by each RWMG member on an annual basis.

Withdrawal from the MOU

If any of the RWMG desires to withdraw from this MOU once adopted, the following conditions must be followed:

- 1) Written notification of intent to withdraw from the MOU must be submitted to all RWMG members;
- 2) Withdrawal from this MOU may occur at any time with 90 days written notice. However, once a RWMG member makes a payment for annual funding for implementation of the Westside IRWMP, no refunds of that contribution are made in the event of a withdrawal.

Personnel

It is expected that RWMG members will contribute the staff time necessary to meet the goals of this MOU.

Reports and Communications

Members of the CC will regularly report on the status of the Westside IRWMP to the RWMG and stakeholders. An annual report detailing project and program work completed, outreach and coordination, and the annual work plan and budget shall be prepared for the RWMG in the first quarter of each year.

Execution

This MOU may be executed in counterparts and the signed counterparts shall constitute a single instrument. The signatories to this MOU represent that they have the authority to bind their respective agency to this MOU.

7. SIGNATORIES OF THE MEMORANDUM OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS

We the undersigned representatives of our respective agencies, acknowledge the above as our understanding of the implementation of the Westside Sacramento Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Ronald Knott, Chair, Solano County Water Agency Date

Gary Sandy, Chair, Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Date

Ryan Gregory, Chair, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Date
[PL No 89049]

Jessica Pyska, Chair, Lake County Watershed Protection District Date

EXHIBIT A

Map of the Westside Sub-Region of the Sacramento River Funding Area

