

Yuba County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Submitted to:
Yuba County IRWM Plan Water Management Group

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AWMP	Agricultural Water Management Plan
BMO	Basin Management Objectives
BMP	best management practices
BO	Biological Opinions
BVID	Browns Valley Irrigation District
BWD	Brophy Water District
CABY	Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
cfs	cubic feet per second
CFWID	Camp Far West Irrigation District
CID	Cordua Irrigation District
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CVHJV	Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture
CWC	California Water Code
DCMWC	Dry Creek Mutual Water Company
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
DPS	Distinct Population Segment
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ERPP	Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan
EWA	Environmental Water Account
EWMP	efficient water management practices
F-CO	Forecast-Coordinated Operations
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency



GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment
GMP	Groundwater Management Plan
GRR	General Reevaluation Report
HIC	Hallwood Irrigation Company
IRWM Plan	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
LCWD	Linda County Water District
M&I	Municipal & Industrial
Management Group	Regional Water Management Group
MCL	maximum contaminant level
MGD	million gallons per day
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSCS	Multi-Species Conservation Strategy
NGO	non-governmental agencies
NGVD	National Geodetic Vertical Datum
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NYWD	North Yuba Water District
OPUD	Olivehurst Public Utility District
PAEP	Performance Assessment and Evaluation Plan
PIR	Problem Identification Report
PMWC	Plumas Mutual Water Company
PUD	Public Utilities District
RCD	Resource Conservation District
RCP	reinforced concrete pipe
RD	Revised Decision
RFMP	regional flood management plan
RWD	Ramirez Water District

RWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SFFRP	South Fork Feather River Project
SFWPA	South Feather Water and Power Agency
SOI	sphere of influence
SSID	South Sutter Irrigation District
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resource Control Board
SYWD	South Yuba Water District
TRLIA	Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority
TTU	tertiary treatment unit
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
WWD	Wheatland Water District
WWTF	wastewater treatment facility
YCWA	Yuba County Water Agency
Y-FRFP	Yuba-Feather River Flood Protection
Y-FSFCP	Yuba-Feather Supplemental Flood Control Project
Y-FWG	Yuba-Feather Work Group

Executive Summary

For more than a decade, water agencies within Yuba County have worked together to improve water management in the region by addressing local issues such as providing flood protection to protect lives and property, and providing reliable water supplies to meet agricultural and urban water needs while protecting the fisheries and riparian resources of the Yuba River.

In 2005, local agencies and stakeholders in Yuba County met and agreed to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan). The IRWM Plan would address local water management issues for the communities within Yuba County on a regional perspective. The goal of the IRWM Plan is to continue to build upon past efforts to capitalize on present and future water management opportunities, including improving flood protection, water supply reliability, and other water resources needs in an environmentally appropriate approach that maximizes the benefits for the citizens of Yuba County.

Development of a comprehensive and coordinated regional water management plan for Yuba County involved the cooperation of many parties interested in water management in the region. Through the stakeholder outreach efforts included during the development of the IRWM Plan, the eight original water agencies that formed the Regional Water Management Group (Management Group) was expanded to 11. Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) served as the regional lead agency in the coordinated development of the IRWM Plan, including the stakeholder outreach. YCWA also served as the lead agency for the Management Group in the preparation of the Proposition 50 IRWMP Planning Grant Application, which funded the preparation of the Yuba County IRWM Plan. The members of the Management Group include:

- Yuba County Water Agency (Lead Agency)
- Reclamation District 784
- Linda County Water District
- Brown's Valley Irrigation District
- City of Marysville
- Olivehurst Public Utility District



- Yuba County
- North Yuba Water District (formerly Yuba County Water District)
- Yuba City
- City of Wheatland
- Yuba County Resource Conservation District

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Area

The Yuba County IRWM Plan area includes the valley floor area and the foothill/mountain areas of the county, which face a variety of water management challenges resulting from natural and man-made conditions. Much of the Plan Area has been identified as disadvantaged, which presents additional challenges regarding the funding and implementation of projects and programs.

- The valley floor portion of the county overlies the alluvial aquifer system of the Sacramento Valley. Good soils and access to surface and groundwater supplies have developed and supported the agricultural economy of the region. Recent increases in urbanization have resulted in changes in water supply requirements and supply sources.
- In contrast, the foothill/mountain areas have a much less intensive agricultural and urban development. Water supply availability and reliability is one of the primary issues because of the lack of groundwater and difficulty moving water from the rivers to the areas of use across the rugged terrain.

Households in much of the Plan Area have a low annual income and have been identified as disadvantaged by the State. Historically, the low population base and limited financial resources have presented challenges to the area to fund and implement water management projects and programs.

Much of the region's present and future population growth is expected to occur on the valley floor area, where many of the low lying areas are at risk of regional flooding from the Yuba, Feather, or Bear rivers or of local flooding from stormwater runoff.

The changes in land use patterns and the associated changes in water use and supply source, changes in regulatory requirements, and hydrologic uncertainty have resulted in the need for improved surface water and groundwater supply reliability for agricultural and urban water users.

The concentration of the urban areas adjacent to the rivers has led to the investigation of recycled water opportunities in the Sutter-Yuba region. These opportunities extend beyond Yuba County to the west across the Feather River to include Yuba City. As a result, the IRWM Plan Area is expanded to include the Yuba City sphere of influence to identify water recycling opportunities.

Developing the IRWM Plan

From the beginning, the RWMG encouraged all stakeholders and interested parties to participate in the development of the Yuba County IRWM Plan. The Plan will be used by the Management Group and by the individual local agencies to provide guidance on water management planning and support the implementation of projects and programs that improve water management in the Plan Area. Public participation will continue to be encouraged and promoted, and will be an essential part of the implementation of projects and refinement of the IRWM Plan.

Many of the water management issues in the region have been identified and described through the prior work completed by the local agencies. These efforts developed the foundational documents for the region and were relied on by the Management Group during the development of the IRWM Plan to identify the most pressing issues and support the development of solutions. Some of these foundational efforts include:

- Preparation and adoption of the Yuba County Groundwater Management Plan.
- Preparation of the technical documents in support of the Proposed Lower Yuba River Accord EIR/EIS.
- Completion of the Yuba-Feather Supplemental Flood Protection Project and supporting documentation.
- Formation of the Three River Levee Improvement Authority and implementation of levee improvements along the Bear, Feather, and Yuba rivers.
- Preparation and adoption of urban water management plans.
- Completion of specific plan amendments and general plan updates.

One of the first steps of the IRWM Plan included identifying the most important water management issues in the Plan Area and formulating the water management objectives for the region, which provide the overarching statements that define the desired outcome from implementation of the Plan. The Management Group identified the following as the most important water resources issues to the region:



- Providing local flood protection and regional flood management
- Improving water supply reliability for all water uses
- Providing groundwater management to protect and utilize the groundwater resources in a sustainable manner
- Protecting the fishery and riparian resources of the Yuba River
- Protecting and improving water quality
- Expanding recreation and public access opportunities along water features in Yuba County
- Expanding water recycling and reuse opportunities

Water Management Strategies

A wide range of water management strategies are identified in the IRWMP Guidelines. Some of these strategies overlap with the resources management strategies included in the California Department of Water Resources Water Plan Update 2005.

The Management Group used these lists of water management strategies to be responsive to the IRWMP Guidelines, evaluate the comprehensive list of potential strategies, and guide the development of strategies that address the most pressing water management issues in the Plan Area. The Management Group identified the following as the most important strategies:

- Flood Management
- Water Supply Reliability
- Water Quality Protection and Improvement
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Water Recycling and Reuse
- Recreation and Public Access

The complex and integrated nature of water resources in the county is reflected in the relationships between water management issues and requires integration of these strategies to meet the differing needs in a cost-effective manner. In addition, strategies

need to be prioritized to address the most pressing issues such as public safety. During the development of the IRWM Plan, over 65 projects were identified by the individual project proponents that support the implementation of these strategies. These projects were evaluated, screened, and prioritized by the Management Group to guide the order of implementation.

Plan Adoption and Implementation

Following a public review of the Draft Plan, the Management Group adopted the Yuba County IRWM Plan in February 2008. This was followed by adoption of the Plan by the individual members of the Management Group.

The Management Group plans to utilize an adaptive management approach to maintain and update the Plan, and project prioritization to keep them current with changing conditions in the Region. This will include periodic review of the water management strategies and preparation of periodic updates of the Plan.