

NORTH COAST INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning Program created with the passage of Proposition 50 in 2002, has provided opportunities for the North Coast to work collaboratively on water and energy management challenges to reduce conflicts, integrate federal, state, regional and local priorities and utilize a multi-benefit approach to identify and seek funding for the highest priority project needs throughout the region. The overarching themes of the North Coast IRWM Plan include salmonid recovery, enhancing beneficial uses of water, intra-regional cooperation, energy independence and climate change mitigation & adaptation, and enhancing public health and economic vitality in disadvantaged communities.

The North Coast IRWM Plan has ranked number one in numerous solicitations for Proposition 50 funds and has brought more than \$35M in water and energy-related grant funding to the North Coast, while leveraging more than \$88M in local matching funds.

MoMU - The NCIWMP's process is guided by a Memorandum of Mutual Understandings (MOMU), a non-binding, cooperative agreement intended to establish the mutual understandings of North Coast stakeholders with respect to their joint efforts towards implementing the IRWMP for the North Coast region. The existing MOMU currently includes more than 90 signatories ranging from local governments, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, resource conservation districts, watershed groups and interested stakeholders and describes the goals and decision-making framework.

Tribal Representation - Recently a coalition of North Coast Tribes presented a proposal for formal inclusion in the governance structure of the North Coast IRWM Planning process. The MOMU has been revised and adopted by all seven counties to: expand representation on the Policy and Technical Committees to include Tribal representatives and require the Policy Review Panel's adherence to the Ralph M. Brown Act, ensuring a process that is open, transparent and inclusive to all stakeholders.

Proposition 84 - The North Coast has been recommended to receive a \$1M IRWM Planning Grant from Proposition 84 which includes funding to provide technical support to identify and develop integrated water management project proposals on Tribal lands, support targeted outreach to North Coast Tribes and facilitate Tribal representation in the NCIWMP planning and implementation processes.

In January 2011, the North Coast submitted an implementation application for Proposition 84 IRWM grant funding requesting \$8.2M for the North Coast region. Ten of the nineteen projects put forth in this Proposal benefit Tribal lands, restore or enhance the cultural value of wild lands, or provide water quality or supply benefits to Native American communities. Four of the project proponents are Native American Tribal Groups with a combined funding amount of \$1.89M. With the recent inclusion of three Tribal members on the Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee, the NCIWMP planning process now has a governance structure that more comprehensively considers Tribal water and natural resource issues in its planning and implementation priorities.

Please visit <http://www.northcoastirwmp.net> for more information about the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan or contact Karen Gaffney at kgaffney@westcoastwatershed.com or 707.433.7377.



The NCIWMP boundary includes seven counties and 12% of California's landscape, making it the largest IRWM region in the state.