

Chapter 11: Plan Performance and Monitoring

Introduction

Fundamental to successfully implementing the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan is the means to monitor and evaluate progress. Doing so allows the IM-RWMP an opportunity to determine whether the short and long-term goals and objectives are being achieved. Developing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation protocol provides an opportunity



to modify elements of the Plan based on an adaptive management approach. The following sections provide information relative to (1) performance measures to be developed for evaluating the Plan's implementation, (2) entities to be involved in, and timing associated with, evaluation activities, (3) the development of project monitoring plans, and (4) how information derived from monitoring and evaluation activities will be used.

Performance measures and entity(ies) responsible for IRWM Plan implementation evaluation, project-specific monitoring plans and activities

Plan implementation evaluation

The Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan implementation will be evaluated based on the use of performance measures, quality assurance procedures, and through periodic assessments (proposed to be conducted on at least a semi-annual basis). These evaluation approaches are to be based primarily on performance measures (performance monitoring). Performance monitoring will be employed with the intent of monitoring the performance of management actions and in doing so, monitor the success of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Planning effort¹. In particular, performance of

¹ Much of the proposed monitoring actions are derived from those developed for the Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba (CABY) IRWM Plan. In reviewing the CABY IRWM Plan, and given the many similarities between the two planning

management monitoring will be established enabling an objective evaluation of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan relative to established objectives and resource management strategies agreed upon by members of the I-M RWMG.

In the initial process of implementing the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan, a series of measures and/or indicators will be developed that are linked to the agreed upon objectives of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan. These, at a minimum will include three types of performance indicators: 1) administrative indicator; 2) output indicators, and 3) outcome indicators. A description of the three types of performance indicators above are provided below.

- Administrative indicators will be used to evaluate progress being made by the Inyo-Mono Project Staff, Phase I Fiscal Agent, project proponents, and others that may be responsible for supporting the implementation of the Phase I Plan. Indicators yet to be determined may include, but will not be limited to, such metrics as the number of Planning and Administrative Committee meetings convened, the number of targeted outreach meetings convened, timeliness of project reporting and administrative obligations, and the amount of funding secured in support of Phase I Plan implementation.
- Output indicators will be used to measure the overall progress associated with implementing the Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan. Output indicators will closely correspond to how projects are achieving their intended goals. Specific indicators may include such things as the number of replaced wells, the number of infrastructure improvements specific to improving water quality, the number of water conservation initiatives implanted, the number of acres reclaimed from invasive species, and the progress of the project in relation to its schedule.
- Outcome indicators will include indicators that evaluate either in a quantitative or qualitative manner the effects of projects that implement the Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan. Outcome indicators may include such metrics as the quantity of reclaimed water, the acre feet of water conserved via a water conservation initiative, the amount of water quality that was improved, and the amount of native vegetation restored.

Each of the proposed performance indicators will be used to more broadly evaluate progress being made by the Inyo-Mono RWMG, provide relevant information necessary to facilitate an adaptive management strategy, and provide relevant information needed to keep the general public and policy makers informed as to the success, challenges, and shortfalls of the Inyo-Mono IRWM planning effort.

regions, the proposed monitoring actions within the CABY IRWM Plan are considered to be applicable to the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan as well. As such, the I-M RWMG would like to acknowledge the efforts of those involved with the CABY planning effort.

Specific indicators relevant to evaluating the Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan will be developed during the first quarter of the Plan's implementation. *Three main entities will be responsible for developing specific indicators as well as evaluating the overall effectiveness of the Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.* They are: Inyo-Mono Project Staff, Phase I Fiscal Agent personnel, and a workgroup to be made up of RWMG members and participants. Combined, these entities will serve as members of an Evaluation Work Group to be established at the onset of the Plan's implementation.

Project specific monitoring plans and activities

Per the requirements of Prop. 84 Implementation PSP, each project proponent is to include in its proposal submission specific information with respect to monitoring, assessment, and performance measures (Worksheet 6). For each of the projects that are awarded funding, the monitoring, assessment, and performance measures will provide the basis for a monitoring plan necessary to evaluate progress being made towards the Plan's implementation. Such evaluations will be conducted by the Evaluation Work Group described above.

Frequency of evaluating RWMG performance in Plan implementation

The frequency for evaluating the Inyo-Mono RWMG performance for the Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan will be dictated primarily by reporting requirements set forth within final contracts established among funding sources and recipients - the CA Department of Water Resources and/or other funding entities, the Fiscal Agent responsible for administering Implementation funding, and project proponents themselves. It is anticipated that evaluations will be initiated approximately six months after the Plan's implementation.

Data management system for tracking implementation performance

Based on the various performance measures agreed upon by the Inyo-Mono RWMG and approved monitoring plans, a database will be created to house all Plan and project implementation monitoring and evaluation information. This database and a mechanism to allow for tracking implementation performance will be developed in a manner consistent with the information provided in Chapter 12 (Data Management and Technical Analysis).

Process for lessons learned to be implemented in future Plans

The I-M RWMG firmly believes in an active adaptive management approach to developing and implementing future plan(s). As such, it is the intent of Project Staff and others involved with the Evaluation Work Group to utilize the information derived from monitoring and evaluation of the Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan implementation in a manner that facilitates modifications necessary to ensure projects achieve their intended objectives. In addition to monitoring and evaluation of specific projects, Project Staff will coordinate with members of the Evaluation Work

Group and the Administrative Committee on a quarterly basis to assess progress relative to the Plan's implementation, including progress made towards revisions to the Inyo-Mono Phase I IRWM Plan. Doing so on an iterative basis and at regular intervals will enable Project Staff an opportunity to modify strategies and approaches as needed.

Timing of development of project-specific monitoring plan

Project proponents are required to provide information in their project proposals specific to monitoring, assessments, and measures enabling evaluations of projects to be conducted. Working collaboratively with the Evaluation Work Group, project proponents will implement necessary monitoring plans based on the prescriptions within each monitoring plan and on regularly established schedules.

Required contents of project-specific monitoring plan

In accordance with the requirements of Prop. 84 Implementation Guidelines, the following information is to be included within each project proposal:

- Project goal(s)
- Desired outcome(s)
- Output indicators (measures to effectively track output)
- Output indicators (measures that evaluate change that is a direct result of the work)
- Measurement tools and methods
- Targets (measurable targets that are feasible to meet during the life of the proposal)

In addition to the requirements above, project proponents have the opportunity to incorporate additional elements in a given monitoring plan. While each project proponent will need to meet the minimum requirements described in the Prop. 84 Implementation Guidelines, they are not required to incorporate additional monitoring elements unless it is determined by the Evaluation Work Group and agreed to by project proponents that doing so is feasible and will benefit the outcome of the project and the implementation of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.