

Chapter 12: Data Management and Technical Analysis

Data needs within the IRWM region

Although not all data needs from RWMG participants have been identified, it has been recognized that increased monitoring of both surface water and groundwater is necessary to better understand status and trends. Monitoring of both quantity and quality is needed, and it is important to develop and support long-term monitoring programs. In addition, each individual project has its own data collection and management needs.

Description of data collection techniques and contributing data to data management system

To date, no water-related data have been specifically collected to support IRWM Plan implementation. As the Inyo-Mono RWMG moves into the implementation phase, staff will work to encourage collaboration and communication among organizations to help standardize data collection techniques when possible. State and federal programs, such as the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program, will help by providing guidance in developing data collection standards. Where and when appropriate, RWMG member organizations will be encouraged to share data with each other and to provide data to a centralized data management system.

Thus far in the Inyo-Mono IRWMP, mostly qualitative data have been collected and managed by Project Staff. These data include: RWMG participant information, meeting attendance, meeting summaries, maps, photos, outreach efforts, and other RWMG activities and informational documents. Project Staff has developed and maintains a database for RWMG participant contact information and affiliation, as well as e-mail lists for the RWMG, the Administrative Committee, and project proponents. Contact information and e-mail lists are updated as needed, and detailed notes are used in the contact information spreadsheet to explain why a contact has been removed from the list or why a new contact has been added, as well as any other pertinent information about that contact.

Geospatial data have been mostly provided and utilized by RWMG participants providing in-kind GIS expertise. The maps that have resulted from this work are maintained digitally in .pdf and .jpeg formats; however, IRWMP staff does not currently possess all the files used to create the maps and has identified a need to improve the geographic data management for the I-M IRWMP in the Planning Grant work plan.

Entity responsible for maintaining DMS

I-M IRWMP staff will be responsible for the management and analysis of relevant data, including the development of a comprehensive database necessary to house all future data needs.

Description of QA/QC measures

The owner of any data being input into the data management system, whether it is the individuals who collected the data or other representatives from the organization, will be provided with opportunity to verify the accuracy and quality of the data entered into the data management system. Outputs of the data management system will be provided to project managers on a regular basis for individual review and evaluation of the Plan's progress and accuracy.

Description of how data will be shared

Data will be shared in a variety of ways. Most often, data will be shared in the form of spreadsheets or other documents electronically via email or a website. During future Plan revisions, the Inyo-Mono website will continually be updated, and it is the intention of staff to create a password-protected page on the website where Members and stakeholders can access information and data.

Description of data management system, including how data are shared and made compatible with State and federal databases

Currently, the data management system resides on the computers of IRWMP staff. The need for extensive data analysis has been minimal thus far, so the storage of data on personal computers has been manageable. It is expected that more data and technical information will be collected and used in the development of the Phase II Plan as well as in the implementation of Round 1 projects. At that time, the needs for the data management system will be reconsidered and the system will be modified as necessary.

Similarly, there has not yet been a need for the RWMG to share data with other databases, such as with State and federal agencies. Those methods and practices will be developed as the need arises. Within the region, many entities, from water agencies to County governments, are responsible for providing their own data to larger databases. In the future, the IRWMP program can assist smaller water districts and disadvantaged communities in determining which data they need to collect and share and can provide technical guidance on the mechanics of making data available. One example is the CASGEM database as described above.

Technical information and analyses used to develop water management needs for the Plan

To date, there has not been a need for technical analysis related to I-M IRWM planning activities. Such information and analyses will be addressed on as-needed basis in order to address regional needs as well as regulatory requirements.