

## Chapter 9: Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan Implementation



### *Introduction*

Creating an effective IRWM Plan requires an understanding of the regional surroundings, demographics, and water related issues. The planning effort also must take into consideration ongoing planning efforts, data, and planning gaps, and combines all the information into a coherent and comprehensive planning tool. With such an understanding, an effective IRWM Plan then develops objectives and strategies for management of and planning for water resources. As importantly, to effectively implement an IRWM Plan, regions must create a willingness and desire on the part of community stakeholders and regional decision-makers to work together in a collaborative manner. The Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan is an

effective plan and it is ready for implementation.

### **Relation of Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan to local water and land use planning**

IRWM Plans are by nature long-term planning efforts. Fundamental to creating an effective IRWM Plan is identifying and consulting existing plans within the region to leverage ongoing efforts, minimize redundancies, and create synergies amongst and between relevant stakeholders. Moreover, in order to maximize the potential opportunity to address water-related needs in a region, an IRWM planning effort needs to be keenly aware of and integrate other planning efforts, as well as legally binding agreements that currently are in place.

Since early in the Inyo-Mono planning process, the Project Staff has strived to reach out to relevant stakeholders throughout the planning region with the primary goal of engaging as many interested community members in the Inyo-Mono planning process as desired. Project Staff was also aware of the extensive planning efforts that were completed and implemented or that were in the development process within the planning region. Thus, a second goal of broad stakeholder engagement was to acquire, first-hand, knowledge of past, existing, or future planning efforts in the region. With such information, Project Staff ensured that the development and implementation of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan *will integrate, complement, and support such planning efforts.*

Working together, Project Staff, consultants, members of the Inyo-Mono RWMG, and involved participants have endeavored to collect as many documents relevant to the Inyo-Mono planning region as possible. In doing so, this effort has resulted in a significant number of planning documents being acquired, reviewed and summarized (Appendix F). These documents include a wide array of planning efforts, legally binding agreements, regulations, and mandatory requirements. They also address issues both pertinent to land and water resources and planning. *Fundamental to the Inyo-Mono planning effort is the opportunity to more effectively integrate water and land-use planning.* The process of reviewing existing planning efforts, combined with extensive discussions amongst all involved in the Inyo-Mono planning effort, has facilitated a process of integrating information from such efforts into the development of goals, objectives, and resource management strategies relevant to the Inyo-Mono planning region (see Chapter 6).

The Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan does not knowingly conflict with any existing plan or legal agreement. Moreover, to ensure that the Plan does not conflict with plans that may be developed in the future, Project Staff will seek out and review such plans on a regular basis. Doing so will ensure the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan integrates and remains complimentary to new plans well into the future.

One significant outcome of the planning effort thus far has been the opportunity to increase and leverage collaborative and integrated planning and implementation efforts to address water related needs in the region. This has occurred primarily as a result of regularly convened meetings of the IM-RWMG. Such meetings facilitate discussions about existing planning efforts (water- and/or land-specific) as well as how the Inyo-Mono IRWM planning effort can support identified needs. Additionally, the Inyo-Mono planning effort has provided an opportunity to bring together an array of stakeholders having diverse expertise and mandates. This integration has proven to be very productive in terms of coordinating planning needs and developing strategies to address ongoing planning as an element of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.

### **Analysis of impacts and benefits of Plan implementation**

The I-M RWMG is committed to ensuring that the IRWM Plan is consistent and compatible with existing planning documents and in particular established agreements and legal obligations. Rather than confounding the present legal and regulatory environment, the IRWMP is intended to streamline and improve stakeholders' ability to operate and succeed within the current regulatory environment. Moreover, participants in the Inyo-Mono RWMG recognize the value in the Inyo-Mono IRWM planning effort in that it affords an opportunity for regional coordination and collaboration throughout the planning region itself. Indeed, the wide array of members (see Chapter 5 for a description of involved stakeholders) has committed to participating in the Inyo-Mono IRWM process as a means to leverage collaborative opportunities in order to realize efficiencies and multi-agency and topical benefits. Table 9-2 provides a summary of the expected impacts and benefits derived from the development and implementation of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.

**Table 9-2.** Impacts and benefits of Plan implementation

<b>Inyo-Mono IRWMP Objectives</b>	<b>Inyo-Mono Region</b>	
	<b><u>Potential Impacts</u></b>	<b><u>Potential Benefits</u></b>
Protect, conserve, optimize, and/or augment water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat degradation</li> <li>• Construction related delays or impacts to water supply or quality</li> <li>• Financial liability for long-term project management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New water supply systems</li> <li>• Increased reliability of water supply systems</li> <li>• Additional water supply via water conservation measures</li> </ul>
Protect, restore, and/or enhance water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat degradation</li> <li>• Construction related delays or impacts to water supply or quality</li> <li>• Financial liability for long-term project management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved water quality</li> <li>• Improved aquatic and wetland habitats</li> <li>• Improved recreational opportunities</li> <li>• Improved human health within region</li> <li>• Improved health of regional flora and fauna</li> </ul>
Provide stewardship of our natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human and financial resource burden(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration of ecosystem processes</li> <li>• Increased ecological resilience</li> <li>• Improve long-term services provided by regional resources</li> <li>• Improved health and viability of regional habitats</li> <li>• Improved health of regional flora and fauna</li> <li>• Improved recreational opportunities</li> <li>• Improved regional socio-economic conditions</li> </ul>
Maintain and/or enhance water, wastewater, and power generation infrastructure efficiency and reliability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial liability for long-term project management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reliability of water supply systems</li> <li>• Improved energy efficiency</li> <li>• Reduced potential for wastewater contamination</li> <li>• Reduced operational costs</li> </ul>
Address climate variability and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial liability for long-term project management</li> <li>• Construction related delays or impacts regional resources do to new, more efficient infrastructure and energy source</li> <li>• Increased demand for water to support “green” technology/renewable energy sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved climate change adaptability</li> <li>• Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ul>
Increase participation of small and disadvantaged communities in IRWM process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time burden</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More comprehensive understanding of the needs of DAC and Tribal entities</li> <li>• Improved ability to address water needs of DACs and Tribal entities</li> <li>• Improved of human and resource capacity</li> </ul>

The above-mentioned impacts and benefits will be reviewed throughout the Plan's duration. Based the progress of the implementation of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan, the impacts and benefits may be revised to reflect lessons learned, achieved milestones, and to document any unforeseen impacts or benefits to date.