

Executive Summary

Almost three years ago, beginning with a few individuals meeting to discuss the potential to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the eastern Sierra region, the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group (Group) was established. Initially, the goal of the Group centered on completing a planning grant application that would financially support the development and implementation of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. Along the way towards meeting the Group's goal were several unforeseen hurdles, most significantly the State's financial struggles resulting in the delays of Proposition 84 funding and the delayed release of Prop. 84 Plan Guidelines and Planning Grant and Implementation PSPs. In response to such hurdles, the Group has had to maintain an adaptive management philosophy in order for it to remain resilient, stay on track, and ultimately achieve the goal of completing the Phase I Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

The Plan itself is a comprehensive document that among other things describes the planning effort and those involved, the region, water related issues, and strategies to address them. The Plan was developed with the intent of meeting the California Department of Water Resource's Plan requirements to enable the region to become eligible for State funding via Prop. 84 IRWMP allocations. In addition, the Plan was written with the intent of serving and assisting individuals, small water entities, local, state and federal agencies and Counties throughout the planning region in their respective endeavors. Indeed, it is intended that this document becomes a useful resource for those looking to learn about water resources history, management, and needs in the region.

The Inyo-Mono IRWM planning effort has become far more than simply a group of individuals discussing water issues. The effort has resulted in developing relationships, enhancing coordination to address water and other related issues, sharing of expertise amongst participants, developing a stronger voice in State water politics, and more broadly establishing a forum for region-wide communication and support. Moving beyond the historical conflicts in the region, and in the spirit of collaboration, the completion of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan is but one concrete example of what the Group has been able to achieve.