

San Luis Obispo County Proposition 1E Proposal Stormwater Resources Plan

On October 19, 2010, Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Resources, Chapter 718, Stats 2010) was passed into law. This bill affected the Stormwater Flood Management (SWFM) Round 1 grant solicitation in two ways:

1. It re-appropriated Proposition 1E funding that is already reflected in the SWFM Round 1 PSP and,
2. It contains a provision that requires additional information from applicants.

SB 855 specified that not less than \$15,000,000 will be allocated for grants consistent with a Stormwater Resources Plan (SRP) developed pursuant to Part 2.3 (commencing with Section 10560) of Division 6 of the California Water Code (CWC); **or, an IRWM Plan that includes the Stormwater Resources Plan requirements specified in CWC Section 10562.**

The San Luis Obispo Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (SLO IRWMP) includes the SRP requirements specified in Section 10562 of the Water Code and should be considered eligible for the \$15,000,000 allocated for grants consistent with these requirements. The following section demonstrates compliance with all of the standards of Part 2.3 of Division 6 of the CWC.

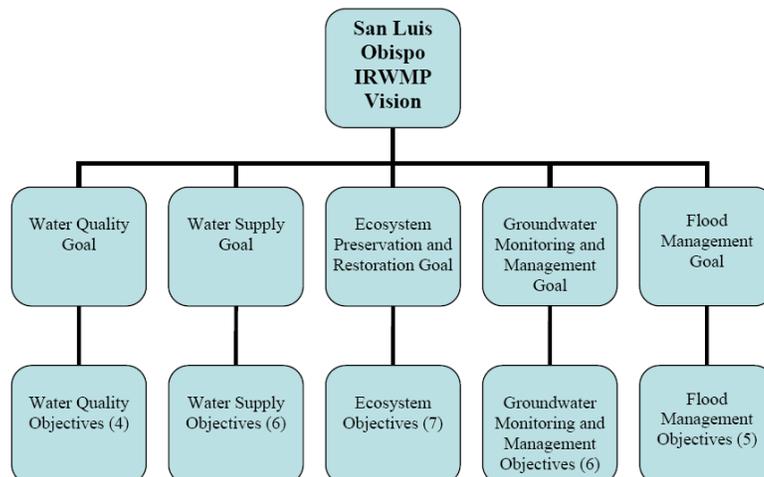
Watershed Basis

Section 10562.b.1. specifies that an SRP be developed on a watershed basis. The SLO IRWMP was developed on a watershed basis and the planning boundaries encompass nine major watersheds within the County’s 3,304 square miles. Each of these watersheds is described within twelve Water Planning Areas located within the SLO IRWMP boundaries. Pages B.4 through B.6 of the SLO IRWMP are included to demonstrate compliance with this standard.

Multiple Benefits

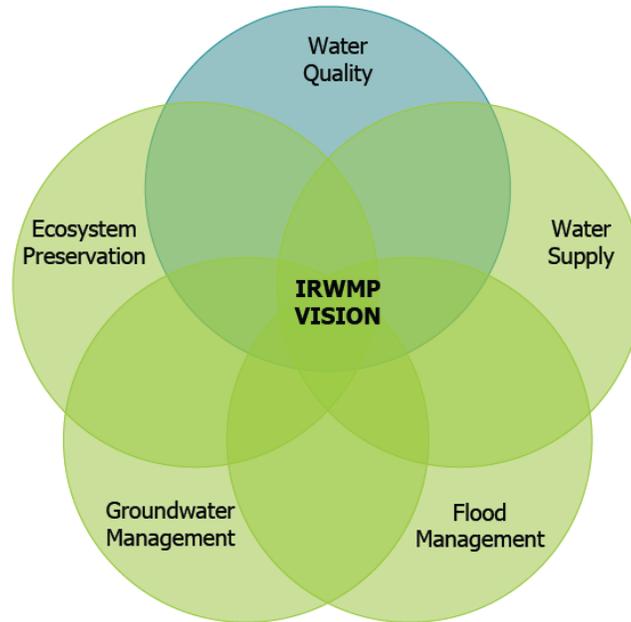
Section 10562.b.2. specifies that the SRP provide for multiple benefit project design to maximize water supply, water quality, and environmental and other community benefits. A consensus based approach was used in the development of the San Luis Obispo IRWMP goals and objectives. IRWM Plan goals and objectives were developed in five areas of water management as depicted in the figure below.

Figure 13-1 San Luis Obispo IRWMP Multiple Benefits Goals and Objectives



Although the figure depicts five independent goals established to achieve the vision, there are relationships and synergies between the goals. For example, achieving the flood management objectives will help meet water quality objectives or achieving the water supply objectives will help meet ecosystem objectives. This relationship is best depicted in Figure 13-2.

Figure 13-2 San Luis Obispo IRWMP Integrated Benefits



Community Participation

Section 10562.b.3. specifies that the SRP provide for community participation in plan development and implementation. Stakeholder involvement was critical to the success of the San Luis Obispo IRWMP process. Numerous stakeholders were identified, contacted, and invited to participate in the IRWMP process. Special consideration was given to disadvantaged communities and actions were taken to ensure their participation and representation in the process. Stakeholder outreach, coordination and participation will continue during implementation of the IRWMP. Pages N.1 through N.5 of the SLO IRWMP are included to demonstrate compliance with this standard.

Additionally, the San Luis Obispo IRWMP includes a flood protection objective to develop and implement public education, outreach, and advocacy. Many property owners are not aware of their private property drainage and flood control responsibilities. A public information and education program should be developed in selected locations to inform residents and property owners about drainage and flood control problems and issues, their responsibilities, best management practices, and how to get assistance.

Development of community awareness and support for drainage and flood control project implementation is the initial step for progress. Such projects will not be implemented without community or neighborhood advocacy. Communication about drainage and flood control issues, program availability, funding requirements, environmental enhancements and benefits should be presented for communities to assess, evaluate, and determine their preferences on project need and implementation.

TMDL, NPDES and WDR Compliance

Section 10562.b.4-6. specify that the SRP be consistent with, and assist in, compliance with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and all applicable waste discharge permits. A primary goal of the San Luis Obispo IRWMP is to comply with water quality regulations. Clean, reliable, and safe water resources are essential to public health and the economic well being of

the region. The region's IRWM water quality objectives are consistent with the TMDL, NPDES and WDR requirements.

The IRWMP includes a water quality objective that supports the development and implementation of TMDLs. The intent of this IRWM objective is to support the RWQCB in the development of TMDLs for the impaired water bodies in the region and to implement TMDLs. The attached Table C2.5 lists the TMDLs that have been developed or are in development for the impaired waterbodies in San Luis Obispo County and Figure C2.2 maps their location.

The IRWMP includes a water quality objective that supports the implementation of NPDES Phase II Storm Water Management Programs. The intent of this IRWM objective is to support the implementation of SWMPs in the region. The NPDES Phase II Storm Water Rule requires that regulated municipalities develop and implement a SWMP to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff to the maximum extent possible and to improve water quality. Each community with a regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) in the County must develop and implement a SWMP. The attached Figure C2.3 shows the location of the NPDES Phase II regulated communities in San Luis Obispo County.

The IRWMP includes a water quality objective that supports the compliance with new waste discharge requirements. This objective addresses one of the most significant challenges in the San Luis Obispo region. According to a front page news article entitled "Aging Sewage Systems Foul Up" published on May 29, 2005 in the San Luis Obispo newspaper, The Tribune, "Sewage treatment plants in San Luis Obispo County have discharged illegal levels of pollutants into creeks and the ocean more than 450 times during the past five years, state water quality records show." The article cites the main culprit to be aging and overwhelmed sewage treatment plants, some dating back to World War II. Approximately 300,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled into creeks from wastewater treatment plants and collection systems in San Luis Obispo County during the 2004-2005 rainy season. The attached Table C2.6 summarizes the top wastewater violations in San Luis Obispo County over the past five years.

Stormwater Recharge, Storage and Source Control

The IRWMP includes a flood protection objective to distinguish the root cause of flooding problems stemming from new development, existing development, and mandatory regulation. Resolution of flood management problems requires an integrated and broad solution perspective. Drainage and Flood Management Plans should be prepared addressing property owner and developer responsibilities, and proposing an integrated watershed approach that incorporates flood management, water quality, water supply, groundwater, and ecosystem protection and enhancement issues on a watershed/basin scale.

The county has some sub-regions where topography and/or poor soil conditions significantly contribute to or are the primary cause of flooding. Additional drainage standards will be developed for these specific areas to protect development, structures and ecological processes.

Additionally, the IRWMP includes a flood protection objective to implement the California NPS Plan and the RWQCB Conditional Agricultural Waiver Program for irrigated agriculture. The intent of this objective is to support the successful implementation of these programs in the region. The California NPS Plan cites specific actions by the RWQCB to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the region. The RWQCB Conditional Agricultural Waiver Program for Irrigated Agriculture includes requirements for monitoring, training, record keeping, and management measures and practices to reduce water quality impacts from agricultural runoff.

Lastly, the IRWMP includes a water quality objective supporting the recharge of ground water with high quality water. The California Water Plan Update states the importance of protecting groundwater recharge:

Protection of recharge areas is important, but protecting recharge areas by itself does not provide a supply of water. Recharge areas only function when aquifer storage capacity is available, and when regional and local governments and agencies work together to secure an adequate supply of good quality water to recharge the aquifer. Protecting existing and potential recharge areas allows them to serve as valuable components of a conjunctive management and groundwater strategy.

San Luis Obispo County obtains nearly 80 percent of its water from groundwater supplies and protecting the quantity and quality of the groundwater resources is critical to a reliable water supply for the region.

Integration of Geomorphologic Design and Environmental Enhancements

The IRWMP includes a flood protection objective to integrate ecosystem enhancement, drainage control, and natural recharge into development projects. Development in flood prone areas is regulated and restricted, and is contingent on conformance to existing regulations. However, the standards do not always provide the appropriate level of flood protection for every situation, and are often one dimensional in perspective (i.e. only drainage or flood control). The implementation of new projects and maintenance of existing facilities may be enhanced with ecosystem compatible elements. Inclusion of ecosystem enhancement components should be viewed as an opportunity to assist in restoration of previously unaddressed environmental damage, and a betterment of the environment from an overall perspective.

This objective will serve to enhance existing wetlands protections and benefits by expanding the borders of wetland interests to include pro-active new uses for already well-known wetlands processes. Using wetlands to fully treat storm water runoff will provide benefits at multiple levels. These approaches can improve overall water quality, reduce infrastructure costs, and provide wildlife habitat. Efforts to complete a detailed existing wetlands inventories, especially in the traditionally drier interior parts of the County, will provide valuable base data from which to gauge program success and to guide the development of new projects. Fully supporting existing programs, such as the NPDES Storm Water Management Programs, the California Nonpoint Source Pollution Plan and RWQCB Conditional Waiver Program will serve to leverage these efforts towards wider habitat and community benefits.

The County does have detailed flood control protection standards for infrastructure development. However, further analysis and evaluation of innovative approaches to integrating flood control protection facilities with ecosystem enhancing and or friendly features should be considered to provide multi-beneficial results.

Integration of Recreational Opportunities

The IRWMP includes an ecosystem objective to manage public land access to encourage public involvement and stewardship. As stated in the California Water Plan Update:

California's temperate climate provides a long season for outdoor recreation, and water is a magnet for outdoor recreation. Water-dependent recreation provides a wide range of health, social and economic benefits to California residents and visitors, while improving the quality of life. It encourages physical activity, such as swimming and paddling, as well as walking and bicycling along attractive waterside trails.

Water dependent recreation influences tourism, business and residential choices. It increases expenditures in the community for travel, food and accommodations.

Water managers should consider the effects of their actions on all resource values, including recreation as well as ecosystem health.

The San Luis Obispo region has immeasurable public recreational opportunities. The Nature Conservancy describes the environmental resources of San Luis Obispo County as follows:

San Luis Obispo County is set apart in its natural beauty and quality of environmental resources. Studded with rare Monterey pine forests and boasting coastal prairie, marshes, and sage scrub interspersed with rolling grasslands and maritime chaparral, the San Luis Obispo Coastline is beloved by county residents and visitors from around the world.

By contrast, the county's interior is a rich mosaic of fertile grasslands, oak woodlands and savannas, riparian corridors, wetlands, and vernal pools; much of it adjacent to wilderness areas of the Los Padres National Forest. Further east, the vast Carrizo Plain is home to a diversity of endangered species unparalleled by any other landscape in the state.

Along California's spectacular Highway 1, San Luis Obispo County's coastline meanders for some 100 miles from the rugged cliffs at the southern gateway to Big Sur to the undulating Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, just south of Pismo Beach. Much of the county's 3,300 square miles (or more than two million acres) comprise its arid interior located east of the Santa Lucia Range and bisected by the Salinas River - "The Upside Down River" - which originates within the Los Padres National Forest and meanders north through San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The county's size and geographic diversity support a wide variety of landscapes including maritime chaparral, serpentine habitats, grasslands and juniper and oak woodlands that provide habitat and migration corridors for a wide variety of native species. Native species of San Luis Obispo County include bobcats, tule elk, pronghorn antelope, golden eagles, California red-legged frogs, sandhill cranes, mountain plovers, and other migratory birds that find wintering ground in the county's freshwater wetlands, riparian communities and grasslands."

This objective emphasizes the appreciation for and responsibilities of the San Luis Obispo region to manage public land access and promote environmental stewardship of the region's precious resources.

Implementation of BMPs

The County's SWMPs must include Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the following six minimum control measures:

1. Public education and outreach;
2. Public participation and involvement,
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination;
4. Construction runoff control;
5. Post-construction runoff management; and
6. Good housekeeping and pollution prevention for municipal operations.

Low Impact Development

Low impact development design standards are a component of the County's Storm Water Management Program. In those areas where percolation is the primary means for flood control, low impact design will focus criteria to enhance percolation. This focus will also allow for desirable groundwater recharge to increase supply and minimize sea water intrusion.

Virtually all existing natural or manmade drainage channels in the region are environmentally sensitive and subject to restrictive permitting requirements for maintenance or improvement. An integrated approach for waterway management should be taken for waterway projects that include flood management, water quality protection, groundwater recharge, and ecosystem enhancement objectives. Additionally, a region-wide permitting program that will provide consistent global watershed or regional implementation measures should be developed in conjunction with permitting agencies.

The region defined as the County is also the right size to enable an effective and efficient local focus on water resource issues at the watershed and basin scale. Stewardship of the region’s resources can best be achieved when local stakeholders, who are most familiar with and have the greatest vested interest in protecting and restoring their resources, participate in regional planning and implementation efforts.

Watersheds and Water Planning Areas

Nine major watersheds cross the County’s 3,304 square miles. Each of these watersheds is described within twelve Water Planning Areas (WPAs) located within the County boundaries. The Upper Salinas Watershed that is located in northern San Luis Obispo County includes three locally-defined water planning areas. Otherwise, there is a one to one correlation between watersheds and water planning areas. A list of the region’s Water Planning Areas is shown in Table B1.1 below and the boundaries are shown in Figure B1.1 above. Table B1.1 identifies each Water Planning Area, the communities within the area, the corresponding DWR Hydrologic Unit, and the creek watershed and waterbodies within the area.

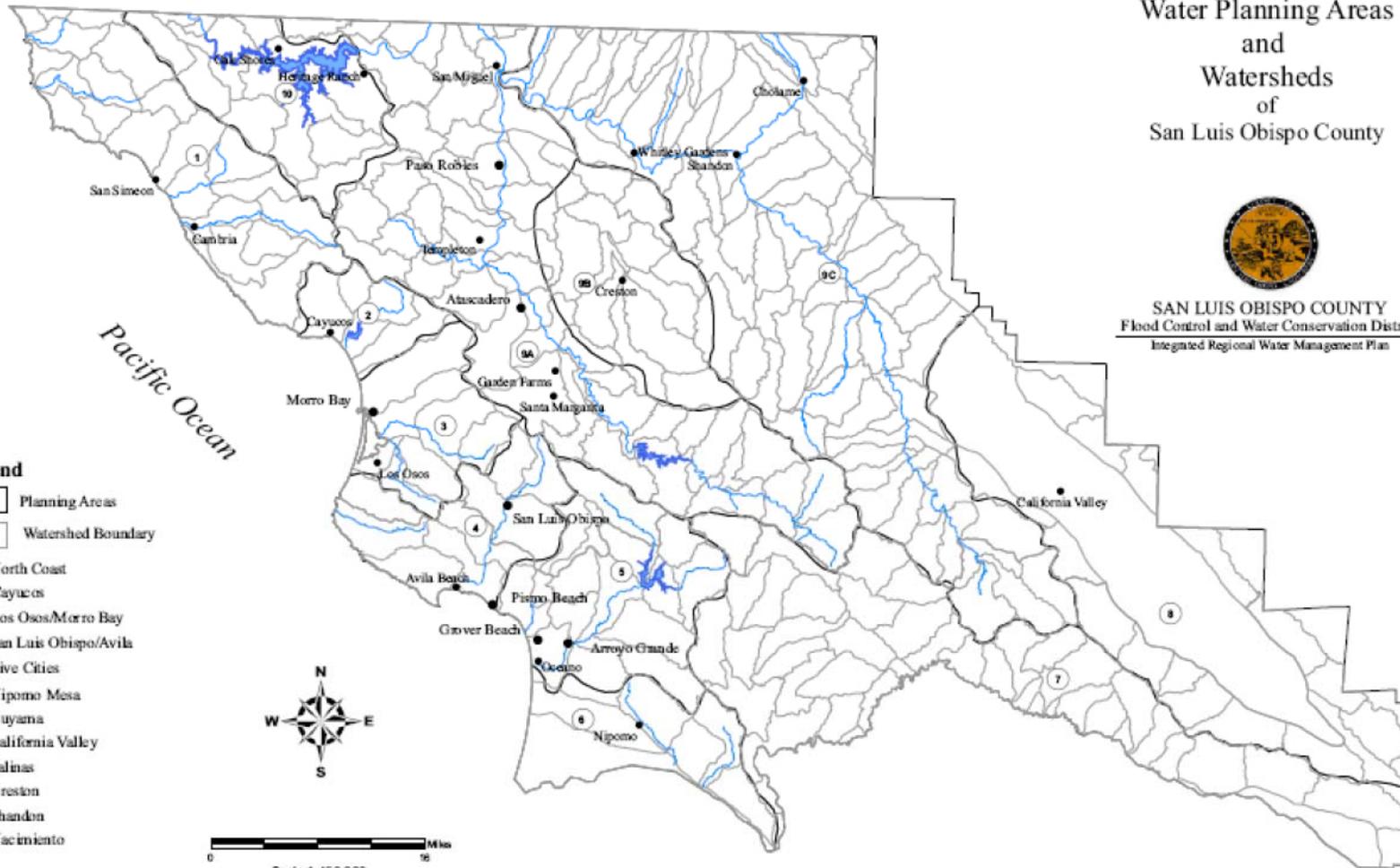
The rationale for establishing the Water Planning Area boundaries is based on watershed boundaries. See Figure B1.2 below, map of “Water Planning Areas and Watersheds of San Luis Obispo County.”

Table B1.1 Master Water Plan Planning Areas and Watersheds

WPA #	WPA Name	Communities	Hydrologic Unit	Representative Watersheds/ Waterbodies
1	North Coast	San Simeon Cambria Harmony	Estero Bay 310	San Carpofo Arroyo de la Cruz Santa Rosa Creek San Simeon Creek Pico Creek Villa Creek
2	Cayucos	Cayucos	Estero Bay 310	Whale Rock Reservoir Old Creek Cayucos Creek Toro Creek
3	Los Osos, Morro Bay	Morro Bay Los Osos Baywood Park	Estero Bay 310	Morro Creek Little Morro Creek Morro Bay Chorro Creek Los Osos Creek Chumash Creek Dairy Creek Pennington Creek San Bernardo Creek San Luisito Creek Walters Creek Warden Creek
4	San Luis Obispo/Avila	San Luis Obispo Avila Beach	Estero Bay 310	SLO Creek Brizzolari Creek Davenport Creek East Fork Froom Creek Old Garden Creek Perfumo Creek and Laguna Lake Reservoir Canyon Creek San Miguelito Creek Squire Canyon Creek Stenner Creek Sycamore Creek

WPA #	WPA Name	Communities	Hydrologic Unit	Representative Watersheds/ Waterbodies
5	Five Cities	Pismo Beach Arroyo Grande Grover Beach Oceano	Estero Bay 310	Lopez Lake Pismo Creek Arroyo Grande Creek
6	Nipomo Mesa	Nipomo	Estero Bay 310 Santa Maria 312	Santa Maria River Oso Flaco Creek Little Oso Flaco Creek Oso Flaco Lake Nipomo Creek
7	Cuyama		Santa Maria 312	Cuyama River Twitchell Reservoir
8	California Valley	California Valley	Carrizo Plain 311	Soda Lake
9a	Salinas	San Miguel Paso Robles Templeton Atascadero Garden Farms Santa Margarita	Salinas 309	Salinas River Nacimiento River Atascadero Creek Santa Margarita Lake Santa Margarita Creek Yerba Buena Creek
9b	Creston	Creston	Salinas 309	Huerohuero Creek
9c	Shandon	Shandon Cholame Whitley Gardens	Estrella River 317	Estrella River Estrella Creek San Juan Creek Cholame Creek
10	Nacimiento	Oak Shores Heritage Ranch	Salinas 309	Lake Nacimiento

Figure B1.2



Source: County Wide Ground Water Basins database that displays groundwater basins and sub-basins as defined by the California Department of Water Resources. Water Planning Areas used for planning analysis in relation to the Resource Management System. The Water Planning Areas were developed to be used in the county's Master Water Plan

Table C2.5 TMDLs Developed or in Development for San Luis Obispo County

TMDL	Status
Morro Bay TMDL and Implementation Plan for Pathogens, Including Chorro and Los Osos Creeks	Final approval January 20, 2004 November 19, 2003 effective date
Morro Bay TMDL and Implementation Plan for Sediment Including Chorro Creek, Los Osos Creek and the Morro Bay Estuary	Final approval January 20, 2004 December 3, 2003 effective date
Dairy Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL	Approved RWQCB December 3, 2004
Los Osos Creek Nutrient TMDL	Approved RWQCB December 3, 2004
San Luis Obispo Creek Pathogen TMDL	Approved RWQCB December 3, 2004
Chorro Creek Nutrient TMDL	In progress
Chumash Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL	In progress
Las Tablas Creek Mercury TMDL	In progress
Los Osos Creek and Warden Creek Dissolved Oxygen TMDL	In progress
Morro Bay Metals	Proposal to delist in progress
San Luis Obispo Creek Nutrient TMDL	In progress
Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Fecal Coliform TMDL	In progress
Santa Maria and Oso Flaco Nitrate TMDL	In progress
Salinas River Fecal Coliform TMDL (includes Atascadero Creek)	In progress
Regional Sediment Assessment	Under investigation

4. Implement NPDES Phase II Storm Water Management Programs.

The intent of this IRWM objective is to support the implementation of Storm Water Management Programs (SWMP) in the region. The NPDES Phase II Storm Water Rule requires that regulated municipalities develop and implement a SWMP to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff to the maximum extent possible and to improve water quality. Each community with a regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) in the County must develop and implement a SWMP. Figure C2.3 shows the location of the NPDES Phase II regulated communities in San Luis Obispo County. SWMPs must include Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the following six minimum control measures:

- 1.) Public education and outreach;
- 2.) Public participation and involvement,
- 3.) Illicit discharge detection and elimination;
- 4.) Construction runoff control;
- 5.) Post-construction runoff management; and
- 6.) Good housekeeping and pollution prevention for municipal operations.

Figure C2.2

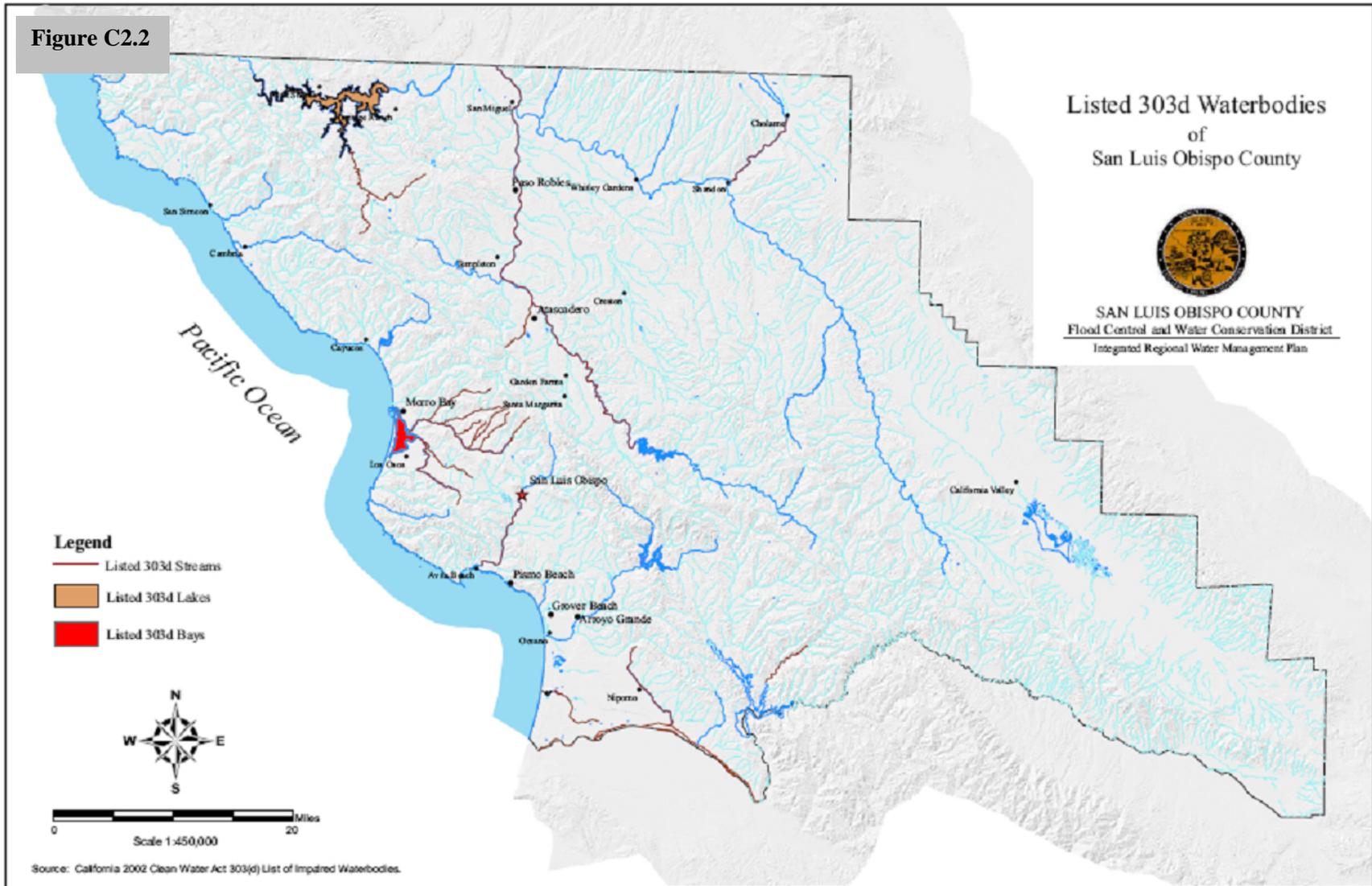
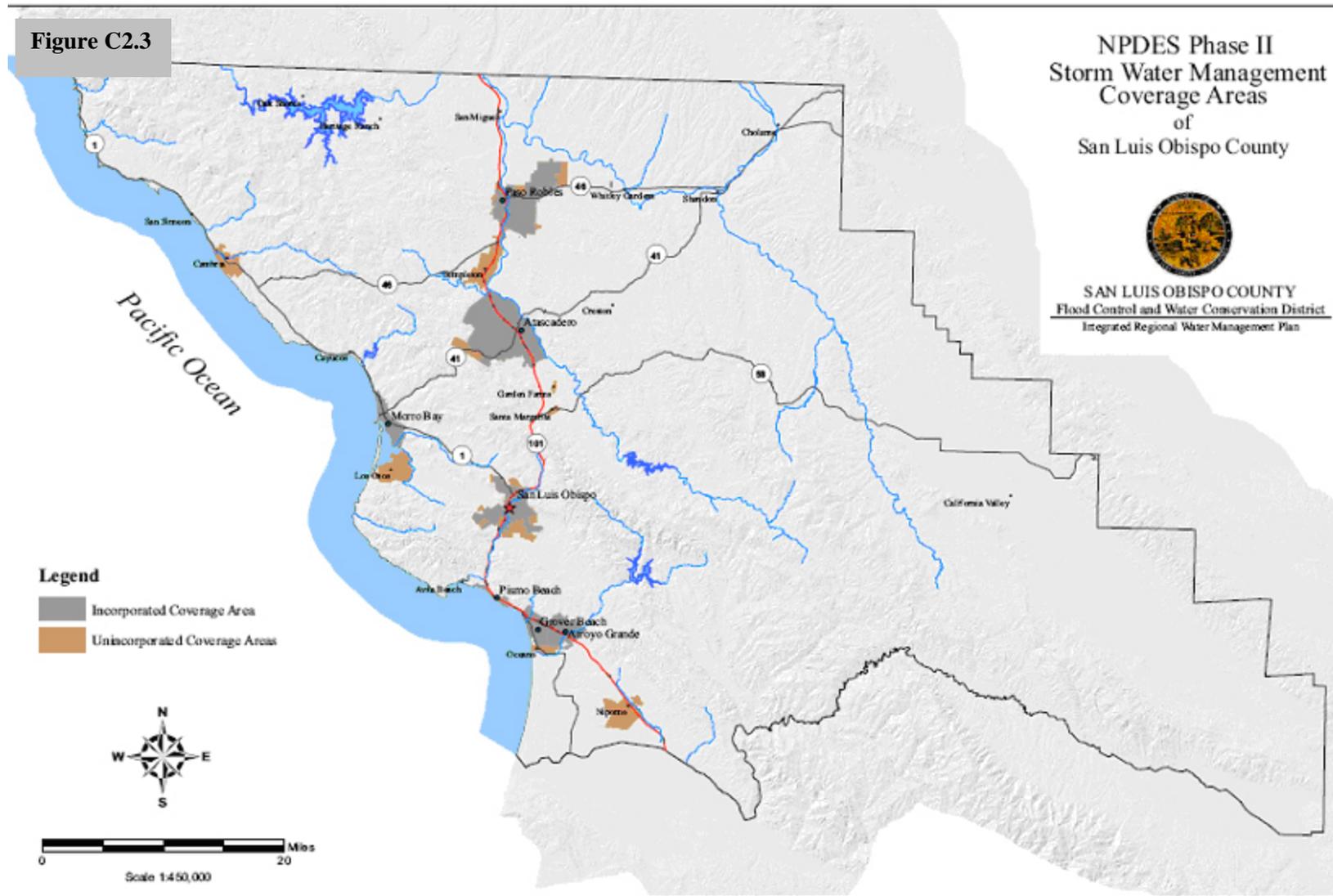


Figure C2.3



5. Implement the California NPS Plan and the RWQCB Conditional Agricultural Waiver Program for irrigated agriculture.

The intent of this objective is to support the successful implementation of these programs in the region. The California NPS Plan cites specific actions by the RWQCB to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the region. The RWQCB Conditional Agricultural Waiver Program for Irrigated Agriculture includes requirements for monitoring, training, record keeping, and management measures and practices to reduce water quality impacts from agricultural runoff.

6. Comply with new waste discharge requirements.

This objective addresses one of the most significant challenges in the San Luis Obispo region. According to a front page news article entitled “Aging Sewage Systems Foul Up” published on May 29, 2005 in the San Luis Obispo newspaper, The Tribune, “Sewage treatment plants in San Luis Obispo County have discharged illegal levels of pollutants into creeks and the ocean more than 450 times during the past five years, state water quality records show.” The article cites the main culprit to be aging and overwhelmed sewage treatment plants, some dating back to World War II. Approximately 300,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled into creeks from wastewater treatment plants and collection systems in San Luis Obispo County during the 2004-2005 rainy season. Table C2.6 summarizes the top wastewater violations in San Luis Obispo County over the past five years.

Table C2.6 Top Wastewater Violations in San Luis Obispo County

As reported in The Tribune, May 29, 2005 from data provided by the Central Coast RWQCB.

Agency	Number of Violations (2000-2005)
Pismo Beach	184 ¹
California Men’s Colony (CMC)	143
San Simeon CSD	57
San Luis Obispo	24
Ragged Point Inn	23
Paso Robles	12
Morro Bay Power Plant	10
Morro Bay/Cayucos	10

A review of these violations and their causes is an important aspect of integrated regional water management and long-term infrastructure planning. Several key wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and collection system upgrades are being implemented in the region to protect and improve water quality including projects for those operations with higher violation rates. The Pismo Beach WWTP upgrade project was brought on-line in January 2006; the CMC WWTP upgrade project is scheduled to be complete June 2007. Table C2.7 lists the status of some of the key wastewater treatment upgrades needed in the region.

¹ Pismo Beach brought a new wastewater treatment plant on-line in January 2006

Section N. Stakeholder Involvement

IRWM Plan Standard:

“Identify stakeholders included in developing the Plan. Identify how stakeholders were identified, how they participate in planning and implementation efforts, and how they can influence decisions made regarding water management. Include documentation of stakeholder involvement such as inclusion of signatory status or letters of support from non-agency stakeholders, i.e. those who have not “adopted” the Plan. Include a discussion of mechanisms and processes that have been or will be used to facilitate stakeholder involvement and communication during implementation of the Plan. Discuss watershed or other partnerships developed during the planning process. Discuss disadvantaged communities within the region and their involvement in the planning process. Discuss efforts to identify and address environmental justice needs and issues within the region. Identify possible obstacles to Plan implementation.”

Stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of the San Luis Obispo IRWMP process. Numerous stakeholders were identified, contacted, and invited to participate in the IRWMP process. Special consideration was given to disadvantaged communities and actions were taken to ensure their participation and representation in the process. Stakeholder outreach, coordination and participation will continue during implementation of the IRWMP.

N1. Stakeholder Identification

Identify stakeholders included in developing the Plan. Identify how stakeholders were identified.

In 2004, the County of San Luis Obispo’s Public Works Department (District) took the lead in initiating the IRWM Plan development. In order to start the stakeholder participation process, an IRWM Team (Team) consisting of the following District staff was formed:

- Deputy Director
- Environmental Division Manager
- Utilities Division Water Resource Engineer
- Environmental Resource Specialist
- Utilities Staff Engineer
- Other support staff

The Team then worked with the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) as the appropriate forum to initiate and implement stakeholder participation. The WRAC represents twenty four (24) local agencies and organizations. The WRAC is an appointed advisory body made up of citizens and governmental representatives, including elected officials that advise the District’s Board of Supervisors on water resource projects and

policies in the region. WRAC has 29 members representing 24 agencies, organizations or associations. For over 50 years, WRAC hearings have been the primary forum for the regional review of water resource issues and details. WRAC's many purposes include developing recommendations to the District's Board - thereby making WRAC the most obvious stakeholder group for IRWM planning. Table N1.1 identifies the member agencies of the District's Water Resource Advisory Committee.

Table N1.1 Water Resource Advisory Committee Membership List

Agency/Organization Represented	Agency/Organization Interests
Atascadero Mutual Water Company	Water Purveyor
Cal Cities Water	Water Purveyor
California Mens Colony	Water and Wastewater
Cambria CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Camp San Luis Obispo	Water and wastewater
City of Arroyo Grande	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Atascadero	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Grover Beach	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Morro Bay	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Paso Robles	Municipal water and wastewater
City of Pismo Beach	Municipal water and wastewater
City of San Luis Obispo	Municipal water and wastewater
County Farm Bureau	Agriculture
Cuesta Community College	Water and wastewater
County Board of Supervisors District 1	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 2	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 3	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 4	Water Resources
County Board of Supervisors District 5	Water Resources
Environmental at Large	Environmental
Heritage Ranch CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Nacimiento Regional Water Management Advisory Committee	Nacimiento Reservoir
Los Osos CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Nipomo CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Oceano CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
San Luis Coastal RCD	Natural Resources Conservation
Templeton CSD	Municipal water and wastewater
Upper Salinas RCD	Natural Resources Conservation
Agriculture at Large	Agriculture
District staff	Regional water interests

The WRAC likewise developed an IRWM subcommittee with representatives of municipalities, private water purveyors, agricultural and environmental stakeholders. A WRAC IRWM Subcommittee was formed consisting of members representing the following interests:

- Environmental
- Environmental and Coastal
- South County
- Agriculture
- North County
- Non-governmental Water Purveyor

The Subcommittee's purpose was threefold:

1. Review IRWM Plan Objectives & Strategies
2. Identify & review IRWM projects
3. Review & recommend project prioritization.

The subcommittee involvement occurred through workshops and meetings. In addition to the Subcommittee members, workshops were also open to any WRAC member and the public. Also, the City of San Luis Obispo's Utilities Conservation Coordinator was nominated to serve as an ex-officio member along with County staff. The WRAC members chosen for the Subcommittee resulted in a balanced representation of water interests.

Additional stakeholders invited to participate in plan development include State agencies including the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Health Services; local Resource Conservation Districts; Central Coast Salmon Enhancement; the Planning and Conservation League; other governmental entities including the County of Santa Barbara; and land trusts and other non-governmental environmental organizations in the region.

The IRWMP process has focused on identifying as broad a range of stakeholders as possible. Traditionally, stakeholders coordinated on narrowly focused projects or specific water management strategies. There is increasing awareness that it is beneficial to integrate the efforts of these stakeholders groups. Furthermore, stakeholders recognize the need to work together given their shared dependence on limited local water supplies in the region and to develop programs that provide multiple benefits to the region. The IRWM planning process has created a forum for many of these stakeholders to come together to work collaboratively on their shared and/or overlapping issues. In order to make this forum most effective, steps have been taken to identify as many of the potential stakeholders with water management interests in region as possible, and to make them aware of and participants in the IRWMP process.

N2. Stakeholder Participation

Identify how stakeholders participate in planning and implementation efforts, and how they can influence decisions made regarding water management. Include documentation of stakeholder involvement such as inclusion of signatory status or letters of support from non-agency stakeholders, i.e. those who have not “adopted” the Plan. Include a discussion of mechanisms and processes that have been or will be used to facilitate stakeholder involvement and communication during implementation of the Plan.

The IRWM stakeholder process was initiated in 2004. The District sent a letter to the stakeholders identified in Section N1 requesting water-related documents. A copy of the letter has been attached in Appendix IV. These documents were collected and reviewed to begin developing IRWM objectives and begin IRWM planning in the five areas of water management: water supply, groundwater management, ecosystem restoration, water quality, and flood management. Public workshops, noticed through the WRAC email and mail distribution lists and the District website, were then conducted identifying IRWM objectives and projects. In addition to the Subcommittee members, workshops were also open to any WRAC member and the public. Also, the City of San Luis Obispo’s Utilities Conservation Coordinator was nominated to serve as an ex-officio member along with County staff. Three workshops were held in the months of February and March 2005 and are described below.

Workshop No. 1- IRWM Objectives

Workshop No. 1 was held on February 10, 2005. IRWMP Subcommittee members reviewed the draft IRWM objectives in the five areas of water management. The workshop included breakout sessions in which participants could comment/edit/include objectives in any of the water management areas. These objectives were revised to reflect workshop feedback and forwarded to the second workshop for further development.

Workshop No. 2 – IRWM Projects

Workshop No. 2 was held on February 17, 2005. Participants were tasked with assigning action items (construction projects, studies, or programs) to fulfill the objectives developed at the first workshop. Also at this workshop, IRWM implementation projects were solicited, using a preliminary project information sheet.

Workshop No. 3 – IRWM Project Priorities

Workshop No. 3 was held on March 11, 2005. Workshop participants gave feedback on the project scoring sheet that would be used to score and prioritize the County’s implementation-type of projects as described in the IRWM Guidelines.

The Team revised the project scoring sheet based on stakeholder feedback and met with the IRWMP Subcommittee. Projects and planning grant proposals were prioritized and

the Subcommittee's recommendations were presented at the April 6, 2005 WRAC meeting. WRAC recommendations on project and planning grant priorities were submitted to the District's Board of Supervisors, and approved on May 3, 2005. Table N2.1 provides a summary illustration of the stakeholder participation process, including the steps leading to Plan adoption. Support documentation for the formation of the WRAC IRWM Subcommittee, sign-in sheets of workshops participants, the project scoring sheet, as well as an endorsement from WRAC to the Board can be found in Appendix IV of this Plan.

On December 6, 2005, the County Board of Supervisors, the governing body authorized to develop the IRWMP, adopted a resolution approving the plan, and authorizing and directing the Director of Public Works of the County of San Luis Obispo to implement the five-year update plan contained within it. A copy of the resolution is provided at the beginning of the IRWMP, and letters of support are included in Appendix IV.