

Appendix Q

Imperial IRWMP Stakeholder Assessment

Appendix Q - Imperial IRWMP Stakeholder Assessment

**IMPERIAL
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
FACILITATION SUPPORT
FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT**



**Interviews conducted by:
Dale Schafer, Senior Mediator
Center for Collaborative Policy
January – March 2010
Assessment Report – April 2012**



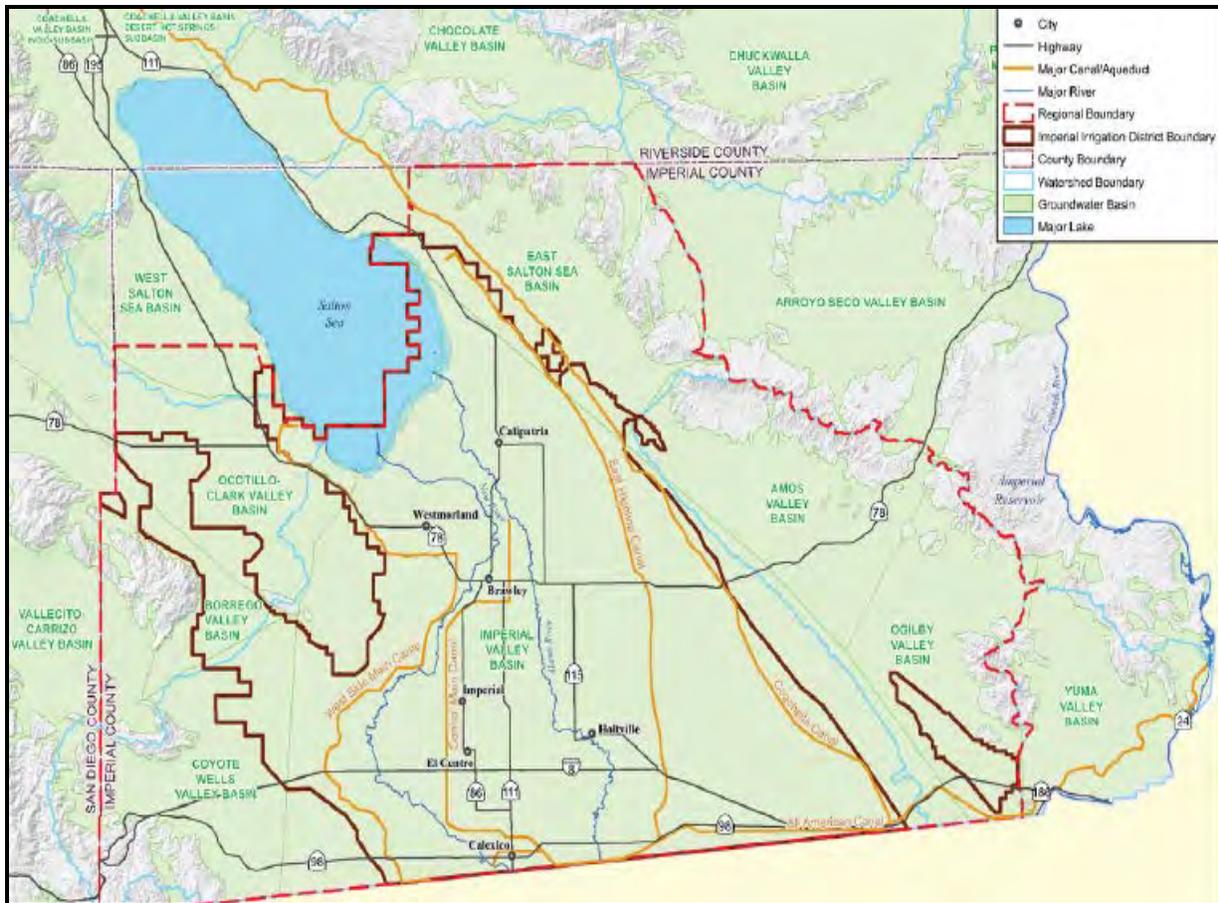
(This page intentionally left blank)

Imperial IRWMP Facilitation Support Feasibility Support Assessment

CONTENTS

Imperial Region Overview	1
Regional Acceptance Plan (RAP)	3
Purpose	4
Approach	5
Interview Findings	6
Water Issues and Challenges – Physical	6
Water Supply	6
General Perceptions	7
Water Issues and Challenges – Your Organization	8
Agricultural	8
Renewable Energy – Geothermal	10
Environmental Justice	11
Cities of the Imperial Region	12
Imperial Irrigation District (IID)	13
Interviewee comments about IID	14
Interviewee suggestions for IID	15
Imperial County	16
Interviewee comments about Imperial County	17
Relationship between IID and Imperial County	17
Quantification Settlement Agreement	18
Salton Sea	18
IRWMP Planning	20
What the IRWMP should address	20
What are possible benefits	21
What would make a plan successful	21
What would constitute barriers to a successful plan	21
Who should fund the IRWMP	22
Agree with proposed governance structure or have different proposal	23
Conclusions	25
Conditions for Collaboration	25
Recommendations	26
Milestones of IRWMP Process – April 2010 through June 2012	26
Next Steps	27
Abbreviations and Acronyms	28

Completed Interviews	29
Interview Questionnaire	30
Reference	32
Acknowledgements	32



The region relies almost exclusively on imported water supplies from the Colorado River, although limited groundwater development has occurred in areas outside of the IID water service area and place of use, including the West Mesa and East Mesa areas.

The Imperial Region is neighbor to San Diego and Riverside counties. As of the 2010 census, the Region had a population of approximately 190,000, with around 175,000 living in cities and 15,000 in outlying areas. The Region's population centers are generally located on the expanse of flatlands in the Imperial Valley; however, the City of Mexicali just across the border has a population of over one million which contributes to the economic and commercial vitality of the Region. The Region abuts the Borrego IRWM region to the west and portions of the Coachella IRWM region to the north, and is bounded by surrounding mountain ranges to the east. The Coachella Valley is to the north and the Mexicali Valley (Baja California, Mexico) to the south, both of which lie within the Salton Sea watershed.

The Region's desert climate is characterized by generally high temperatures and low average rainfall of around three inches per year; however, irrigation water is available year round, supplied wholly from the Colorado River via the All-American Canal by the Imperial Irrigation District. As a result, the area is highly suitable for agriculture, which has supported the economic growth and establishment of population centers in and around the Imperial Valley.

The need for balancing municipal, commercial, and industrial (MCI) and environmental demands with agricultural demands creates a unique situation for the area's water needs and effective water resources management. Agricultural water accounts for approximately 97 percent of the delivered water, making possible Imperial County's ranking as one of the top ten agricultural regions nationwide. The remaining three percent is delivered to seven municipalities, one private water company, two community water systems, a variety of industrial users and rural homes or businesses, and to recreational and environmental users.

The Imperial Region includes seven incorporated cities; Imperial, Brawley, El Centro, Westmorland, Holtville, and Calexico, and a number of unincorporated communities, Calipatria, and Niland (CDP) to the north; Heber, Seeley (CDP), and the Naval Air Station in the center; and Ocotillo/Nomirage in the West Mesa area.

REGIONAL ACCEPTANCE PROCESS (RAP)

CDWR developed the RAP to provide pertinent information on Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region boundaries, make-up and culture; so that CDWR can confirm that the region can operate as defined by the California Water Code (CWC). IRWM regions must be approved by CDWR and accepted into the IRWMP grant program before submitting an application for and receiving IRWMP grant funds. The RAP is the first step to becoming a recognized IRWMP region.

IID and Imperial County agreed to sponsor a collaborative process involving Imperial Region stakeholders to develop an IRWMP, and IID retained GEI Consultants, Inc. to spearhead the RAP and IRWMP process. GEI Consultants, in turn, retained the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) to facilitate the development of the Plan.

The Imperial Region, as defined above, was accepted by CDWR in September 2009. The next steps in the development of the Imperial IRWMP were to identify as many stakeholders as possible within the Region and request that they participate in the development of the IRWMP and then to convene a group of stakeholders who would represent the various agencies, organizations and interests in the Imperial Region in the development of the Imperial IRWMP.

Once that was done, a stakeholder assessment was undertaken. Stakeholders representing the various interests and agencies were identified and interviews carried out, mainly by telephone.

PURPOSE

The CCP facilitator conducted interviews of potential stakeholders in the Imperial Region to determine the feasibility of providing facilitation services in support of the development of an Imperial IRWMP. The proposed assessment was part of the outreach process for the Imperial IRWMP.

The objectives of the assessment were:

- Identify issues of importance to stakeholders and interested parties that should be addressed in an Imperial IRWMP.
- Obtain information to further develop the scope of work for the IRWMP.
- Determine how stakeholders can work together to collaboratively prepare the IRWMP for the Imperial Region.
- Explore ways in which to improve relationships among stakeholders and interested parties in the Imperial Region.
- Encourage participation in the Imperial IRWMP process
- Identify additional potential participants in the Imperial IRWMP.

The assessment also proved to be a useful tool to provide the facilitator with a firm foundation for the subsequent facilitated stakeholder involvement processes by familiarizing the facilitator with background information on the Imperial Region, issues and conflicts among its citizens, and interests and positions of potential stakeholders and interested parties who would participate in the development of the Imperial IRWMP.

APPROACH

IID generated a list of potential stakeholders throughout the Imperial Region. A wide net was cast through the diligent efforts of IID staff. The GEI consultant, CCP facilitator and IID program manager formulated questions designed to provide the sought after information. *(See attached questionnaire.)* The assessment relied almost entirely on individual and group interviews.

CCP sought to interview stakeholders who represented the range of water interests throughout the region including agriculture, renewable energy, municipalities, Imperial County, IID, environmental justice groups, and other environmental groups. Many potential stakeholders were contacted to determine their interest in the IRWMP process. The list of interviewees was expanded as individuals from interest groups of the Imperial Region suggested other potential participants.

Interviews were scheduled with those who agreed to participate. CCP conducted 29 interviews in January through March 2010 with one additional interview in October 2010. There were some interviews in which more than one individual participated so the total number of interviewees was 35. *(See attached interviewee list.)*

All interviews were confidential. The CCP facilitator who conducted the interviews has not attributed specific comments to individuals in this report. She will not share interview data with any agencies or interest groups. CCP has summarized the information gathered during the assessment to identify stakeholder concerns, areas of agreement and areas of discord in order to develop recommendations related to facilitation of the IRWMP.

All responses in this report were supplied by the interviewees

Data were not verified by CCP

INTERVIEW FINDINGS

Water Issues and Challenges: What are the main physical water issues or challenges in the Imperial Region that need to be addressed?

Water supply

Background information

Before the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), water supply was not an issue in the Imperial Region. The QSA/Transfer Agreements created changed circumstances under which IID must manage the region's major water source. Specifically, resolution of interregional and interstate conflicts has resulted in supply constraints for IID customers that now must be resolved at the local level. QSA/Transfer Agreements and related Colorado River operating policies represent the baseline conditions for the IRWMP.

California's share of the Colorado River is fixed and finite at 4.4 million acre-feet (MAF) per year under most conditions. The seniority of the IID water right is confirmed in the QSA/Transfer Agreements for the term of the QSA and is effectively capped at 3.1 MAF per year (consumptive use, measured at Imperial Dam). In addition, the QSA/Transfer Agreements in total require IID by 2027 to reduce its net annual consumptive use of Colorado River water by over 408,000 AF, with the conserved water to be transferred out of the Imperial Region. The result of these water transfers is to effectively reduce IID's annual supply to between 2.6 and 2.7 MAF of consumptive use measured at Imperial Dam.¹ Although this amount is anticipated to meet existing demands in most years, most interviewees were very concerned by the reduction in the Colorado River allotment to IID.

- **Almost all interviewees agreed that the major challenge facing the Imperial Region is keeping as much Colorado River water as possible for use in the Imperial Region.**

They expressed concern that the reduction of the supply could adversely affect the population of Imperial County. Interviewees exhibited frustration that they had very little influence on the outcome of the QSA. They noted that the population of Imperial County was very small; approximately 185,000 and that MWD, SDCWA and CVWD who serve millions of people outside the region seek to acquire additional Colorado River water currently allotted to IID. Due to its small population, the region has little political clout. The region must share a congressman with the Coachella Valley which doesn't allow Imperial a lot of influence on legislative matters. Interviewees noted that Water Forum stakeholders would need to address this challenge of keeping as much water as possible for use in the Imperial Region and that the IRWMP should provide opportunities for creative solutions.

¹ This amount is somewhat less than the amount IID has historically delivered to its users, as measured inside its service area.

- **Develop the capacity to store raw water – water banking**

Interviewees suggested one possibility for keeping as much Colorado River water in the Imperial Valley as possible is to develop a water bank for storage of raw water during underrun years.² Given the flat topography of the region, there is not ability to store much Colorado River water. The region needs to develop groundwater storage capacity to store raw water in underrun years. If not, the excess water (up to 200,000AF) will go to agencies with the next priority, including MWD. The IRWMP should address possible storage projects. Many acknowledged that this would be very expensive. Some suggested that it may be possible to develop more than one storage area and designate different water banks.

- **Maintain a water supply that will be able to accommodate future demand but that also includes maintaining a reliable supply for agriculture.**

Several interviewees were of the opinion that there must be enough water to allow for municipal, commercial and industrial (MCI) growth, but not economically at the expense of the farmers and other current water users. In addition, many pointed out that diversity of the economy is necessary to encourage economic development and attract people to the region, but that diversity should exist without destroying a long-standing way of life in the Imperial Valley – farming.

- **Groundwater - East Mesa has supply to possibly develop**

A few interviewees reported a large supply of groundwater in the East Mesa area and stated that existing studies of the area should be reviewed and new studies should be undertaken to ascertain the amount of water available and the feasibility of accessing the supply.

- **Groundwater – West Mesa**

It was noted that communities in the West Mesa area use groundwater rather than Colorado River water. Their water is extracted from a sole-source aquifer, which is overdrafted and continues to decline.

General Perceptions: What is your perception of the general public’s understanding of water issues?

Several interviewees agreed that there is a general lack of understanding of water issues among the citizens of the region, with the general public being mainly concerned with rising water rates. All of the cities with the exception of the City of Imperial are disadvantaged communities and many of their citizens struggle to pay for water.

Interviewees pointed out that the perception of many citizens is that agricultural crops waste water. They don’t understand farming practices in the region. Farmers explained that one often sees water draining from the fields through pipes that flow into the drains. This is tilewater. When a field is irrigated, enough water has to be provided to meet the crop requirement and to run through the soil

² Underrun year is a calendar year when IID does not use its total allotment of Colorado River water.

and leach out salt, which is discharged into a drain. Tilewater is too salty to be recycled. Tailwater drains by gravity off the surface of the fields, is collected at the end of the field and then flows into tailwater boxes and into the drain. By means of a tailwater return system, tailwater can be returned to the head of the field and used for irrigation.

- The interviewer noted that a goal of the stakeholder process and an outcome of the Water Forum should be to educate the general public about water issues.

Water Issues and Challenges – Your Organization: What are the main issues and or challenges that your organization experiences related to water?

Agricultural

Agriculture, with a production value of just under \$1.6 billion in 2010, is the No. 1 industry in the Imperial Valley. Farmers receive 97% of the water delivered but make up only a small portion of the population. The perception of several non-farmer interviewees was that many farmers are greedy and want to sell water for a profit. Some interviewees noted that this perception is not entirely correct – that there are families who have a long history of farming in the valley who want to continue to farm. However, it was noted that there are also farmers willing to sell their land if the price is right. One stakeholder opined, “The reason the Imperial Valley exists is for agriculture. If you take farming away, you have nothing. The agricultural industry in the Imperial Valley supplies food for the whole nation. Water for agriculture should be a priority.”

Common concerns/Issues/possible solutions

- **On-Farm Water Conservation**

There is a perception among the non-farming community that farmers waste water and should practice more water conservation. Several interviewees familiar with farming noted that there is a problem in defining what constitutes conservation in farming techniques and these may differ from area to area. For example, a farmer who previously flooded his crops, then stopped that practice and instead installed a drip irrigation system, would consider the drip system to be a method of water conservation. But, another opinion would be that the farmer should already have been using a drip irrigation system, so the installation of one is not an extraordinary conservation method.

Many interviewees suggested that the farmers should decide on the most appropriate and efficient conservation methods. Some suggested that classes on innovative conservation methods should be offered and that farmers would employ appropriate conservation methods if they had an opportunity to learn about them. One interviewee noted that it may be costly to change methods of farming to improve conservation or to install equipment which would improve conservation. Farmers would be more willing to employ conservation measures if they received some compensation.

It was noted that farmers are often advised to plant crops that are more efficient in their use of water. But the farmer has to take into account several factors. For example, Bermuda grass uses a lot of water and has little feed value, but it is exported to Japan and China and is important in the balance of trade. Alfalfa is a crop that requires a lot of water and has no food value for humans, but is important feed for dairy.

- **Farmer Organizations**

Water Conservation Advisory Board (WCAB)

The WCAB advises the IID Board of Directors. Opinions differed about the effectiveness of the WCAB.

Some interviewees think that the WCAB is ineffective. Although the IID board appoints the WCAB members, the Board doesn't consult with the WCAB nor listen to their suggestions. It was suggested that the farmers should pick WCAB representatives, not the IID board. That would give the WCAB more freedom to give advice as they would not be beholden to a Board member.

Another view was that WCAB needs to be more inclusive. A suggestion was made to add a community member.

Imperial County Farm Bureau (ICFB)

Imperial County Farm Bureau is the largest in the state with 32 board members. The ICFB includes farm service providers as well as growers. Farm bureau members are diverse and cannot be characterized as taking one position or having one opinion. Some inactive farmers maintain their ICFB membership.

Observations concerning the ICFB

- Some interviewees claim that the farm bureau is controlled by the Imperial Group, which is a group that wants to split the IID into two boards, one to govern power and one to govern water.³

³ "A number of agricultural landowners — organized as The Imperial Group — are challenging the IID's authority to enter into transfer agreements without participation by the agricultural landowners. They are concerned about how the transfer funds will be used. Instead of the IID's undefined use of funds, The Imperial Group has prepared a nine-point plan that would commit the funds to improved irrigation technology, community services such as education and health, and economic development.

"They oppose the IID's plan to maintain the status quo. Doing so will result in a decline in the economic health of Imperial County. The Imperial Group's approach will support new jobs, new housing, improved schools, better health care and the attraction of new business to the region."

The Imperial Group. <<http://www.imperialgroup.info/>>

- Interviewees noted that some Farm Bureau members are of the opinion that they since they own the land, they can sell their water. Some landowners believe the water is their property, and IID only delivers it and has no right to enter into a transfer.
- Interviewees reported that some Farm Bureau members cited as preferable the policy in the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) whose water is tied to the land. PVID is controlled by the landowners with one vote per acre.
- Some interviewees noted that some Farm Bureau members are of the opinion that water is owned by the public. Since the IID board members are elected by the public, they can do as they please. Others pointed out that IID holds the water in trust and the water has to be used reasonably and beneficially.

Renewable Energy - Geothermal

The predominant source of power generation in the Imperial Valley is geothermal due to the unique geography of the Salton Sink. As of spring 2012, over 600 MW is being produced from geothermal, all of which is sold outside of the region. IID owns/operates nameplate amount and type of generating units in the Imperial Region, as follows: 335 MW of natural gas fired steam or combined cycle units; 115 MW of natural gas fired gas turbine units; 25 MW of diesel fired gas turbine unit; 85 MW of hydro units. Some of the above natural gas fired units have dual fuel firing capabilities.

Geothermal plants require water for cooling during power production. Different methods are employed in the Imperial Valley. For example:

Cal Energy operates 10 geothermal plants in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA). This resource has the highest available geothermal fluid temperatures of any of the Imperial Valley geothermal sites, lending it well to flash steam generation technology. Flash steam plants generate some of their required water as part of the power generating process. Supplemental water is provided by IID.

Ormat Technologies, Inc. operates power plants in the East Mesa KGRA. East Mesa resource has generally lower temperatures than the Salton Sea resource and primarily supports binary cycle geothermal plants. Water usage is higher than for other types of thermal power plants, which is typical of plants using lower temperature resources.⁴

Controversy exists among the residents, especially between the members of geothermal industry and agriculture industry, concerning the value of geothermal for the Imperial Region:

⁴ For an in-depth discussion of Imperial Region geothermal activity, see Doering, Brandon and Jordan, Eddie. "Imperial Irrigation District Power Plant Water Use Evaluation." TM to GEI Consultants, Inc. 11 Aug 2009. Imperial IRWMP Appendix L. 13 Sep 2012.

- Some interviewees noted that the geothermal industry is perceived as a threat to agriculture. The renewable energy industry provides low level jobs, and there is concern that laborers will leave farming and work in the geothermal plants because they will receive higher wages. In which case there would not be enough laborers to harvest crops.
- It was noted that as farmers (agricultural lands) go out of production, the water supply available for industry and commercial use will increase.
- Some interviewees' perception is that geothermal plants require a disproportionate share of water for operation. Ormat in particular was accused of being a "water hog".
- However, other interviewees stated that MCI uses only 3% of the water consumed in the Imperial Region.^{5,6}
- Several interviewees are in favor of increasing the number of geothermal plants in the Imperial Valley. In their opinion, the geothermal industry will provide new jobs, which are necessary to boost the economy of the region. Presently, Imperial County has the highest percentage of unemployed in the State.
- Other interviewees noted that when fields are taken out of production in favor of other types of industry, there is a loss of jobs which causes a negative impact on the economy.

Environmental Justice

All incorporated cities except the City of Imperial and all unincorporated areas of Imperial County are considered disadvantaged communities (DACs) by the CDWR.

- Some interviewees think that residents in the DACs have a means to express their concerns through city councils, or the County Board of Supervisors.
- A few interviewees pointed out that many citizens are not knowledgeable about how to participate in local government, are unable to attend meetings, or may not comfortable doing so. There may be a language barrier. Some live in mobile homes and are not organized into groups that would enable them to address their issues.

⁵ MCI deliveries in 2009 were 69 KAF; out of total delivery of 2.7 MAF, or 2.5% of water delivered.

⁶ Both agricultural and MCI water users in the Imperial Valley historically discharged around 1/3 of the water delivered to them into IID drains. Thus, MCI consumes about 2% of the water; and ag consumes 64% of the water delivered. The remainder flows through the IID drainage system to Alamo River and New River to the Salton Sea or through some drains directly to the Salton Sea. This flow will be reduced as urban 20 X 2020 conservation and QSA on-farm conservation efficiency programs come online.

- Environmental justice groups advocate for these underserved communities.
- Several interviewees agreed that representatives of these groups should be included as stakeholders in the planning process of the IRWMP.
- **Water Quality**
Water quality was main issue cited by interviewees, in particular:
 - Bacteria in water systems in untreated water in canals in unincorporated areas.
 - Bacteria in treated water in some areas, e.g., Seeley.

Cities of the Imperial Region

There are seven (7) incorporated cities in the Imperial Region. Elected officials and/or city staff members of the following cities were interviewed:

- Brawley, Calexico, El Centro, Holtville, and Imperial

Cities are often referred to geographically. Northern cities include Brawley, Calipatria, Westmorland and Niland (CDP); southern cities are Imperial, Holtville, El Centro, Seeley (CDP) and Calexico.

Keystone Road (SR 27) is the divide between north and south. An interviewee noted that there are different mindsets in the north and south. The southern part was often settled by Europeans especially Swiss. They tend to be more hands on in their farming businesses. The northern area relies more on custom operations, and the owners may hire foremen to operate farming business.

The incorporated cities are also referred to by their size. Small cities include Holtville, Westmorland, and Calipatria; large cities El Centro, Calexico, and Brawley; the City of Imperial is in the middle.

Interviewees were asked how the cities related to one another. Several interviewees noted that city staff members work well together and often help each other. Generally the cities don't work together regionally and some prefer to work independently. It was noted that the Keystone Project – a proposed water treatment and recycling project among Imperial, Brawley and Imperial Valley College – is one example of regional cooperation.

Although each city has unique issues, interviewees expressed some common concerns:

- **Stormwater Drainage**
Stormwater drainage was the problem of most concern for the cities. During a storm event, streets flood and the water flows into retention basins. Drainage is very slow, because the pipes are only 12 inches in diameter (IID requirement). Retention basins must be pumped for mosquito control. In some of the earlier developments, there are no retention basins, so the streets just flood during a storm event.

One interviewee suggested that the IRWMP include the development of a stormwater management plan which would provide a possible regional solution.

- **Wastewater Treatment**

Most cities operate their own wastewater treatment plants. Some cities want to continue to operate individual plants which are a source of revenue. Other cities are in favor of exploring the possibility of regional plants. Interviewees who favor this approach note that for this to happen, an upfront, transparent process would be necessary. The IRWMP could propose regional wastewater treatment plants as part of the Proposition 84 implementation grant application.

- **Water Rates**

Several interviewees noted that the cities receive water from the same source as the agricultural community, but that the water is much more costly for the cities.⁷ They were of the opinion that water should not cost more to deliver to the cities; rates should be the same for agricultural and municipal users.

In addition, before a decision is made to raise rates, there should be more public discussion during which a justification for the difference in the rate municipal and agriculture structures should be proposed. One interviewee noted that there is “a lot of grumbling about city rates.”

- **Job Opportunities**

Several interviewees expressed concern that Imperial County has the highest percentage of unemployment in the state, and interest in increasing job opportunities. Several noted that renewable energy, specifically geothermal plants, is a possible source of additional employment.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Imperial Irrigation District (IID) was formed in 1911 pursuant to the California Irrigation District Act. IID is a state agency formed and existing for governmental purposes. Its legal boundaries are all situated in Imperial County. IID’s powers and purposes are set forth in the Irrigation District Law found in California Water Code §20500.

District History and Size	
Date of Formation	
California Development Co. (CDC)	1 st delivery – June 1901
Imperial Irrigation District (IID)	July 24, 1911
Source of Water	Colorado River
Acreage at Formation	513,368 AC (IID)

(Dowd, 1956, p 49)

With more than 1,667 miles of canals and laterals and 1,456 miles of drains, IID is the largest irrigation district in the nation. The Water Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the extensive open channel system, and delivers around 2.7 million acre-feet of IID’s Colorado River entitlement annually to nearly one-half million irrigated acres. In 2009, IID conserved 218,727 AF for

⁷ IID 2010 General Agricultural Rate is \$20/AF, Municipal Rate is \$68/AF for delivery of untreated water.

transfer to MWD, SDCWA and CVWD and for Salton Sea mitigation. An additional 65,657 AF of All-American Lining conservation was transferred to SDCWA. IID water is held in trust for use on lands served by the All-American Canal in the Imperial Valley and must be reasonably and beneficially used.

Of the water IID transports, agricultural water delivery accounts for approximately 97 percent of the delivered water, making possible Imperial County's ranking as one of the top ten agricultural regions nationwide. The remaining three percent is delivered to seven municipalities, one private water company, two community water systems, a variety of industrial users and rural homes or businesses, and to recreational and environmental users.

The IID Board of Directors consists of the five members elected valley-wide. The board members serve five (5) districts, and the board member serving a particular district must reside in that district.

Interviewees' Comments about IID

All interviewees voiced opinions about IID as an agency, its board of directors, its staff, its operations, and/or other areas of concern.

Positive comments:

- IID staff is individually responsive and is becoming more progressive.
- Operations, drainage, and management personnel are good to work with.
- Several cities have good working relationships with IID, especially with operations and maintenance staff.
- IID board members serve as the public's trustees for the use of the water.
- Agricultural interests have a lot of influence on the IID board

Critical comments included:

- The only qualification required for serving on the IID Board is residence in the area of the district seat for which one is running.
- IID board members often don't understand the issues; they should educate themselves on water issues. Some do educate themselves and are more knowledgeable than others.
- Board members earn \$78,000 per year.
- Board members change frequently; therefore, a consistent long-term picture is lacking and the Board will change direction and policy. For example, the Board approved a renewable energy demonstration; then five years later cancelled its approval.
- The Board is fractured. Some directors make political decisions that are not the best for the Valley. They won't take on hard issues, because they want to be reelected.
- The Board members sold out. They didn't look into other possibilities before agreeing to the QSA.
- The Board serves a public agency and should listen to the public. There is not a transparent public process.

- The IID Board does not represent farmers who use 97% of the water – farmers are not kept in the loop.
- IID staff receives large salaries.
- IID wastes money on equipment and consultants.
- IID sees industry as big pockets and farmers as small pockets.
- IID water delivery priority is municipal, industrial, environmental, and fish, with agriculture last.
- There is nepotism. The “good ol’ boys” are in top management and it is inefficient.
- Upper level management does whatever it wants to, no matter what.
- The staff is difficult to deal with.
- There is no communication among departments. One interviewee stated “all departments are kings unto themselves.” There is not enough communication between the Board and the staff. There is a lack of direction.
- The general manager can’t fire staff without Board approval; so at the department level and below, no one is fired but just moved around from one position to another. The general manager can fire consultants.
- Permits are difficult to get. Businesses leaves the Valley because they can’t get will serve letters.
- IID doesn’t want to get involved in the problem of stormwater drainage, and cities can’t afford to fix the problems.
- There is not enough public discussion before rates are raised.
- Power generates revenue and subsidizes water. Citizens subsidize farmers because they pay for the power. Water rates for agriculture are the lowest in the country.

Suggestions for IID

- Split the IID Board – one for water and one for electricity; it is too much for directors to have an understanding of both water and power.
- Search for board members who understand water issues.
- Restructure the Board and make it accountable.
- IID should get involved in water treatment.
- IID should do more for system improvement and farm conservation instead of encouraging fallowing which puts people out of work.
- IID and farmers could work together.
 - Farmers could help district fix roads on drain and ditch banks.
 - Farmers could use their own equipment and work on their own time; they are the ones who have to use the road.
- Imperial County, IID and WCAB could work together to solve the problem of roads that wash out.
- IID needs to include ideas from diverse groups, a broad base to make informed decisions.

Imperial County

Imperial County encompasses 4,597 square miles, bordering on Mexico to the south, Riverside County to the north, San Diego County to the west, and the State of Arizona to the east. The terrain varies from 235 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea to 4,548 feet at Blue Angel Peak, which is located in the Sierra Juarez Mountains less than 300 yards (270 m) north of the United States-Mexico border in California near the San Diego-Imperial county border and Interstate 8.

The climate is hot and dry, ranging from lows in the mid-30's in January to highs of 110+ in July and August (mean temperatures: low, 55.0°F; high, 89.6°F), with little moisture (average annual rainfall: 2.92 inches; 25 percent average relative humidity). Source: <http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/>

Climate Characteristics – Imperial, CA	
Climate Characteristic	Annual Value
Average Precipitation (93-year record)	2.86 inches (In)
Minimum Temperature, Jan 1937	16.0 deg. F
Average Min Temp, 1914 –2006	29.0 deg. F
Maximum Temperature, July 1995	121.0 deg. F
Average Max Temp, 1914 –2006	115.2 deg. F

Monthly Climate Summary – 30-Year Average (1977 – 2006)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max Temp (°F)	80	84	91	99	105	112	114	113	110	101	89	78	98.0
Min Temp (°F)	35	37	42	47	54	60	68	69	62	51	39	33	99.8
Avg Temp (°F)	57	60	65	72	78	86	92	92	87	76	64	56	73.8
Avg Rainfall (In)	.51	.49	.40	.06	.04	.00	.11	.37	.26	.29	.19	.43	3.15

Source: IID Imperial Station Record

Imperial County is an agency with statutory authority for ground water management and has a Groundwater Management Ordinance. The County has the power and authority to regulate land use, develop general plans, establish zoning, and review and approve new development proposals in unincorporated areas acting as the CEQA lead agency. Imperial County is also the lead for floodplain management through the Flood Management Plan (FMP; Imperial County, 2007), General Plan, and County ordinance.

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors is comprised of five supervisors. Each supervisor is elected in his/her own district, not countywide.

Interviewees Comments about Imperial County

- County services have improved during the past few years.
- The County conditional use permits (CUP) process is clear, unlike the IID process for obtaining a will serve letter.
- Supervisors are supportive of geothermal plants.
- Cities gave mixed reports; some have good communication with the County, while others not as good.
- There can be friction between the County and cities for access to grant funding; the County receives information first, which gives it a head start.
- Because supervisors are elected by district, they have to answer to their district only and tend not to think regionally. If they do, they can be voted out of office.
- County activities are not transparent. For example, County Counsel hired a Chief Executive Officer without a search.
- County services such as CUP permitting are slow and cause business and industry great frustration.
- It is hard to get projects approved by the County.
- The County regulates groundwater. A large amount of groundwater is purported to be in East Mesa (2 million acre-feet). The County needs to do a basin analysis.

Relations between IID and Imperial County

- Communication is lacking between the County and IID
 - Better coordination of CUPs and will serve letters is needed.
 - The process is very slow. Time is lost, costs escalate and industries sometimes leave the Valley and go elsewhere.
 - For example, the County issued a permit for Ormat to build a geothermal plant without a will serve letter from IID. IID had to issue a will serve letter and it took 2 years.
- Planning departments of IID and the County have a good relationship; the staffs work well together. Politics are the problem.
- If the County and IID designate someone to negotiate a problem, they work together and find a solution.
- For example, the 2-plus-2 group, consists of two IID Board members and two County supervisors who meet regularly to work on mutual problems.
- Interviewees had contrasting opinions as to the effectiveness of the 2-plus-2.
 - 2-plus-2 is a good example of the County and IID working together.
 - 2-plus-2 is not effective; it is superficial, just talk with no agreements reached.

Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)

The QSA, which is designed to assist California to stay within its annual entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado water, is the largest agriculture to urban transfer in the history of the United States. It calls for diversion over 408,000 AF of water per year from IID system and on-farm conservation to Southern California urban areas of for a period of not less than 35 years. Recipients of the diverted water are:

- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 105,000 AF,
- San Diego County Water Authority, 200,000 AF,
- Coachella Valley Water District, 103,000 AF, and
- San Luis Rey Indians, 11,500 AF.

The QSA is beyond the scope of the Imperial IRWMP. However, it has been a major cause for a strained relationship between IID and the County.

- Interviewees stated that the County was not against the water transfer, rather the concern is that the QSA does not properly address impacts and mitigate for those impacts. The QSA did not address the concern that the water transfer will cause reduction to the Salton Sea and, therefore, dust and air pollution according to the County.
- The County filed a lawsuit against IID claiming the environmental package for the QSA was not complete and did not protect the public from health hazards.
- Interviewees noted that while the County was invited to negotiations on the QSA, the County could only observe, and not participate in discussions germane to the County.
- Regarding air pollution from the shrinking Salton Sea, one interviewee stated that if the County had been included in discussions at the beginning, the whole lawsuit could have been avoided.

Salton Sea

The present day Salton Sea was formed in 1905, when Colorado River water flowed through a break in an irrigation diversion structure that had been constructed along the United States-Mexico border to divert the river's flow to agricultural lands in the Imperial Valley. Until that break was repaired in 1907, the uncontrolled diversions of river water drained into the Salton Sink, a closed interior basin whose lowest point is about 278 feet below mean sea level.

The Salton Sea is a shallow (maximum depth is just under 50 feet), saline lake located in Imperial County and mostly in the Imperial Valley. The Sea occupies the lowest elevations of the Salton Basin in the Colorado Desert of Imperial and Riverside counties. On January 1, 2012, the Sea's surface at IID's Fig Tree John 2 measurement site was 230.09 feet (69.7 m) below mean sea level. The Sea is fed by the Whitewater and some creeks from the north and the New and Alamo rivers from the south. Ninety

percent of the flow into the Sea is agricultural runoff from the Coachella, Imperial and Mexicali (in Mexico) valleys. Flow in the New River includes significant drainage from Mexico; nevertheless, New and Alamo river flow consists mainly of agricultural drainage, except for some storm runoff during occasional heavy precipitation events.

High levels of salinity in the Sea pose environmental problems. Colorado River water carries about one ton per acre-foot of salinity, and is an ongoing concern. Algal bloom and the subsequent by-products of decomposition (botulism) have led to recent fish and bird die-offs. These problems have gained the attention of local, state and federal officials who are now looking into solutions to clean up the Sea. Given these fish and bird die-offs, the Sea still continues to provide a vital link in the Pacific Flyway by offering vast aquatic and wetland habitats in a region where water is scarce and where historic wetlands have been developed. <<http://www.iid.com/index.aspx?page=172> >

According to the Colorado River Basin, Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 7):

One of the major functions of the Salton Sea is to serve as a sump for agricultural wastewater for the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Executive Order of Withdrawal (Public Water Reserve No. 114, California No. 26), signed in 1928, designated lands within the Salton Basin below elevation 220 feet below MSL as storage for wastes and seepage from irrigated lands in the Imperial Valley. Approximately 75 percent of the freshwater inflow to the Sea is agricultural drain water from Imperial Valley. As the Sea has no outlets, salts concentrate in it and nutrients increase the formation of eutrophic conditions. Currently, the Sea is 25 percent saltier than the ocean, with salinity increasing at approximately one percent per year.

The Sea supports a National Wildlife Refuge and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway for migrating birds, including several state and federal listed endangered and threatened species. The Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1930 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. However, catastrophic fatalities of birds and fish between 1992 and 1997 indicate the Sea is in serious trouble, and may be unable to support these beneficial uses in the future. <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb7/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/index.shtml>

Although the Salton Sea is not a part of the Imperial Region and solving problems associated with the Salton Sea is beyond the scope of the Imperial IRWMP, several interviewees remarked that the Salton Sea and the effects of the IRWMP on the Salton Sea do have to be considered by the Plan. One remarked that, to completely ignore the Salton Sea and its problems would be like ignoring the 800 lb. gorilla in the room.

Interviewee Comments on the Salton Sea

- The State needs to make a major investment to preserve the Salton Sea.
- The Sea is a major flyway for migrating birds – over 400 species stop over at the Salton Sea each year.
- The Sea will be receiving less water due to the [QSA] water transfer(s).
- For every two AF of water that goes to San Diego, one goes to the Salton Sea, so actually water is being added to the Sea.
- The only way to save the Sea is a joint effort of private and public entities.
- As farmers conserve water, there will be less tail water and, therefore, less water flowing to the Salton Sea.
- Reduced flows to the Salton Sea will expose more shoreline, produce more dust and cause an increase in pollutants and concentration of particles in air. This will cause the County to be out of attainment for PM10 (particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less).⁸
- The north end of the Imperial Valley by the Sea is a microclimate – crops ripen sooner, which makes a big difference to the economy. If the Salton Sea recedes, so will the economy of this area.
- Some proposals like “sea to sea” (i.e., Sea of Cortez to Salton Sea) would cost \$40 billion and are not economical.
- It would not be good to let the Sea die; it would be better to reduce the size and restore a smaller sea and make it a benefit to the region.

Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region. IRWM operates on the principle that each stakeholder holds a piece of the water management solution for their region and that the best solutions require better communication and understanding of regional issues among the stakeholders. Stakeholders work together to develop an IRWMP which will enable them to apply for grant funding from CDWR.

All interviewees were in favor of the development of an IRWMP and in addition, all were in favor of their organizations participating in the development of an IRWMP.

- **This was the only consensus response in the assessment!**

Interviewees were asked: What the IRWMP should address

- Water storage – to provide a long-term solution so IID underruns can be utilized within the Valley and provide water for industry and new residences.
- Wastewater solutions for the region – a regional, tertiary treatment plant

⁸ USEPA is charged with enforcing the Clean Air Act under which it has set standards for certain pollutants including PM10. An air basin that has not attained those standards is designated as being in “non-attainment” status.

- Protection for agriculture, but include ways in which agriculture can be more efficient.

Interviewees were asked: What are possible benefits

- Enable the region to conserve water.
- The plan could allocate water use.
- Help facilitate on farm conservation practices.
- Facilitate improved communication among stakeholders – move the process forward and stop infighting.
- Protect water rights.
- Aid in procuring funding for water resource management and water banking.
- Promote sustainability of water resources – balance among municipal, agricultural, industrial users.
- Allow budget for capital projects.
- A supporting document for the QSA.

Interviewees were asked: What would make a plan successful

- Participation by all interested and vested stakeholders whose input would be valued.
- Farmers must be represented because they use 97% of the water.⁹
- Cities must be represented – even though they only use 2% of the water, they subsidize the farmers by paying more for their water.
- A level playing field.
- Allow for a reasonable amount of development.
- Education of the public about the plan – outreach.
- Good mix of commercial and industrial projects.
- A workable plan that is practical and doable.
- A living plan that can be changed as the need arises.
- A common goal among participants and a mission statement.
- An open, transparent process – evaluation of projects in an unbiased manner.
- Guarantee water availability for growth.
- Projects which are ready to go and receive funding.

Interviewees were asked: What would constitute barriers to a successful plan

- Bias toward one interest over another; example farming over new development, or more protection for new industry and development and not agriculture.
- If farmers view the plan as another level of bureaucracy and are worried that it might affect their priority for water use.

⁹ Farmers actually use around 64% of the water, with the remainder flowing as tile water and tailwater into the drains and to the Salton Sea.

- Divergent views of who owns the water.
- Fear of the unknown and the outside.
 - Example – if the plan is successful in conserving water, someone outside the region will take that water.
- Ongoing litigation between IID and Imperial County.
- Lack of capacity of elected officials.
- Lack of participation by stakeholders.
- Stakeholders unwilling to compromise.
- If the plan is a political farce run by IID and Imperial County.
- If the plan is too costly in both time and money.

Interviewees were asked: Who should fund the IRWMP

Many interviewees said that IID should fund the plan. However, several others said that those who would benefit should fund the plan including the County, the cities, private enterprise and farmers.

- Other suggested sources of funding included:
 - Research and make use of state and federal sources – loans, bonds, grants.
 - Community funds – all pay into a fund which would benefit the community.
 - Those who contribute apply for funds when needed.
 - Analogous to an endowment – accumulate the interest.
 - Water users pay proportionately.

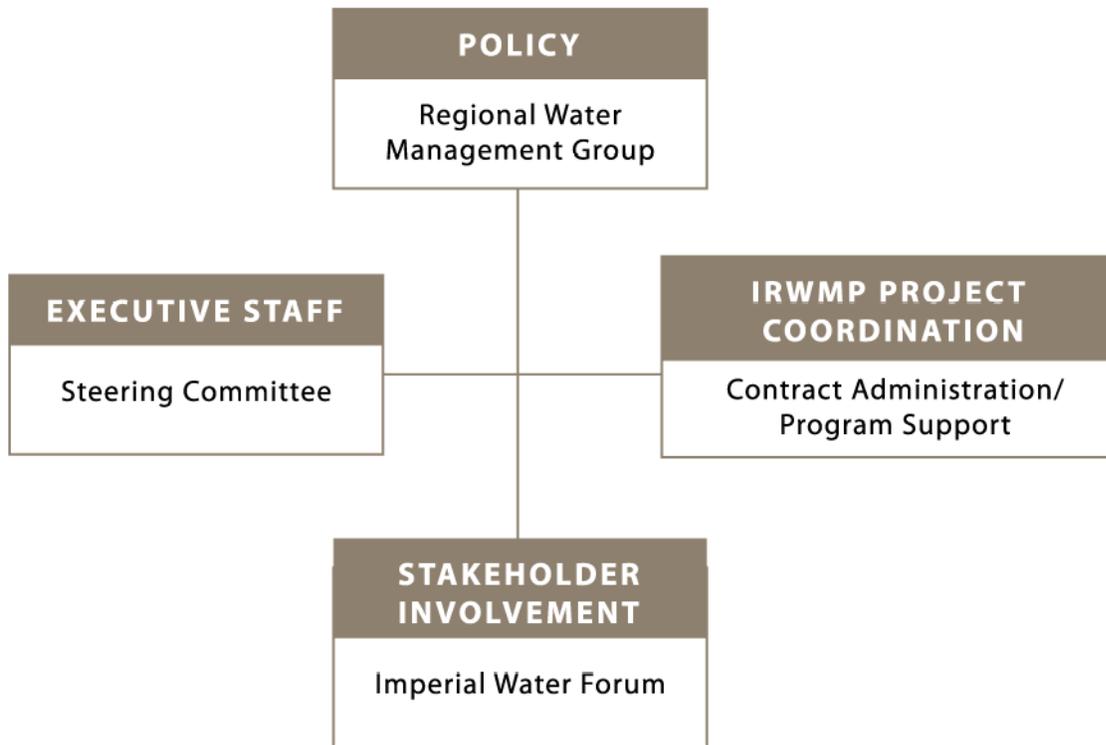
General comments concerning funding about funding included:

- Cities – although they use little water, the IRWMP may contribute to job creation and, therefore, benefit them.
- If farmers have to pay, the IRWMP will never come to fruition.
- Currently not one agriculture dollar goes into planning – geothermal, the direct customer of IID, foots the bill – only industry has the rate structure to support projects.
- New sources of funding should be dedicated to new development.

Interviewees were asked to consider whether: Agree with proposed governance structure or have different proposal

Interviewees reviewed the governance structure proposed in the Region Acceptance Process (RAP) and were asked if they agreed or had a different proposal.

IMPERIAL IRWMP GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



Water Forum – stakeholder group whose membership consists of representatives of public agencies and organized stakeholder groups whose purpose is to provide input during the development of the IRWMP, represent their group’s interests, build consensus and make decisions.

Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) - consists of two members of the IID Board of Directors, two members of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors, three representatives from Imperial Region cities, at least two of which will be from DACs. IID and Imperial County are the two agencies with statutory water management authorities and have strongly endorsed the development of the IWRMP. The RWMG purpose is to serve as a consensus building, negotiating, and conflict resolution body; to provide policy direction and overall guidance during the development of the IRWMP; and support the adoption of the IRWMP.

Suggestions included:

- Use existing groups to form a governance body.
 - CCMA - the local group of the City County Managers' Association. The group meets as needed usually about once a month to discuss various topics of interest to local government agencies.
 - 2-plus-2 – County and IID
 - Imperial County Farm Bureau and veggie growers
 - Use technical staff to make recommendations to managers and electeds.
- Need 2 or 3 farmers - IID board is not representative of farmer interests.
- Cities – 2 large and 2 small.
- Cities – use League of Cities, small cities don't always have personnel or skill set.
- Can't use people for political reasons – need people who understand, can put a plan together, will collaborate.
- Farmers should not be on the RWMG, they are a specific industry; if they are included, also need to include other industries.
- Possible structure – One County representative, one IID representative, three representatives from the cities, one representative from agriculture.

CONCLUSIONS

Conditions for Collaboration

Is there a clear desired outcome of convening these potential stakeholders in the planning of an IRWMP? - YES

As noted above, the only point of consensus in the assessment was that all interviewees are in favor of the development of an IRWMP and all are in favor of their organizations participating in the development of an IRWMP.

Granted several barriers are perceived to a successful process, but interviewees were able to articulate several benefits to an IRWMP.

Is there clear political leadership and commitment? - YES

The IID board retained GEI to prepare a RAP and to engage in the IRWMP process to develop an IRWMP for the region. All five board members voted in favor. Imperial County has indicated its support as the agency in charge of groundwater. All the Cities interviewed indicated that their councils were in favor of an IRWMP.

Are the primary parties identifiable? - YES

The interviewees in this assessment were selected from agencies, organizations and groups with a broad range of interests. These would be the primary parties participating in the full IRWMP process. All indicated they would like to participate.

Do they have legitimate spokespersons who are willing to participate? – NOT ALL PARTIES

Some of agencies noted that they do not have the staff available to attend a 2-3 hour meeting each month.

Is there a relative balance of power among the parties? - NO

The perception among the interviewees is that IID is in charge and wields the power. A question frequently asked of the interviewer was who was funding this assessment and who was funding the development of the Plan. As the relationship with IID section notes, there is much criticism of the IID.

Are there economic resources sufficient to convene the group, fund the process? - YES

The IID board has indicated its willingness to begin funding the stakeholder process. Application was made to CWR for a Proposition 84 Planning Grant, a million dollars was awarded to IID on behalf of the region. In addition, a Proposition 84 Implementation Grant will be submitted on completion of the IRWMP for the implementation of defined projects.

Although the answers to these questions indicate that conditions are primarily favorable to convene a collaborative stakeholder process to develop an IRWMP, several issues are worthy of note.

- Mistrust exists among several agencies/organizations whose members were interviewed. Especially apparent is the lack of trust and confidence in the lead agency, IID.
- The agriculture industry is concerned about the potential demand for water by new renewable energy plants.
- Pending litigation between the two lead agencies, IID and the Imperial County, could pose a problem.
- Ensuring a broad representation of stakeholders may be difficult due to the inability of some of the DACS to participate in the meetings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Initiate the process with a “kick-off” meeting to which all stakeholders are invited. The agenda would include background information on the formation of the Imperial Region; information on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning, and an effort to recruit all potential stakeholders to the process.
- Organize a “Water Forum” to begin the IRWMP process. Initial tasks to include education about the IRWMP, an effort to engage as many stakeholders as possible, formation of goals and objectives and the drafting a charter to include program organization, decision-making process, governance, etc.
- Make a special effort to include as many DACs in the process as possible.

MILESTONES OF IRWMP PROCESS: APRIL 2010– JUNE 2012

- IRWMP Kick-off meeting, April 2010
- Stakeholder Assessment and on-going facilitation by CCP
- Imperial IRWMP Water Forum and RWMG Charter, Goals and Objectives, Fall 2010
- CDWR Planning Grant, (\$1million), executed February 2012
- City of Imperial to act as fiscal agent for implementation grants
- IID to support on-going Water Forum activity
 - Water Forum annual meeting
 - Water Forum annual report

A resolution to adopt the Goals and Objectives and Water Forum Charter, and designate a representative to the Water Forum, was prepared for stakeholders to take back to their respective agencies and organizations for adoption.

The resolution was subsequently adopted by the agencies listed below

Imperial Irrigation District	Brawley
Imperial County	El Centro
Westmorland	Holtville
City of Imperial	

Agencies that Passed Resolutions Adopting Goals, Objectives, and Charter

The Water Forum also adopted a resolution announcing the intent to prepare the Imperial IRWMP through an open, participatory and collaborative process. The resolution also supported preparation and submittal of the Proposition 84 Planning Grant by IID on behalf of the Imperial Water Forum. The notice of intent to adopt this resolution was also placed in the Imperial Valley Press. IID’s Board of Directors also adopted a resolution authorizing the IID, serving in its capacity as the project coordinator, to submit an application for Proposition 84 planning grant funding.¹⁰

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize IRWMP, July 2012
- Adopt/Endorse IRWMP, September 2012

Finalize project list for Proposition 84, Round 2 Implementation grant, December 2012

¹⁰ IID Board of Directors. “Imperial Irrigation District Resolution No. 24-2010.” 14 Sep 2010. <<http://www.iid.com/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=2380>>.

(blank page)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AF	Acre-foot, or acre-feet
Board	Board of Directors
CCP	Center for Collaborative Policy
CDP	Census Designated Place
CDWR	California Department of Water Resources
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
County	Imperial County
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
GEI	GEI Consultants, Inc.
ICFB	Imperial County Farm Bureau
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
KAF	Thousand acre-feet
MAF	Million acre-feet
MCI	Municipal, commercial, and industrial
MW	Megawatts
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
QSA	Quantification Settlement Agreement and Related Agreements
RAP	Region Acceptance Process
Region	Imperial Region
SDCWA	San Diego County Water Authority
Sea	Salton Sea
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Valley	Imperial Valley
WCAB	Water Conservation Advisory Board

COMPLETED INTERVIEWS – IMPERIAL IRWMP

Total: 29 interviews; 37 interviewees

No.	Date	Type	Agency	Name
1	1/21/2010	Local government	Imperial County	Andy Horne
2	1/26/2010	Local government	City of Calexico	Victor Carrillo
		Local government	City of Calexico	Luis Estrada
		Local government	City of Calexico	Oscar Rodriguez
3	1/27/2010	Business	Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation	Thomas Topuzes
4	1/27/2010	Business	El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau	Cathy Kennerson
5	1/28/2010	Local government	City of Brawley	Gary Burroughs
	1/28/2010	Local government	City of Brawley	Yazmin Arellano
6	1/29/2012	Local government	City of Imperial	Jackie Loper
		Local government	City of Imperial	Marlene Best
7	2/02/2010	Local government	City El Centro	Terry Hagen
		Local government	City El Centro	Randy Hines
8	2/02/2010	Local Government	Imperial County	Jurg Heuberger
9	2/09/2010	Agriculture	IID Water Conservation Advisory Board	Ralph Strahm
10	2/11/2010	Local Government	Imperial County	Wally Leimgruber
11	2/11/2010	Local Government	Imperial Irrigation District	James C. "Jim" Hanks
12	2/11/2010	Local Government	Imperial Irrigation District	John Pierre Menvielle
13	2/26/2010	Agriculture	Imperial County Farm Bureau	Linsey Dale
		Agriculture	Imperial County Farm Bureau	Mark Osterkamp
14	3/02/2012	Local Government	Imperial County	Gary Wyatt
15	3/04/2010	Water retailer	Seeley County Water District	Andy Munger
16	3/09/2010	Public utility	Heber PUD	John Jordan
17	3/10/2010	NGO	Institute for Socioeconomic Justice	Eric Reyes
18	3/11/2010	Local government	City of Holtville	Laura Fisher
19	3/12/2010	Business	Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation	Tim Kelley
20	3/17/2010	Water retailer	Golden State Water Company	David Godsey
21	3/18/2010	Agriculture	Jack Brothers, Inc (grower)	Alex Jack
22	3/18/2010	NGO	Sierra Club, CA NEV Regional Conservation Committee	Edie Harmon
23	3/22/2010	Agriculture	Grower	Al Kalin
24	3/22/2010	Renewable energy	EnergySource	Larry Grogan
25	3/23/2010	City Consultant	The Holt Group, Inc.	Justina Arce
26	3/23/2010	Renewable energy	Ormat Technologies, Inc – Brawley, CA	Bob Sullivan
27	3/26/2010	Renewable energy	CalEnergy	Mark Gran
		Renewable energy	CalEnergy	Ernie Higgins
		Renewable energy	CalEnergy	Brian Koenig
28	3/29/2010	Local government	City of El Centro, City Council	John Edny
29	8/11/2010	NGO	Comité Civico del Valle, Inc	Luis Olmedo

INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

IMPERIAL REGION - January 2010

I. Introduction of Interviewer

- Purpose of interview
- Overview of Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and the Imperial Region (IRWMP) (handout)
- Facilitator role - Confidentiality, Neutrality
- How information will be used

II. Background Information - Interviewee

- Describe your organization and its involvement in water issues in the Imperial Region.
- What is your perception of the general public's understanding of water issues?
- In your opinion, do the decision makers understand the water issues?

III. Relationship with IID and with Imperial County

- How would you describe your organization's relationship with IID?
 - What are the positive aspects?
 - Do you have suggestions for improving the relationship?
- What's working well about water resources planning and management in Imperial County?
What would you most want to change?

IV. Water Issues and Challenges in the Imperial Region

- What are the main physical water issues or challenges in the Imperial Region that need to be addressed?
- What are the main issues and/or challenges that you and your organization experience related to water?
- What are the conflicts that you and your organization experience related to water?
- How would you describe the issues among water users, including urban, industrial/power, agricultural and environmental interests?
 - How well do urban, industrial/power, agricultural and environmental water users in the Imperial Region work together to articulate and achieve their goals?
 - If you perceive conflicts, can you suggest any possible solutions?

V. Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

- Are you familiar with Integrated Water Management Plans (IRWMPs)?
 - If so, what is your understanding of the IRWMP process?

- Is your organization in favor of the development of an IRWMP?
- What potential benefits and/or drawbacks do you associate with the development of an IRWMP?
- What issues should a successful IRWMP address? Avoid?
- How would your organization measure the success of this proposed IRWMP?
- What obstacles might arise to derail the development of the IRWMP? Do you have suggestions to overcome them?

VI. Regional Acceptance Process proposed governance structure (review diagram with interviewee)

- Does this governance structure offer your organization an effective way to participate in the formation of the IRWMP?
 - What changes would you like to see in the governance structure?
- Are you aware that a region needs an IRWMP to access certain state funds?
- Who do you think should fund the IRWMP?
 - Would you be willing or able to help fund the IRWMP if it was necessary to get the plan done?
 - Would you support procurement of planning grant funding from the State?

VI. Stakeholder Involvement in IRWMP process

- Would your organization be willing to participate in the IRWMP process?
 - If so, who is the appropriate person to represent your organization? Please provide contact information.
 - If not, why not?
- How would you like to obtain information on the IRWMP process?
- Are there other key organizations that should be included in the IRWMP process? Please provide contact information.
- Do you know of any documents that could contain pertinent data to include in the IRWMP?

VII. Conclusion

- Do you have any questions or concerns not yet addressed?
- Regarding water resource planning in the Imperial Region, is there anything else that you would like to tell me that I haven't thought to ask about?

REFERENCE

Dowd, M. "History of Imperial Irrigation District and the Development of Imperial Valley." 1956.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Edited by Anisa Divine, Ph.D., Imperial IRWMP Project Manager

Photographs by Anna Aljabiry, Research Program Specialist, DWR Imperial IRWMP Project Manager

(blank page)

