



Chapter 13

Implementation Plan

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Chapter 13: Implementation Plan

This section identifies specific actions, projects, and studies, ongoing or planned, through which the Imperial IRWMP will be implemented. In doing so, this section:

1. Identifies the agencies responsible for implementation
2. Describes a procedure for updating and amending the list of projects and programs
3. Identifies timelines for all active or planned projects
4. Identifies linkages between projects and programs
5. Demonstrates economic and technical feasibility on a programmatic level
6. Identifies the status of each element of the plan
7. Identifies the institutional structure that will ensure successful implementation of the Imperial IRWMP

13.1 AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Imperial IRWMP Water Forum worked successfully throughout the IRWM planning process, demonstrated committed stakeholder involvement by the important water sectors in the Region (supply, demand, DAC, environmental and environmental justice, state and federal, etc.) and defined an effective decision making process as codified in the Imperial Water Forum and RWMG Charter (Charter). The Water Forum acted to continue using the existing governance structure and decision process during implementation of the Imperial IRWMP. Should a more formalized structure become necessary, the changes would be made pursuant to the Program Organization section of the Charter. Some of these steps are described defined below.

Through Project Work Group and Water Forum meetings and as directed by the Water Forum and using criteria approved by the Water Forum, GEI, Inc., developed a list of specific implementable projects and programs. Each project and program was prioritized within the context of this Imperial IRWMP. The actions, projects and plans that are incorporated in the Imperial IRWMP are described with the agency responsible for top-rated 20 projects are shown in Table 13-1. A list of all projects considered is presented in Table 12-6.

Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Chapter 13. Implementation Plan

Table 13-1. Project Implementation Schedule

Rank	Projects and Programs	Project Type	Sponsor	Cost	Status	Project Start (years)	Project Complete	Management Objectives Addressed
1	Keystone Water Reclamation Facility	Reclaim WW	City of Imperial	\$65,000,000	Final Design	< 1	2016	Water Supply
2	Keystone Desalination with IID Drainwater/Alamo River Source (50 KAFY)	Desalination	Imperial Irrigation District	\$147,440,000	Planning	3 - 6	2022	Water Supply
3	East Brawley 25 KAFY Desalination with Well Field and Groundwater Recharge	Desalination	Imperial Irrigation District	\$101,000,000	Planning	3 - 6	2021	Water Quality
4	Large-Scale Microalgal Cultivation on Recently-Exposed Playa Lands for Improving Salton Sea Water Quality and Regional Air Quality	Pilot Project, Algae	Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO), University of California San Diego (UCSD)	\$5,620,000	Project Planning and Feasibility Study	< 1	2017	Environmental Protection, Regional Policies/Goals, Water Quality
5	City of Brawley Reclaim Water Project	Reclaim WW	City of Brawley	\$12,500,000	Preliminary Design	< 1	2015	Water Supply, Environmental Protection, Regional Policies/Goals,
6	City of Brawley Water Meter Project	Metering, Conservation	City of Brawley	\$4,000,000	Preliminary Design	< 1	2016	Water Supply, Environmental Protection, Regional
7	City of Brawley Raw Water Storage Project	Storage, Reliability	City of Brawley	\$4,000,000	Project Planning and	1 - 3	2018	Water Supply
8	Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project	WWTP Upgrade	City of Holtville	\$6,149,000	Preliminary Design	< 1	2016	Water Quality
9	Spearheading with Spirulina: An Sustainable Approach to Desert Aquaculture	Pilot Project	Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$350,000	Ready to Construct	< 1	2014	Regional Policies/Goals
10	Drainage Improvements in the Township of Seeley; County Project No. 5363	Stormwater	Imperial County Public Works	\$1,916,794	Project Planning and Feasibility	1 - 3	2017	Flood Protection and Stormwater Management
11	HPUD WWTP Upgrade to Tertiary Treatment	Reclaim WW	Heber Public Utility District	\$12,500,000	Preliminary Design	1 - 3	2017	Water Supply
12	New River Bioremediation and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Process Evaluation Project	Habitat Restoration, Invasive Species Control, Conservation	San Diego State University Research Foundation	\$600,000	Preliminary Design	< 1	2014	Water Quality
12	Holtville Wastewater Collection System Project	Fix wastewater outfall pipeline	City of Holtville	\$4,100,000	Final Design	< 1	2014	Water Quality
14	Water distribution storage tanks, 2 each 5MG	Storage, Reliability	City of El Centro	\$10,000,000	Preliminary Design	1 - 3	2016	Water Supply, Regional Policies/Goals, Water Quality
15	Holtville Water Distribution System Project	Pipeline Connector (WS), Reliability	City of Holtville	\$3,040,000	Preliminary Design	< 1	2016	Water Quality
16	Holtville Stormwater Conveyance System and Detention Basin Project	City Stormwater	City of Holtville	\$7,095,000	Project Concept	< 1	2016	Flood Protection and Stormwater Management

Table 13-1. Project Implementation Schedule, Continued

Rank	Projects and Programs	Project Type	Sponsor	Cost	Status	Project Start (years)	Project Complete	Management Objectives Addressed
17	Interconnection projects between City of El Centro, City of Imperial and the Heber Utility District	Inter-connection, Reliability	City of El Centro	\$1,400,000	Project Concept	3 - 6	2021	Water Supply, Regional Policies/Goals, Water Quality
18	Holtville UV Transmittance Water Treatment System Project	Drinking Water	City of Holtville	\$540,000	Project Concept	< 1	2014	Water Quality
19	Holtville Stormwater Master Plan Project	Stormwater plan	City of Holtville	\$60,000	Project Concept	< 1	2014	Flood Protection and Stormwater Management
20	Holtville Sewer Master Plan/Map Update Project	WWT System Upgrade	City of Holtville	\$84,000	Project Concept	< 1	2014	Water Quality

13.2 UPDATING AND AMENDING THE LIST OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

An adaptive management process creates a balance between a stable plan that guides action, and a flexible plan that allows for responding to changed circumstances. The approach to updating and amending the Imperial IRWMP is intended to ensure its effective implementation over time and to make the Imperial IRWMP a living document.

Changes to Regional planning assumptions and priorities, to state and federal legislative and/or policy, or climate conditions (such as long-term drought in the Colorado River watershed) could create a need to update the list of projects and programs. Areas of uncertainty that could drive a plan update include QSA/Transfer Agreements litigation, changes in IID system and on-farm efficiency conservation programs, state and federal Salton Sea Restoration plans the major changes in land use that would have an effect on the Region’s water use, and thus supply for “new” users. The process for making changes to the Imperial IRWMP is intended to provide the flexibility to respond to changing conditions in the Imperial Region.

Interim changes are defined as minor amendments to process, organization, or water management. These changes might occur with some frequency and don’t require the update and re-adoption of the IRWMP. Interim changes include, but may not be limited to, maintaining the Priority List of Projects and Programs. Updating the Project Priority list will be based on a publicly noticed Call for Projects to the stakeholders that have adopted the Imperial IRWMP and to interested parties. The Project Work Group will review and rank the submitted projects and make a recommendation for Water Forum for action.

13.3 TIMELINES FOR ACTIVE AND PLANNED PROJECTS

The Imperial IRWMP will be implemented through short- and long-term projects and programs designed to achieve the regional objectives described herein. The prioritization strategy described in Chapter 12 is used to stage the progression of projects and programs identified in the Imperial IRWMP.

Through short- and long-term regional project implementation, the planning agencies will begin to achieve the regional objectives.

The implementation schedule for each prioritized project and program in the Imperial IRWMP is shown in Table 13-1. Table 13-1 also includes the entity responsible for implementing a project or program.

Larger regional projects and programs such as the Keystone reclamation project and desalination and the interconnection projects between Heber PUD, El Centro, and the City of Imperial. Other projects will primarily benefit the DACs in the region, which is an important aspect of this IRWMP. Other projects such as the algae and habitat restoration projects will benefit the environment and may provide new local industries. Groundwater development and recharge projects that could provide benefit throughout a large part of the Imperial Region are under study by IID. Flood/stormwater protection programs could also provide benefits to residents and property throughout the region. Regional benefits and costs as well as plans to finance projects were included in the evaluation and ranking of the listed projects. Engineering and economic studies are to be planned to support future action.

A number of projects and programs are part of the foundation of the IRWMP, including:

- County's and City land use plans which are the basis for projecting future urban water demand.
- County and Geothermal Energy Stakeholder Group plans for renewable energy development, including the County's proposed Solar Ordinance which is the basis for forecasting renewable energy water demand.
- DAC requirements to meet state and federal regulations and to provide storage reliability and storm protection for their residents.
- Concerns of the local community around issues of environmental justice and environmental enhancement, including protection of sole-source reservoirs and other state and federal BMPs, environmental regulations and programs.
- IID Following Program Definite Plan and System Conservation Plan are the basis for reducing IID operational and agricultural sector discharge to the Salton Sea to meet the requirements of the QSA/Transfer agreement to transfer water. The impacts caused by the transfer are mitigated with the existing mitigation measures being implemented under the various QSA environmental permits and authorization (Draft HCP and related permits) while protecting the environment from associated impacts.
- IID Interim Water Supply Policy Regulations for Equitable Distribution Plan and Temporary Land Following Conversion Policy, which allow IID to respond to changes to land use and in water use (urban and renewable energy).
- IID Annual QSA Implementation Report and 2007 Water Conservation Plan which are prepared

for CDWR and USBR in compliance with state and federal regulations and allow IID to continue receiving imported Colorado River Water (there will be a 2013 WCP update).

- Imperial County Farm Bureau’s TMDL Program and IID Drain Water Quality Improvement Plan, which are designed to meet the Basin 7 RWQCB requirements and to protect local habitat.

Potential projects and programs that could be further developed are related to:

- Further development and implementation of projects submitted by stakeholder for inclusion in the IRWMP.
- Preparing a Regional Urban Water Management Plan for update 2015 that complies with SBX7-7 water conservation program.
- Preparing and adopting a Groundwater Management Plan for the East Mesa where groundwater development and storage are proposed.
- Developing regional floodwater/stormwater protection and management policies.

13.4 LINKAGES BETWEEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

All of the projects included in the Imperial IRWMP are slated to be initiated in the near future. Some of the projects have a long or short timeline for implementation while others are on-going. Linkages exist between most of the project type and programs; these potential linkages are described in Chapters 7 through 11. Other regional projects provide linkages that include benefits between the projects. For example, groundwater recharge projects (Chapter 7) are all related and provide synergistic benefits among the projects through regional groundwater storage. Various monitoring programs, such as water quality analysis of agricultural drains, demographic studies of wildlife species and wildlife habitat analysis are underway that will provide more information for the development of resource management strategies for the Salton Sea and the surrounding watershed.

13.5 ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY

This Imperial IRWMP consists of projects, programs and planning activities that local and regional planners have found to be economical and technically feasible based on pilot studies, technical analysis, and data assessment. Table 13-2 presents the economic and technical feasibility of the projects on a programmatic level for each planning objective. Specific projects and programs associated with each management objective are identified in Table 13-1.

13.6 STATUS OF EACH ELEMENT OF THE PLAN

The projects and programs in the Imperial IRWMP have been prioritized using of criteria discussed in Section 12-1. There are projects identified as near-term priorities for implementation that have completed or will complete the following elements within a year or less in order to meet their anticipated operational date:

- Project budgeted, with funding sources identified
- Preliminary design/environmental documentation complete (if applicable)
- Land acquisitions, right-of-way, and easements complete (if applicable)
- Permits and regulatory approvals complete (if applicable)

Table 13-2. Linkages Between Project and Program Types

Regional Planning Objectives	Water Supply	Stormwater and Floodplain Management	Groundwater Management	Ecosystem Restoration	Recycled Water	Water Quality
Water Supply			X		X	X
Stormwater and Floodplain Management						X
Groundwater Management	X				X	X
Ecosystem Restoration		X			X	X
Recycled Water	X		X	X		X
Water Quality	X	X	X	X	X	

The projects identified in Table 13-1 as in earlier stages of planning (e.g., “project concept”) have not completed and do not expect to complete the elements listed above in the near-term.

13.7 INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE TO ENSURE IRWMP IMPLEMENTATION

As described elsewhere (Chapter 3) in this document, the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is the lead decision making body with representation from each of the stakeholder interests for the development and implementation of the Imperial IRWMP. Once an agency/stakeholder adopts the IRWMP, it accepts responsibilities to participate in the implementation of the IRWMP. Thus, while, the IRWMP will be a living document that will change over time, an agency that adopts the IRWMP agrees to continue building common ground and collaborating to implement the Imperial IRWMP.

