

- Findings to provide guidelines on which CDWR's Resource Management Strategies will be integrated to meet the Imperial Region goals. CDWR recommends that local regions review the RMS identified in California Water Plan Update 2009.
- Project Ranking and Evaluation Criteria have been developed to ensure an open, fair and transparent process for prioritizing projects to be included in the Imperial Proposition 84 Implementation Grant application.

- Complete technical studies and reports, including regional economic evaluation and the vulnerability of the Imperial Region to climate change.
- Define funding and oversight for implementation of the Imperial IRWMP.
- Prepare Draft and Final IRWMP for adoption by stakeholders. The Imperial IRWMP will include an implementation plan that identifies roles and responsibilities, costs, resource commitments, and timelines. Under CDWR guidelines, IID, Imperial County and at least one city need to adopt the IRWMP.
- Prepare and submit CDWR Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Application – Mid-2012.

### What are the next steps for the Water Forum?

- Hold work group and workshop meetings to complete review of remaining RMS and make findings related to improving water quality and improving flood management, as well as environmental enhancement and coordinated land use/water supply management. The findings will be integrated to meet Imperial IRWMP's goals and define the projects, programs, and policies that may be implemented by local agencies.
- Conduct a second call for projects in summer 2011 to include as many projects as possible in the Imperial IRWMP and to ensure that the DACs in the region have their water supply and quality needs addressed.
- Project ranking, evaluation and integration. The projects submitted will be reviewed and prioritized according to how well they meet 1) Imperial IRWMP's goals and objectives; and 2) CDWR's Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funding requirements. In order to be included in the Imperial Region's grant application, a project should provide regional benefits.

### How much funding is available to the Imperial Region?

The Imperial Region will be competing with other IRWMPs within the Colorado River Basin (Coachella, Mojave, and possibly Borrego) for Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funds. A total of \$36 M is allocated to the Colorado River Basin. Eligible projects must be designed and must have required permits; environmental clearance, financing and partnering agreements. Competitive projects will also have to meet the State's preferences and priorities for use of the grant monies. Thus, the amount of funding the Imperial Region will apply for will depend on how well the projects submitted meet the State's criteria. CDWR has not released the schedule for the remaining two rounds of the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant; however, it is likely that Round 2 will be in the summer of 2012, and that Round 3 will be sometime in 2013.

## Frequently Asked Questions

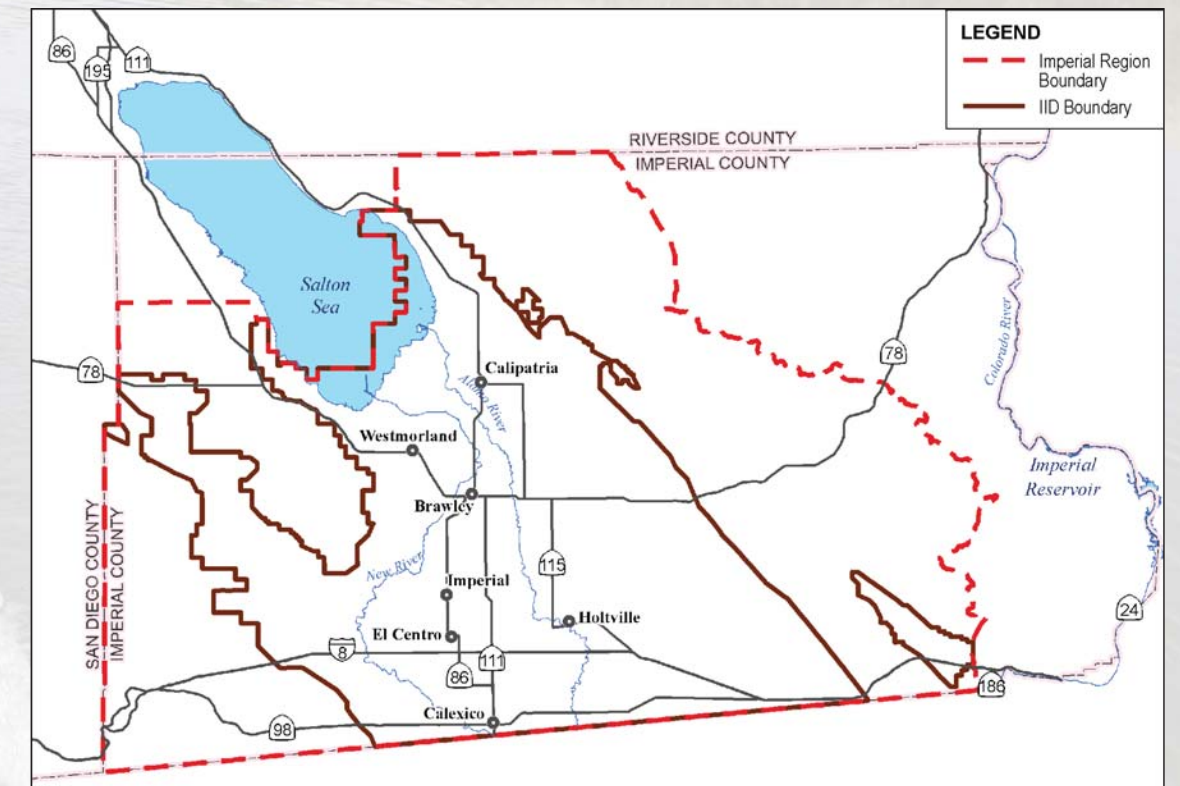
### What is the Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)?

The Imperial IRWMP will be the result of a collaborative process by the Imperial Water Forum, a group of stakeholder representatives from public agencies and organized stakeholder groups. The Imperial Water Forum was convened to develop Resource Management Strategies (RMS) for the Imperial Region to increase its water supply, reduce water demand, improve water quality, enhance its environmental resources and manage flood and stormwater. The Imperial IRWMP, which is part of the California Department of Water Resource's Integrated Regional Water Management Program,

is being developed to meet state standards. The legislative intent is to encourage local stakeholders to improve water management, prioritize state and regional investments, and ensure the highest return on investment of taxpayer money, whether state bond or other local public agency funds.

The Imperial IRWMP does not impinge on any of its participating agencies' authorities and is not intended to add another layer of bureaucracy. Instead, it is to provide a mechanism to focus and integrate the separate agencies' authorities for a common purpose and to benefit the entire region.

A stakeholder agency will need to adopt the Imperial IRWMP to be eligible to obtain Proposition 84 funding.



For additional information on the Imperial IRWMP or the CDWR Program, please visit the project web sites or call:

- Imperial IRWMP website – <http://www.imperialirwmp.org>
- CDWR IRWM Program website – <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm>
- Contact Jennifer Goodsell. Email: [info@imperialirwmp.org](mailto:info@imperialirwmp.org) Telephone: 760-339-9319



## What are the benefits of the Imperial IRWMP?

The mission of the Imperial Water Forum is to preserve and enhance the economic and environmental health and well-being of the Imperial

Region through the regional stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a practical, cost effective and responsible manner. The Imperial IRWMP covers a 40-year planning horizon, from 2010 to 2050. Intended benefits include:

- Protect local water rights
- Define a water supply portfolio to support and promote economic development
- Sustain the local agricultural economy
- Qualify the Imperial Region for state bond funding
- Support Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in meeting water supply and water quality needs
- Assist Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the cities, and the county to streamline their review and permitting processes
- Resolve conflicts by providing an alternative to litigation

## What are the Imperial IRWMP Goals?

The Imperial Water Forum has adopted and prioritized four goals, as well as a final overarching one:

1. **Water Supply** – Diversify the regional water supply portfolio to ensure a long-term, verifiable, reliable and sustainable supply to meet current and future agricultural, municipal, commercial, industrial and environmental demands.
2. **Water Quality** – Protect water quality for beneficial uses consistent with regional community interests and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan through cooperation with stakeholders, local and state agencies.
3. **Environmental Protection and Enhancement** – Protect and enhance aquatic ecosystems and wildlife habitat consistent

with municipal, commercial, industrial and agricultural land uses.

4. **Flood Protection and Stormwater Management** – Protect life and property from flooding and develop regional and local flood protection and storm water management strategies.

To realize the goal to diversify the region's water supply, the Water Forum identified development of a groundwater bank to store Colorado River water as the number one priority. In some years, IID customers do not use all of the water to which the district is entitled. In this case, if the Colorado River supply is not diverted and stored, others on the Colorado River are able to use this water and its use is lost to the Imperial Region. On the other hand, if IID has to divert more water than its entitlement, these overruns must be paid back.

5. **Regional Policy Goals** – Develop regional policies, in accordance with and respecting the individual agencies' jurisdiction and authorities, by engaging the water and land use agencies and other interested parties in a cooperative, regional approach.

The Imperial Water Forum anticipates that this overarching goal will improve coordination during local land use and water supply appropriation decision-making, expedite review of proposed new development and streamline the permitting process, thereby supporting economic development and providing jobs.

## Who are the participants in the Imperial Water Forum and planning process?

The Imperial Water Forum is comprised of 20 self-designated stakeholder representatives from public agencies and organized stakeholder groups. Membership is inclusive to ensure broad representation and accommodate a diversity of perspectives. Members are incorporated into the Imperial Water Forum by indicating their support for the planning process through a resolution approved by their governing boards or by their established governance structure. Participation and input from interested parties is welcomed and encouraged, and State and federal agencies serve an important advisory role.

## Water Forum Participants <sup>(1)</sup>

Stakeholders	Interested Parties, State, and Federal Agencies
Imperial Irrigation District	Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association
County of Imperial	IID Water Conservation Advisory Board
City of Brawley	Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
City of Calexico	El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Bureau
City of El Centro	Geothermal Stakeholders Group [Ormat Nevada, Inc., CalEnergy, Inc., EnergySource, Inc.]
City of Imperial	Comite Civico Del Valle Inc. in Brawley
City of Holtville	Institute for Socioeconomic Justice
Brawley Chamber of Commerce	Sierra Club
Heber Public Utility District	
Niland Sanitary District	
Imperial County Farm Bureau	

<sup>(1)</sup> Current stakeholders and agencies.

## What steps have been taken by the Imperial Water Forum to develop the Imperial IRWMP?

The Imperial Water Forum has accomplished the following:

- **Region Acceptance Process** – A document was prepared and California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) approved the Imperial Region. This was necessary to qualify for Proposition 84 Planning Grant funding.
- **Stakeholder Assessment** – Interviews were conducted with community leaders to identify issues, needs and ideas to improve water management.
- **Kick-off Event** – A public meeting was held in April 2010 to convene the Imperial Water Forum. To date, there have been 10 Imperial Water Forum meetings (the first was in June 2010).
- **Work Groups and Workshops** – Work groups were formed to develop the Imperial Region's mission, goals and objectives; define how the Imperial Water Forum would operate; to identify measures to increase water supply and reduce water demand; and to formulate potential projects. Workshops have been held to address specific water planning management objectives. Work group and workshop findings and recommendations are acted on by the Imperial Water Forum.

- **Proposition 84 Planning Grant Application** – Effort to establish the Imperial Water Forum, develop the Imperial IRWMP and to prepare and submit to CDWR a Proposition 84 IRWMP Planning Grant application was funded by IID using monies provided by a renewable energy company as defined in its water supply agreement. CDWR has awarded the Imperial Region \$1M to support development of the Imperial IRWMP.
- **Preliminary Call for Projects** – The Imperial Water Forum issued a preliminary call for projects and twenty projects were submitted. Proposed projects were for groundwater storage of Colorado River, upgrade wastewater treatment plants, ecosystem enhancement and water quality improvement.

## What actions have been taken by the Imperial Water Forum?

To date, the Imperial Water Forum has adopted:

- Imperial IRWMP Mission, Goals and Objectives.
- Imperial IRWMP Water Forum and Regional Water Management Group Charter to define the governance structure.

