

Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management Plan



INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP AND KICKOFF MEETING

APRIL 22, 2010



Meeting Purpose- Answer Key Questions

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- What is Integrated Regional Water Management?
- What is the result of an IRWM planning process?
- Where is the Imperial Region?
- What are the benefits of an Imperial IRWMP?
- How can stakeholders participate?
- Where are we in the IRWMP process?
- Next steps- where are we going?

What is Integrated Regional Water Management?

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“A comprehensive systems approach for determining the appropriate mix of demand and supply management options that provide long-term, reliable water supply at lowest reasonable cost and with highest possible benefits to customers, economic development, environmental quality and other social objectives.”

California State Water Plan Update 2009

Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act

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The IRWMP Act seeks to achieve . . .

- **Multiple public benefits:**
 - Increase water supply reliability
 - Increase water use efficiency and conservation
 - Reduce energy consumption (water transport)
 - Improve water management to protect and restore ecosystems and wildlife habitat
 - Integrate flood protection and water supply systems
 - Promote conjunctive use of groundwater storage
- **Local funding priorities** and preference for regional projects

SB2X (2008)

Legislative Intent

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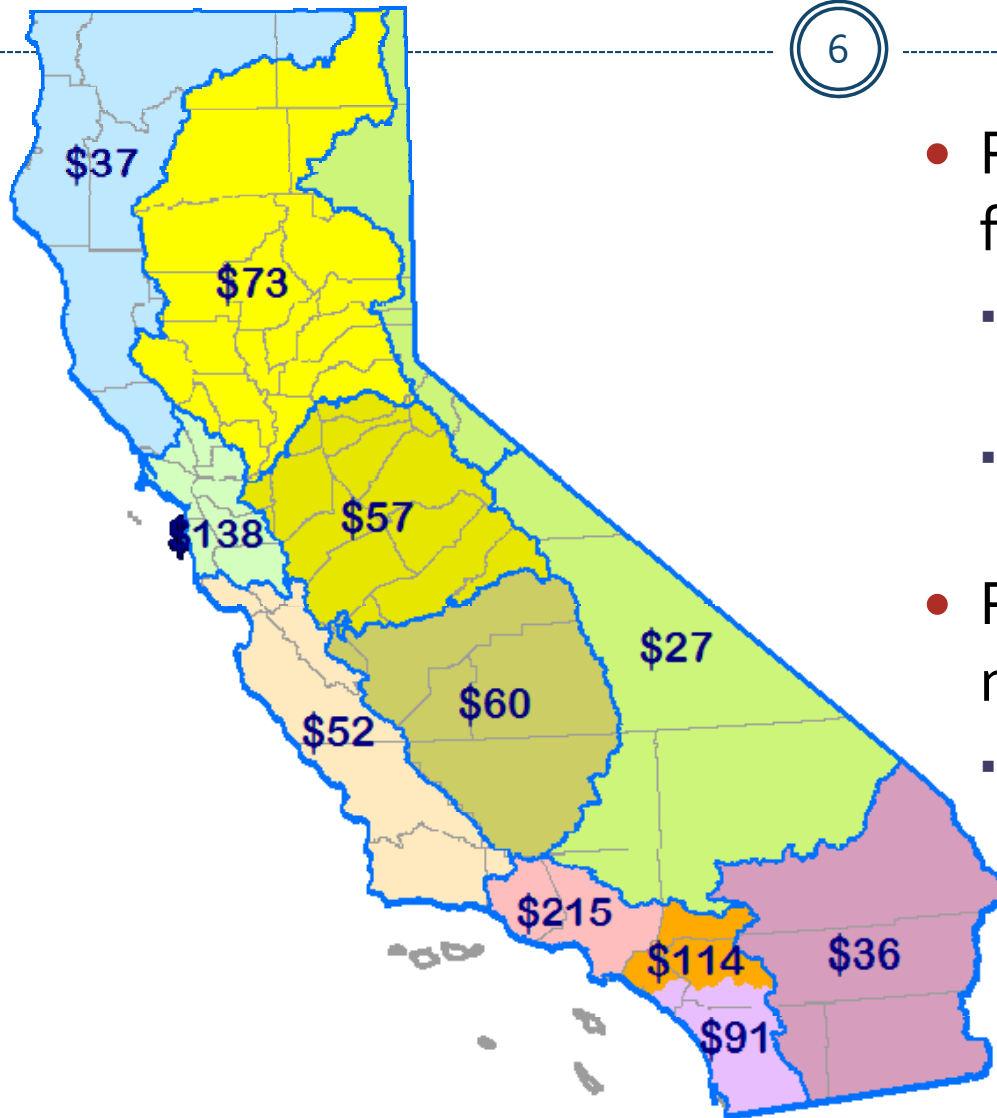
Encourage local agencies to :

- **Work cooperatively** to manage their available local and imported water supplies to improve the quality, quantity and reliability of those supplies
- **Coordinate and integrate** assets and authorities
- **Seek mutual solutions** to water management issues
- **Diversify water portfolios**, take advantage of local and regional opportunities
- Consider **DWR Resource Management Strategies (RMS)**

SB2X (2008)

Summary of Available Funding

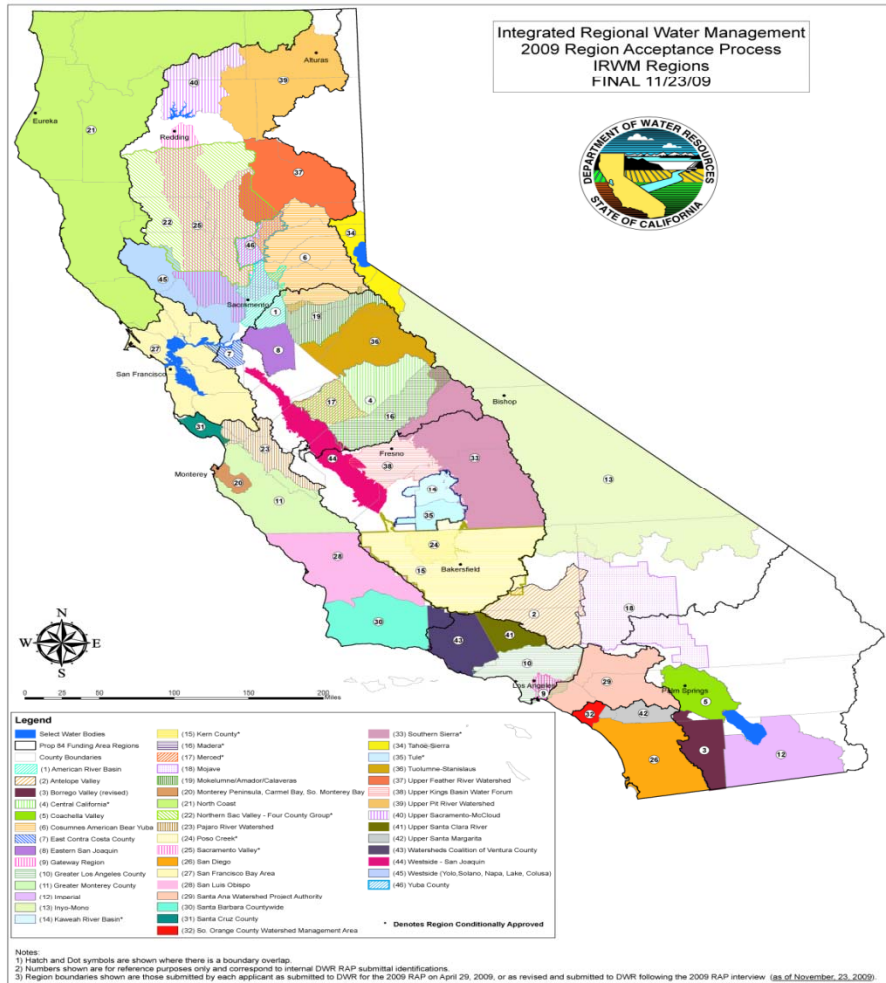
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- Prop 84 \$1 billion statewide for IRWM
 - \$900 million allocated to 11 funding areas
 - \$36 million for Colorado River funding area
- Prop 1E Storm water flood management
 - \$300 million statewide

2009 Final Regions

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- Statewide
 - 46 approved area
 - 30 completed IRWMPs

- Colorado River funding area
 - Imperial
 - Coachella Valley
 - Borrego
 - Mojave

Imperial Region

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Current Regional Issues

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- Limited Colorado River supply to meet all demands
- Limited cost-effective conservation measures beyond those already identified for existing conservation and transfer agreements
- Regional problems need regional solutions
- Limited financial capacity of Imperial Region communities
- Planning process conflicts

What are the anticipated benefits of an Imperial IRWMP?

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- Qualify the Imperial Region for state bond funding
- Define a **long-term, sustainable, and reliable** Imperial Region water supply portfolio
- Protect local water rights
- Present a united political front
- Support drinking water and wastewater treatment for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
- Sustain the agricultural economy
- Certainty of supply for new municipal, industrial and commercial development
- Streamlined review and permitting process to comply with state and local laws
- Regional resources management strategies and economies of scale

Regional projects or programs

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- Reduce water demand- agricultural and urban conservation
- Increase water supplies for any beneficial use :
 - Groundwater storage and conjunctive water management
 - Desalination
 - Water recycling
 - Regional and local surface storage
- Improve operational efficiency and water supply reliability
 - Conveyance facilities
 - System reoperation
 - Water transfers

(CWC § 10537)

Regional projects or programs

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- Improve water quality
 - Drinking water treatment and distribution
 - Groundwater and aquifer remediation
 - Wastewater treatment
 - Water pollution prevention
 - Management of urban and agricultural runoff
- Improve resource stewardship
 - Groundwater management
 - Agricultural lands stewardship, urban land use management
 - Ecosystem, fishery restoration
 - Flood plain management
 - Recharge area protection
- Improve flood management through structural and nonstructural means

(CWC § 10537)

What are the results of the IRWM planning process?

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- Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
 - Clear definition of problems, goals and objectives
 - Define and evaluate alternative strategies
 - ✦ Projects- Capital facilities
 - ✦ Programs and Policies- Nonstructural management measures
 - Implementation plan
 - ✦ Prioritized actions
 - ✦ Defined funding
 - ✦ Long term management program
 - Adopted plan to serve as a road map for the future

How will we prepare the Imperial IRWMP?

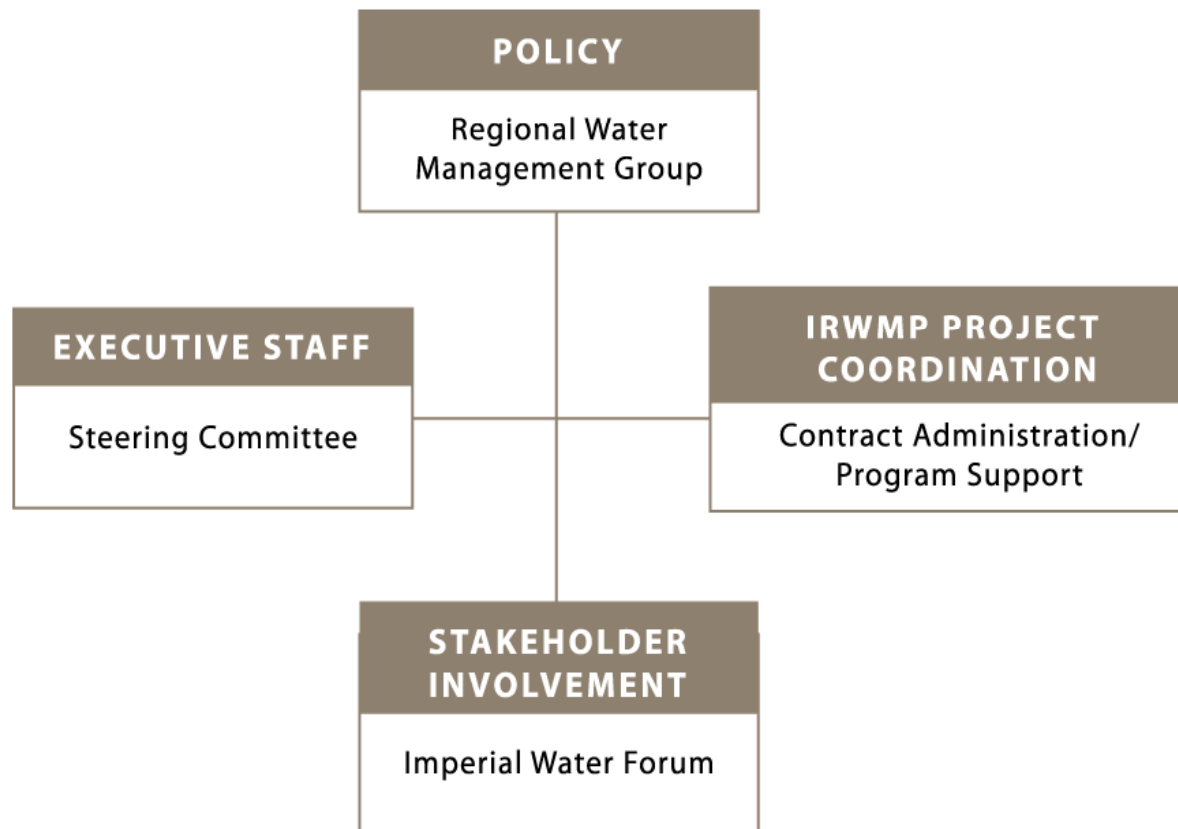
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- Follow state guidelines to meet IRWMP Requirements
- Build on technical foundation of IID draft plan
- Facilitated process
- Broad stakeholder participation
 - Build strong working relationships
 - Inclusive to build broad awareness and support
 - The four Cs: communication, cooperation, collaboration, and consensus
- Coordinate water management and land use authorities

How will IRWMP be coordinated?

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Proposed IRWMP management approach



How can a stakeholder participate?

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- Represent your group on water forum and/or work groups
- Propose regional projects and programs to address regional issues
- Attend public workshops

Where we are in the IRWMP process?

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- January 2009 – IID board initiates development of an IID Water Resources Management Plan
- April 2009
 - IID board directs staff to coordinate with DWR to submit a Region Acceptance Process (RAP) document
 - County supervisors commit to support and participate in IRWMP
- September 2009
 - DWR accepts definition of the Imperial Region
 - With support of County supervisors, IID board accepts IID draft plan and directs staff to initiate the IRWMP process

Overview of the IID draft plan

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- Background and existing conditions
- Purpose and need, goals and objectives
- Water supply- demand budget
- Review of DWR Resources Management Strategies
- Formulated and evaluated alternatives
 - Demand management elements
 - Capital facilities
 - Program/policy
 - Funding sources

Projects and programs considered by IID

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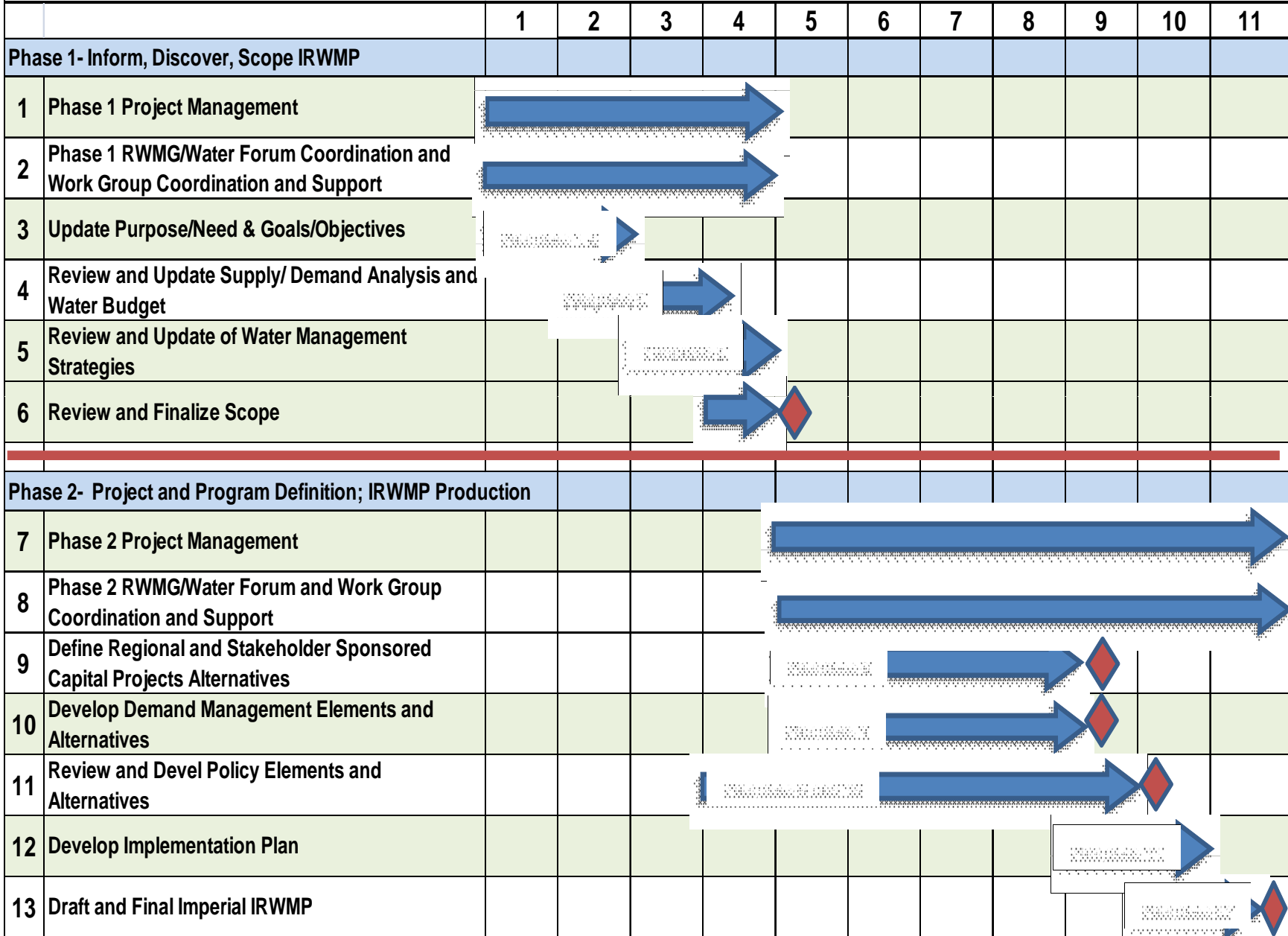
- Groundwater banking and conjunctive use
- Groundwater development
- Desalination of brackish groundwater or drain water
- Recycled municipal wastewater
- Demand management measures to ensure reasonable and beneficial municipal and industrial use
- Land use and water supply planning process integration and other policy solutions

Next steps – where are we going?

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- Formation of the RWMG and Imperial Water Forum
- Establish working groups
- Public/Stakeholder review of IID draft plan concepts
- Define additional projects, programs and policies to be considered
- Screen and prioritize alternatives
- Design of implementation plan
 - Develop and select of funding alternatives
 - Design governance, oversight and tracking
- Produce and adopt the Imperial IRWMP in 11 months

Figure 1 Imperial IRWMP Schedule



Why Participate?

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- **Funding:** Access existing and likely future state and federal grant \$\$
- **Opportunity to work together:** Opportunity for stakeholders to be integral part of planning to establish a roadmap for next 20/30 years
- **Input:** Propose projects, programs and policy
- **Other:** Coordination of land/water use in the Imperial Region
- **Final product:** Imperial IRWMP adopted by appropriate stakeholders (IID, Imperial County, IID Cities, others – whoever wants state grant \$\$?)

Resources

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- Imperial IRWMP Website <http://www.imperialirwmp.org/>
- DWR IRWMP Guidelines
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/integregio_new10.cfm
- California Water Plan <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/>

Questions?

