

## CDWR Standards for IRWMP Objectives

This briefing is intended to help Imperial Water Forum members understand the importance of setting the Imperial IRWMP Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) objectives. Clear objectives will demonstrate to the public which regional conflicts and water management issues the Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is designed to address. California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) has established IRWMP Standards (Standards).<sup>1</sup> The Standards are intended to ensure that IRWMP Plans include specific content and will be used by DWR to evaluate IRWMPs and as criteria in making decisions regarding implementation and planning grant funding.

It is recommended that the Imperial IRWMP include a single **goal statement**. A goal is a broad statement of the intent and purpose for the Imperial IRWMP. It should define the long term Imperial vision of the Imperial Water Forum and identify the desired outcome. A draft Goal statement is included in the materials provided. The objective would then also define how this goal would be met.

CDWR Standards require a description of **major water related objectives and conflicts** in the Imperial region, including **clear identification of problems** within the region. As such, the first step in the planning process is a clear statement of the problems, issues and conflicts. This is followed by crafting specific Imperial IRWMP objectives that will provide the foundation for the planning process. The objectives should be measurable by some practical means so achievement of objectives can be monitored over time. The objectives will help the Water Forum maintain focus and screen or prioritize water management strategies (projects, programs and policies).

The California Water Code (CWC §10540(c)) states that, at a minimum, all IRWMPs shall address all of the following:

- Protection and improvement of water supply reliability, including identification of feasible agricultural and urban water use efficiency strategies.
- Identification and consideration of the drinking water quality of communities within the area of the plan.
- Protection and improvement of water quality within the area of the plan consistent with relevant basin plan.
- Identification of any significant threats to groundwater resources from over drafting.
- Protection, restoration, and improvement of stewardship of aquatic, riparian, and watershed resources within the region.
- Protection of groundwater resources from contamination.
- Identification and consideration of water-related needs of disadvantaged communities in the area within the boundaries of the plan.

Although, these items do not necessarily have to be included in the objectives, IRWMP planning efforts should consider these points as they modify or develop their plan objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft California Department of Water Resources Guidelines, Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program. March 2010. Final guidelines are pending.