



General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Agenda

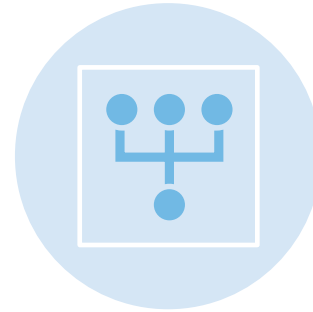
- Introductions
- California Water Commission
- Steering Committee Vacancies
- Area 2 – Regional Meetings
- Legislative Update
- DWR Updates
- Member Open Forum
- Adjourn

Steering Committee Vacancies

STEERING COMMITTEE VACANCIES



Steering Committee is recruiting two new members



This is a critical time, and these positions will help shape the future of the Roundtable and IRWM



We are looking for people who can be actively engaged and spend time contributing to the Transition Plan through writing, meetings, reviewing, advising, etc.



Steering Committee members serve two-year terms, starting 7/1

STEERING COMMITTEE

Those practitioners who represent areas not covered by the current members are especially encouraged to apply. While all applicants will be considered, the Steering Committee will make an effort to achieve better representation of our member regions.

- Lynn Rodriguez, Co-Chair, Ventura County
- Ian Achimore, SAWPA
- Sam Cohen, Tribal Representative
- Lesley Dobalian, San Diego
- Maggie Dutton, Contra Costa
- Jing Wu, Bay Area



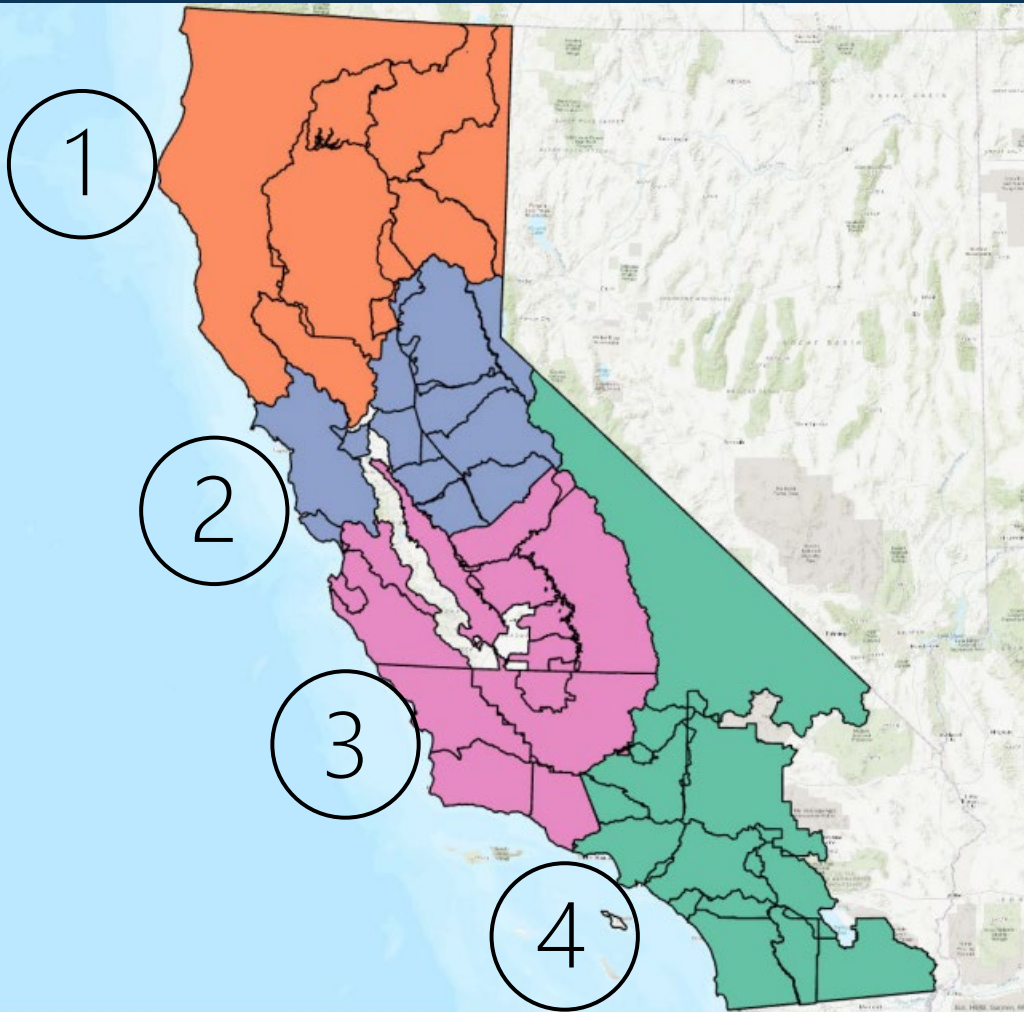
INTERESTED?

Email Amy Stevens by this Friday, June 23, if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else!

astevens@wsc-inc.com

Area 2 – Transition Plan Update

Regional Meetings



- Divided the state into the four regions shown on the left.
- Roundtable Members registered for the region that best represented their IRWM area.
- Meeting Dates
 - April 18 – South Central (3)
 - April 19 – North Central (2) & Northern (1)
 - April 25 – Southern (4)

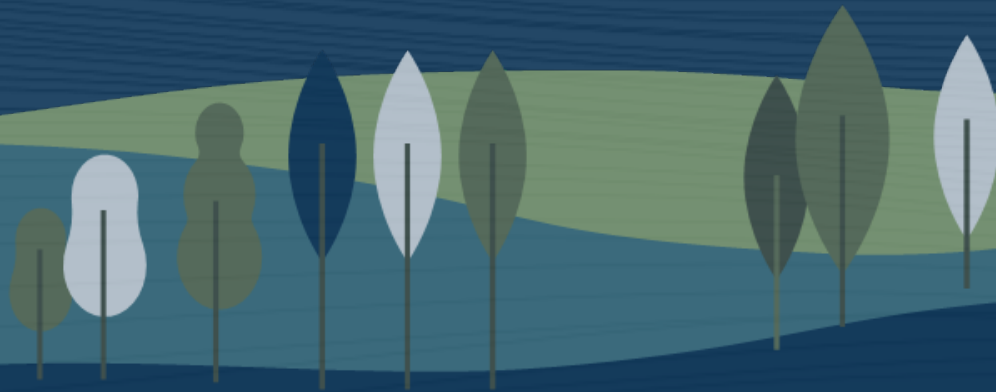
Project Objectives

- Help guide the planning efforts of DWR and other state agencies
- Collect, specific quantifiable feedback
- Identify regional needs and successes
- Establish baseline funding requests to support the program
- Build upon 2017's [DWR Stakeholder Perspectives on IRWM](#)

Summary Background

The following slides are a summary of the four regional workshops and include:

- Discussion questions
- Themes that were consistent across most or all regions / participants
- Region-specific items of significance (where applicable)



Do you believe the IRWM approach needs improvement?

- Funding for administrative support, i.e., grant writing, inter-agency coordination and meeting management, regional coordinators, grant updates/reporting requirements.
- Funding for project planning not just implementation.
- Find ways to keep maintain and increase participation.
- Better coordination with other State programs, e.g., SGMA, Climate Initiatives. This would avoid conflicting priorities and allow everyone to leverage resources for increased funding and support.
- Consistent DWR engagement so the state agency better understands the projects and regional needs.
- DACs, tribes, and small systems don't have the resources to participate and have the greatest need for the grant funding.
- Quicker grant disbursement. The lag in getting funding is a problem for "immediate" needs is difficult.
- Improve the grant application process. The (comparatively) smaller IRWM grants coupled with the current application process dissuades some from applying.
- Keep evolving and align with state priorities.
- Continuity would help with the IRWM program. A lot of IRWM issues are complicated and it is difficult for entities to stay connected.
- We need more Support from the state to "reward" successful ongoing collaboration and planning at the regional level.

What are some of your region-specific concerns, issues, benefits, etc. that can be overlooked when discussing IRWM at the statewide level?

Themes

- People only get excited when there is grant funding available, and the most interest is from the special districts.
- The non-competitive has been good for the smaller regions.
- Recovery from multiple catastrophic disasters, i.e., wildfires, floods.
- Balancing SGMA/groundwater and surface water management.
- Lack of funding to improve wells.
- Many concerns do not fit exactly within the IRWM current grant guidelines but do impact water quality and supply. Examples provided were arsenic treatment and cleaning up encampments. Would like more flexibility from the state as there are more nuanced ways projects can be beneficial.
- Need a broader definition of DAC projects. DAC and Tribes feel like they are competing for funding.
- Maintenance and operations support.

What technical assistance do you need to restart or continue your work?

Themes

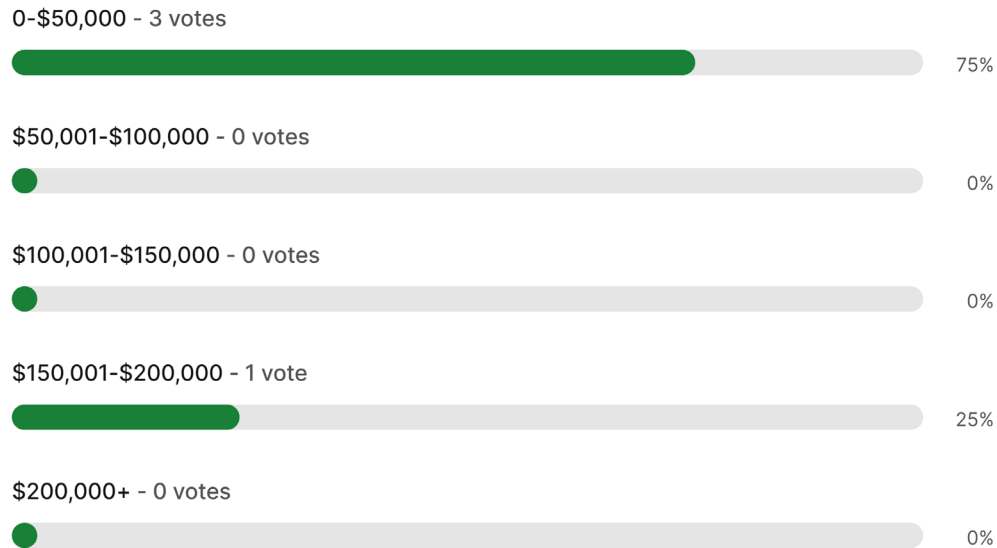
- Culturally-appropriate engagement funding to meet diverse needs.
- Technical staff training and retention.
- Grant writing support from a technical expert.
- More support for small water systems all the way around – capacity, mini-grants, reduced reporting requirements, not just drought relief.
- More streamlined grant process for everyone, especially removing barriers for DACs and tribes.
- Support and funding for IRWM plan updates.
- Funding for special studies, e.g., homelessness, DACs, affordability, rate setting.

What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work as outlined by your plan?

Northern California

☰ What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work?

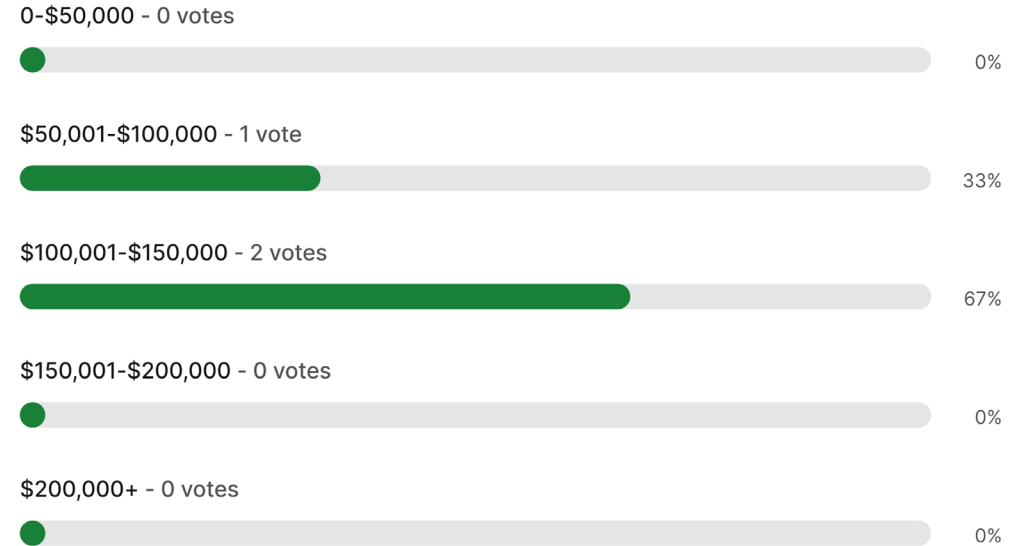
Multiple Choice Poll 4 votes 4 participants



North Central California

☰ What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work?

Multiple Choice Poll 3 votes 3 participants

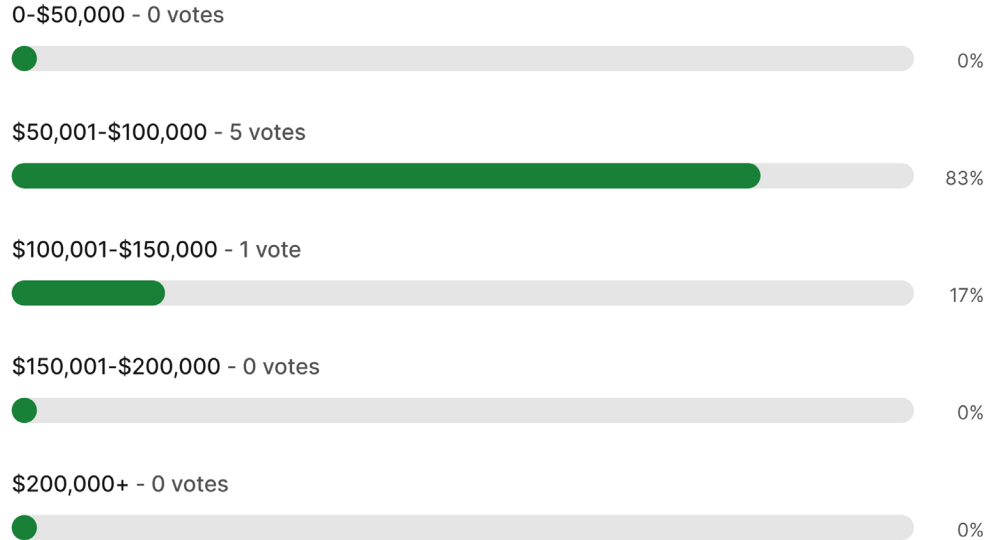


What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work as outlined by your plan?

South Central California

What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work?

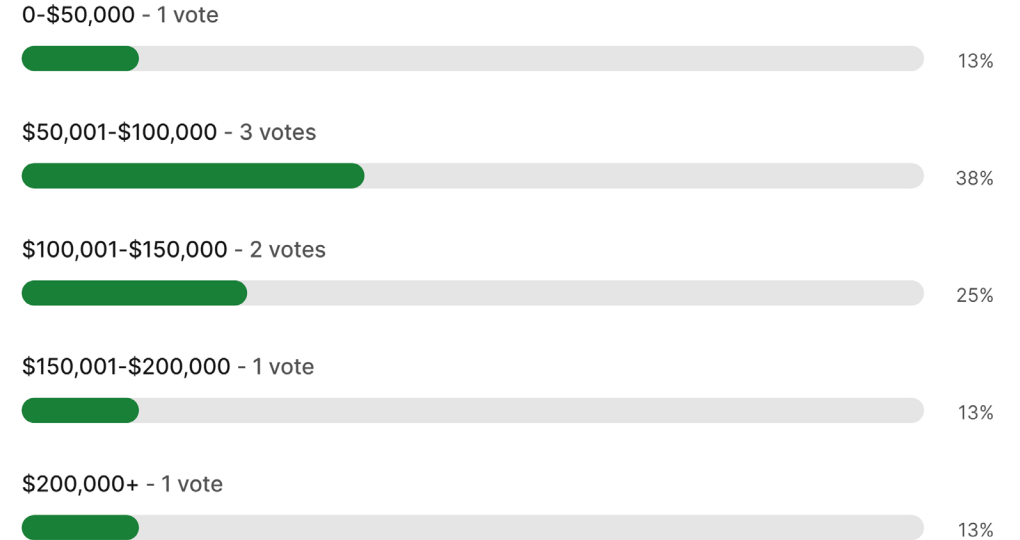
Multiple Choice Poll 6 votes 6 participants



Southern California

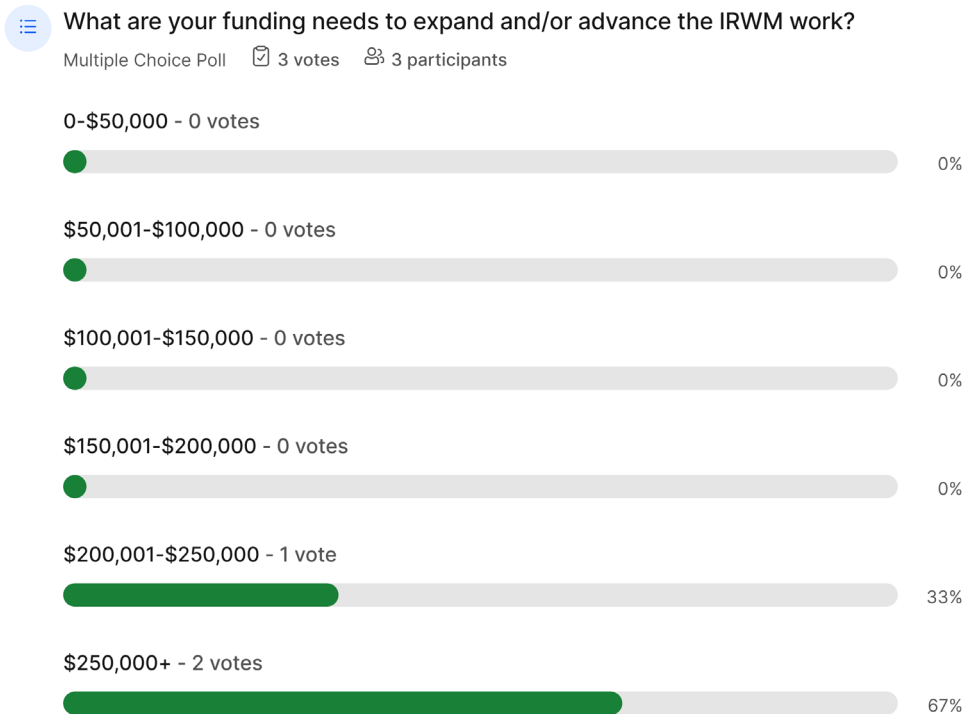
What are your baseline (annual) funding needs that would allow you to sustain your work? Consider baseline as the funding needed to accomplish your IRWM plan.

Multiple Choice Poll 8 votes 8 participants

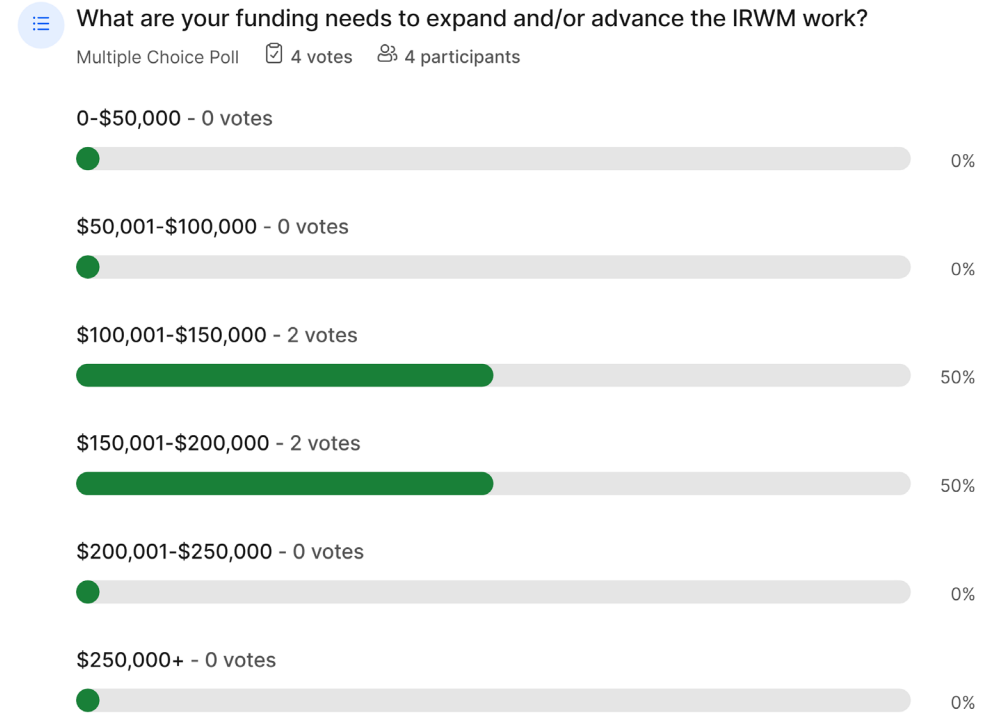


What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

Northern California

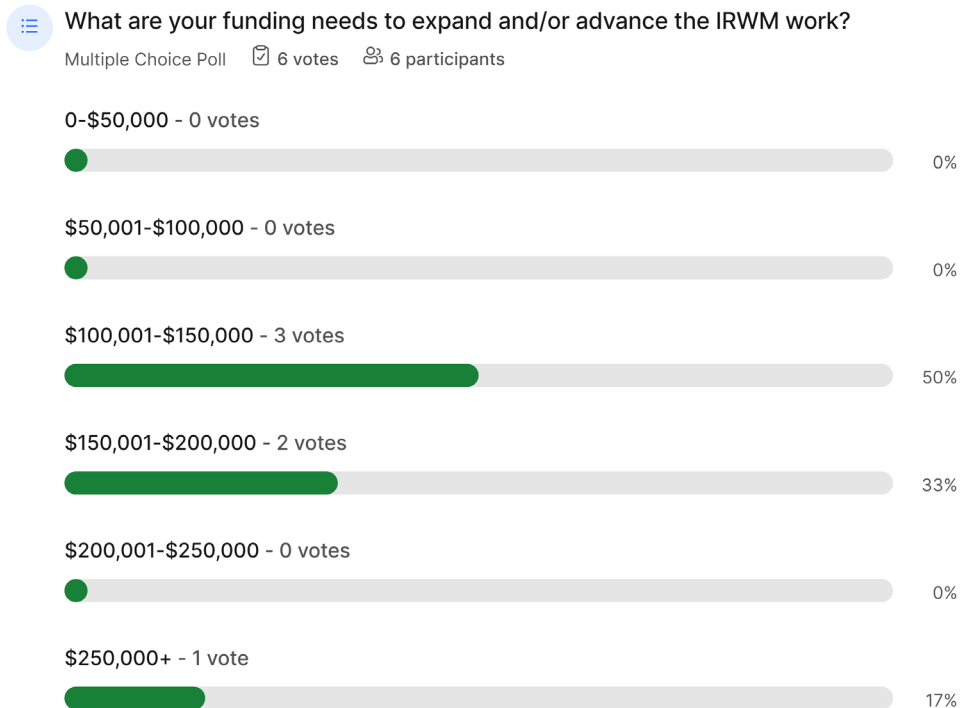


North Central California

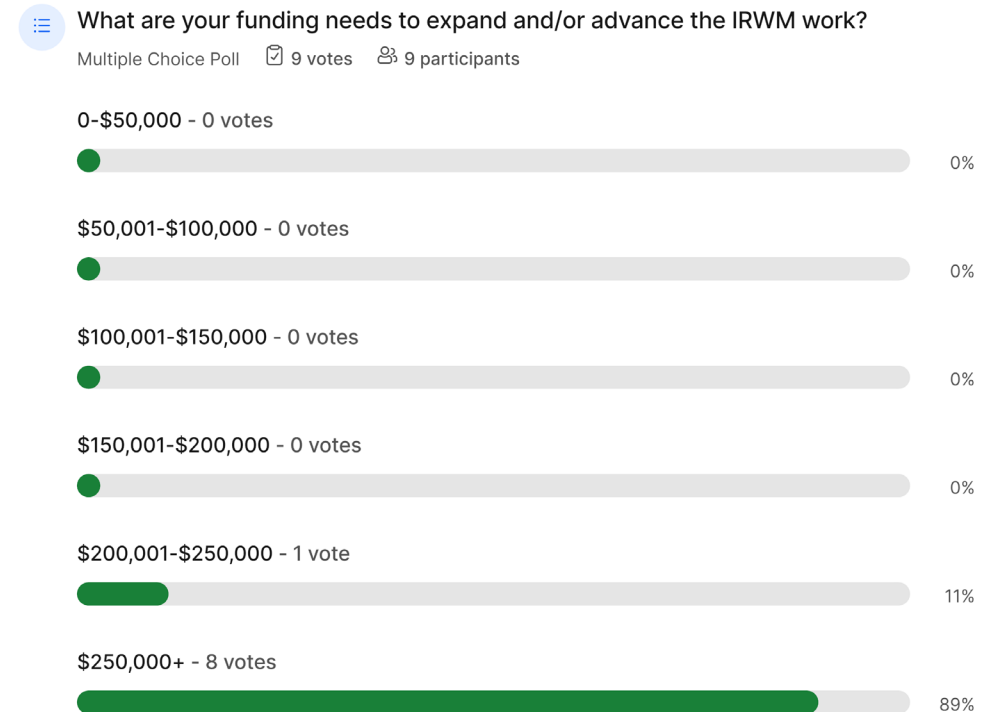


What are your funding needs to expand and/or advance the IRWM work?

South Central California



Southern California



What are your projects that could be completed with additional IRWM funding?

Themes

- Wastewater
- Green Infrastructure
- Preventative measures like conservation & water education.
- Hazard mitigation like stream restoration, hazardous fuels restoration, etc.
- Groundwater quality and quantity monitoring in communities unregulated by SGMA.
- PED (Planning, Engineering and Design) grants before seeking capital funds to avoid over-design/engineering that balloons costs.
- Groundwater Recharge
- Drinking water quality improvements.

What would it mean to your program / agency if funding were decreased or eliminated?

Themes

- Several IRWMs will dissolve completely; many are already on the verge.
- Collaboration and inter-agency coordination would drop or go away completely.
- Small systems will lose out on small opportunities. Many IRWMs help write the grants and manage the administrative side; those projects would start falling through the cracks.
- Loss of engagement from DACs, tribes, and small communities.
- Without funding and support, the sense of community built by IRWM would be gone. This community-building helps groups overcome previous disagreements.
- Community impacts are unquantifiable unless you viscerally experience it – abandonment, isolation, doom – some entities feel a lack of future without the collaborative opportunities to share and coordinate on day-to-day lessons learned.

Provide Comments



All questions available via Survey Monkey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RoR-FollowUp>

Next Steps

- Meetings with State Agencies
 - DWR – First meeting with Jenna on 5/23
 - Water Board
 - Office of Planning & Research
 - Strategic Growth Council
- Develop Transition Plan
 - Funding Sources
 - Legislative and Administrative Priorities
 - Practical Implementation Tools to Support Next Phase of IRWM
 - Ongoing meetings with DWR

**Interested in attending meetings and/or have a contact?
Reach out to Amy – astevens@wsc-inc.com**

Legislative Update



Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Sacramento Update

June 20, 2023

Michael Boccadoro &
Beth Olhasso



West Coast Advisors
Strategic Public Affairs

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Resource Bonds- March or November 2024?

- AB 1567 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2023: \$15.1B
 - Referred to Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
 - Hearing date TBD
- SB 867 (Allen) Drought & Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate
 - Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
 - Held hearing on Monday



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Recent IRWM amendment to AB 1567 to increase funding from \$200M to \$350M.

SB 867 requesting an increase from \$300M to \$350M

Thank you to everyone who supported with letters!



FY 2023-2024 BUDGET

- At least \$32B shortfall
- First Draft passed 6/15
- Governor pushing finding into climate bonds
- Governor's Trailer Bills
- CEQA- Judicial Review limited to 270 days for water projects, including Delta Conveyance



Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m.