

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

May 21, 2020

Agenda Item 12.a.

San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Subject: Adoption of Resolution No. 05-2020 adopting the updated 2019 San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Background: The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program was created by the Department of Water Resources in 2002 to foster regional collaboration and to implement effective water management solutions. California has 48 IRWM Regions which have been divided into 12 Funding Areas that are allocated funding for planning, implementation, and community involvement in a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources throughout the state. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries; involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups; and attempts to address the issues and differing perspectives of all the entities involved through mutually beneficial solutions.

This grant program requires each funding area to develop its own IRWM Plan to receive funding. Additionally, all grantees and project partners must adopt the plan to be eligible for funding. The Bay Area's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is a nine-county effort to coordinate and improve the water supply reliability, protect water quality, manage flood protection, maintain public health standards, protect habitat and watershed resources, and enhance the overall health of the San Francisco Bay. This plan was crafted and is maintained by the San Francisco Bay Area IRWM Coordinating Committee. The original plan was prepared in 2006 and was adopted by ABAG's Executive Board on November 16, 2006. The first update was adopted by ABAG's executive board on March 20, 2014. DWR issued new guidance in 2016 that required a number of updates to the existing IRWM Plan. The region has gone through an extensive process to incorporate this new guidance and to update the IRWM Plan. The 2016 IRWM Guidelines required changes in three categories, which included updates to the code section, clarification and additional detail to existing guidelines, and a new requirement for climate change impacts on the region.

To address these new and updated requirements, the Bay Area IRWM Region made updates to the Plan, including:

- Added discussion on climate change vulnerabilities in the Bay Area

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- Identified how management strategies can help address climate change challenges
- Outlined specific processes and strategies used to engage and include underrepresented populations, such as Disadvantaged communities and Tribal communities, in regional planning
- Included additional details on the work performed under the Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP)
- Added detail related to regional groundwater contaminants and management plans

A draft of the 2019 Plan Update was circulated to the Bay Area IRWM listserv in advance of the September 23, 2019 Coordinating Committee meeting. Comments were received from East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the Coastal Conservancy, and the City of Hayward. Most comments either added or corrected information related to the commenting agency; all comments were addressed and incorporated into the Plan. The Plan update was finalized and unanimously approved at the October 28, 2019 Coordinating Committee meeting. The Plan was sent to DWR on November 12, 2019 for review and public comment. The plan was posted for public comment on February 24, 2020 and DWR made the final determination that the Plan is consistent with the Guidelines and approved the document on March 21, 2020. The updated plan is available at <http://sfestuary.org/IRWMPlan2019>.

Issues:

None.

Recommended Action:

The Executive Board is requested to adopt Resolution No.05-2020 adopting the updated San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Attachments:

A. Resolution No. 05-2020

B. Presentation

Reviewed:



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