

Section 1

Introduction

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was developed for the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) and its member cities and districts (Solano agencies). This IRWMP completes the second phase of a two phased planning process. For the first phase, SCWA staff identified the major sources of water supply, existing demands, and water resources-related issues. Appendix A includes the Phase 1 report of the IRWMP.

Phase 2 of the IRWMP, which is described in this report, was developed in 2004 by engaging elected officials and a cross-section of technical and policy representatives from agricultural districts and urban agencies. This Stakeholder Group functioned as the knowledge base for the issues, ideas, and direction developed in the IRWMP. Section 2 provides a full description of the planning process and participants.

This document has two components:

- IRWMP - identifies and prioritizes all the water resource-related actions for the Solano agencies to meet their missions; and
- SCWA's Strategic Plan - prioritizes the SCWA related actions so that SCWA can best allocate its financial and staffing resources to meet its needs. This IRWMP includes the SCWA Strategic Plan as Section 7.

The Stakeholder Group developed both the IRWMP and the SCWA Strategic Plan using the same planning process.

1.2 REGIONAL WATER RESOURCES BACKGROUND

Like much of California, increasing water demands, dry year shortages and water quality challenges face the Solano agencies. Solano County is at the center of the expanding metropolitan areas of the Bay Area to the west and Sacramento to the east. Cities along the Highway 80 corridor from Dixon to Vallejo are experiencing rapid urban growth and have a need for reliable water supplies. The Solano agencies also realize the advantages of integrating water related programs such as water supply, water quality, wastewater treatment/recycling, flood management, watershed planning and environmental programs.

SCWA has a reliable water supply from the Solano Project, which provides supply to urban and agricultural users. The region has significant groundwater resources used by some of the cities and agricultural districts, but this resource remains for the most part under-defined. SCWA receives as much as 20 percent of its supply from the State Water Project (SWP), and member agencies divert other water supplies from the Bay-Delta estuary. The SWP is over-allocated and is not able to meet its allocations to State Water Project contractors, including SCWA, in dry and some normal years.

SCWA, the wholesaler for urban and agricultural water in Solano County, and its member cities and districts understand the need to integrate their water resources planning efforts and identify means to solve water issues within their region. The Solano agencies have a long and successful history of working together cooperatively to improve water supply reliability and quality. Working together to address regional issues enables the Solano agencies to maximize resources and reduce third-party adverse effects to nearby agencies.

Many of the Solano agencies face similar problems of water supply reliability, water quality, flood management, and environmental protection. These problems, among others, caused the Solano agencies to cooperate to produce this IRWMP at a regional level.

1.3 IRWMP PURPOSE

The Stakeholder Group established the purpose of the IRWMP:

- The IRWMP will propose region-wide policies and projects to meet the ten strategic issues of the Solano agencies:
 - Match supply to demand through the long term
 - Manage the County’s groundwater resources
 - Encourage water of the appropriate quality for the intended use
 - Improve runoff water quality
 - Manage flood control services
 - Participate in multi-county flood control
 - Manage environmental resources
 - Leverage state and federal funding opportunities
 - Address safety and security issues
 - Prepare for climate change

- The IRWMP process documents a recommended path for SCWA to use its resources for the betterment of Solano County for programs within the authority of SCWA, including the SCWA-related policies and projects defined in the IRWMP, to be designated the “SCWA Strategic Plan.”

The Stakeholder Group generated the ten strategic issues identified above. These issues represent the fundamental water resource policy questions and critical challenges that affect the Solano agencies’ ability to accomplish their missions. Sections 2 and 4 fully describe the strategic issue development process and content.

The Solano agencies IRWMP process also recognizes the state policy on integrated water resources planning reflected in recent legislation and in funding vehicles such as Proposition 50. The Solano Agencies developed this IRWMP with these policies in mind. State policy and Proposition 50 funding guidelines helped guide the development of local actions that also meet state policy and needs.

1.4 PLANNING AREA AND PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The planning area encompasses the entire boundary of SCWA and its member agencies. SCWA boundaries include all of Solano County, the property for the University of California at Davis in Yolo County, and a portion of Reclamation District No. 2068 (RD 2068) in Yolo County. Figure 1-1 identifies the planning area, major water supply features, and the Solano agencies. The boundary of SCWA does not always follow watershed boundaries. For example, the watershed of Lake Berryessa is in Napa and Lake counties. Also for flood management purposes, there are areas in Napa County that drain into Solano County, such as Suisun Creek.

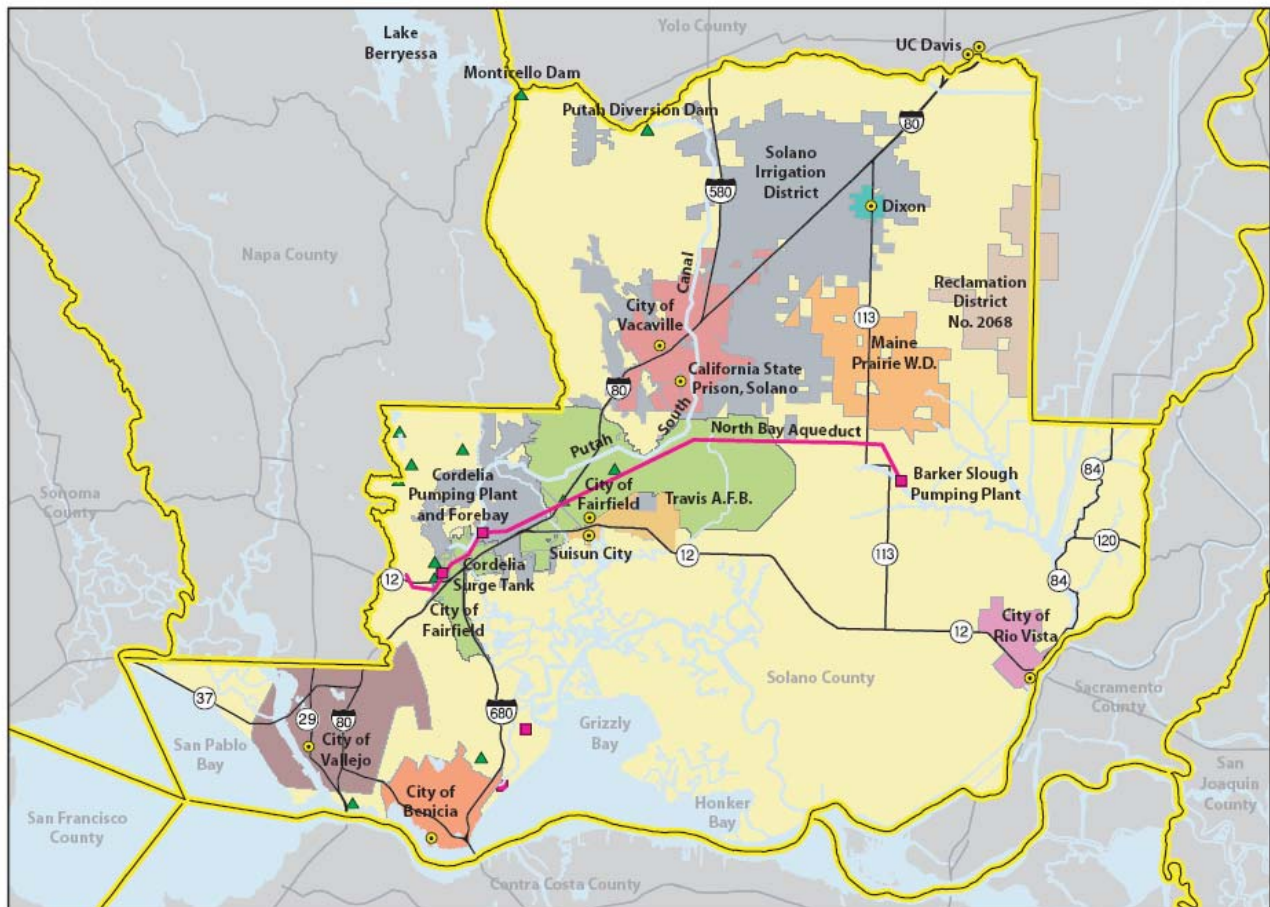


Figure 1-1

Solano Agencies

Solano Agencies IRWMP Planning Area

- City of Benicia
- City of Dixon
- City of Fairfield
- City of Rio Vista
- City of Suisun City
- City of Vacaville

- City of Vallejo
- Solano Irrigation District
- Maine Prairie Water District
- Reclamation District No. 2068

1.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many organizations and individuals contributed to the development of the IRWMP; without their assistance, this document would not have been possible.

1.5.1 Stakeholder Group

The Stakeholder Group provided valuable input during the formulation of the IRWMP. Their local knowledge, understanding of regional issues, and willingness to provide input and feedback in a collaborative environment has resulted in an integrated planning document that will assist the region with meeting its future water resource needs.

IRWMP Stakeholder Group

Name	Title, Organization
Len Augustine	Mayor City of Vacaville & SCWA Board Member
Marci Coglianese	Mayor City of Rio Vista & SCWA Board Member
Barbara Kondylis	Solano County Supervisor & SCWA Board Member
Duane Kromm	Solano County Supervisor & Chair of SCWA Board
Karin MacMillan	Mayor City of Fairfield & SCWA Board Member
Rudolf Ohlemutz	District Engineer Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control
Chris Tomasik	Assistant Public Works Director City of Benicia
David Tompkins	Assistant Public Works Director City of Vacaville
Rick Wood	Assistant Public Works Director City of Fairfield
Joe Martinez	Chairman SCWA Flood Control Advisory Committee
Bob Isaac	Manager Solano Irrigation District
Rich Luthy	Manager Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District

1.5.2 Planning Team

The planning team included the SCWA General Manager, David Okita, and Supervising Engineer, Thomas Pate. The consulting firm of CDM led the development of the IRWMP with assistance from Curalium Consulting (regarding the planning process) and Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (regarding the groundwater issues).

The role of the planning team included:

- Provide draft materials for stakeholder input
- Develop information for meetings
- Guide IRWMP and Strategic Plan development
- Document and address stakeholder issues
- Develop the IRWMP

1.6 DOCUMENT CONTENTS

This report documents the Solano agencies' integrated water resources planning process and resulting recommendations, in the following sections:

- Section 2 – structured planning process used to develop recommendations.
- Section 3 – water supply and demand information that provides the context for the remainder of the planning effort.
- Section 4 – Solano agencies' strategic issues, which are the primary water-related concerns and issues within the region.
- Section 5 – identification and prioritization of potential actions.
- Section 6 – potential action descriptions and the potential action prioritization results.
- Section 7 – SCWA Strategic Plan, which identifies implementation steps for the potential actions with the highest priority
- Section 8 - references.