

10 Data Management

This section meets the following IRWMP Standard from the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines.

J. Data Management – Include mechanisms by which data will be managed and disseminated to stakeholders and the public, and include discussion of how data collection will support statewide data needs. At a minimum assess the state of existing monitoring efforts for water quantity and water quality, and identify data gaps where additional monitoring is needed. If the plan includes a water quality component, include a discussion of the integration of data into the SWRCB Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program and Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program.

10.1 IRWMP Data Dissemination

Data generated and collected during the course of the IRWMP process has been and will continue to be managed to ensure that it will be available to fulfill the needs of stakeholders, the state, and the general public. The mechanisms for data dissemination that have been employed to date are described below. It is anticipated that all of these mechanisms will continue into the future.

Dissemination of data to stakeholders, agencies, and the public is integrated into the IRWMP process through stakeholder and Partner agency meetings, newspaper announcements, handouts, e-mail notices, and agency contacts available to provide data files to any requester. Regular stakeholder workshops have served as the main venue for distributing information to stakeholders. Data have also been shared between the three Partner agencies at weekly meetings. Other information and data are disseminated to agency boards and committees with the presentation of Plan components and progress given by Partner agency staff and grant staff. Lastly, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes also allow public review of data as individual projects move from planning to implementation phases.

The internet is also being utilized for data dissemination. Public meeting dates and tentative agendas are posted on the existing Partner agency websites, as well as other pertinent information. Annual reports are posted on the Partner agency websites once available. Whenever possible, reports and data are made available in electronic format. Other relevant data from this IRWMP process is provided to stakeholders online through Partner websites. The web addresses are: PVWMA (www.pvwma.dst.ca.us), SCVWD (www.valleywater.org) and SBCWD (www.sbcwd.com).

Because of the proactive distribution and sharing of data, to date there have not been a significant number of requests for data. The IRWMP Collaborative is committed to satisfying future requests for information. Information and data can be requested by stakeholders through the Partner agencies via email or written requests, and at public meetings and IRWMP stakeholder workshops.

10.2 Coordination to Support Statewide Data Needs

Where opportunities for data sharing exist, the Collaborative will coordinate with state and federal monitoring and data management efforts to determine specific reporting requirements and formats. Table 10-1 describes three statewide efforts, the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Assessment (GAMA), and the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES). Where appropriate, data received during the IRWMP process will be

managed in a format that is compatible with these databases to facilitate efficient submission. This will include ensuring that proper quality control and quality assurance of data has been performed.

Table 10-1: State Monitoring and Data Management Programs

Program	Program Manager	Description
California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES)	California Resources Agency	The goal of CERES is to improve environmental analysis and planning by integrating natural and cultural resource information from multiple contributors. It includes an environmental information catalog and a natural resources project inventory.
Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA)	SWRCB	The GAMA program monitors groundwater for a broad suite of chemicals at very low detection limits. Monitoring and assessments for priority groundwater basins are to be completed every 10 years.
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP)	SWRCB	SWAMP is a statewide monitoring effort to assess the conditions of surface waters. In addition to monitoring conducted under the program, SWAMP also hopes to capture information collected under TMDL, Non-Point Source and Watershed Project Support systems.

Currently, each of the three Partner agencies generates surface water quality data and an annual groundwater report that can be submitted and utilized for statewide data needs. All groundwater and surface water data reports developed as part of Project Assessment and Evaluation Plans (PAEP) for State-funded projects will also be compatible with CERES, SWAMP, and GAMA reporting requirements and formats. PAEPs will be developed for each State-funded project consistent with State requirements and compatible with State formats.

10.3 Data Gaps

Available data sets and reports have been reviewed for their applicability to the IRWMP and statewide data needs and for identification of data gaps. Data gaps represent areas where sufficient information to inform decision making is lacking. Because the identification of information needs can lead to the development of new projects, identifying areas where data gaps exists can be an important part of enhancing watershed understanding.

An example of a data gap for the region is the need for improving understanding of how groundwater and surface water interact in the upper watershed. Filling this data gap is crucial to a obtaining a more complete understanding of the Pajaro River Watershed in the context of developing ecosystem restoration plans and assessing the impact local water management projects may have on the environmental resources in the region. In the case of the upper Pajaro River Watershed, the Groundwater Study & Biological Assessment of the Upper Pajaro River Project was developed to gather data and clarify the groundwater-surface water interactions and the potential impacts to environmental resources. This project has been identified as a high-priority project necessary for satisfying the data gap.

Another example of a data gap identified by stakeholders concerns the relation of the upper watershed to the lower watershed in terms of flood management. Stakeholders have suggested that a comprehensive analysis of sediment conditions along the San Benito River, a major tributary to the Pajaro River, is necessary to fully understand flood capacity in the lower Pajaro River Watershed. Additionally, they have suggested a need for additional data in order to predict and manage flood flow elevations in the

upper Pajaro River. The Pajaro River Watershed Study is envisioned to address these data needs. This project has been identified as a high-priority project necessary for satisfying the data gap.

To date, the Partners have assessed the state of existing water quality and water quantity monitoring efforts within the watershed and no further data gaps have been found that require additional monitoring at this time. Various planning reports and efforts have been the basis of this decision, and the existing background information and studies have provided the preliminary water management projects (or water management strategies) considered in this IRWMP. These projects were also examined for their viability for incorporation into greater integrated and multi-beneficial water management programs. If determined to be necessary through the development of PAEPs for State-funded projects, other monitoring programs shall be designed and implemented by project proponents.

For data gaps relating to the region's environmental or cultural resources, more information will be developed in conjunction with the CEQA and NEPA processes required during project environmental compliance processes.

10.4 Future Data Management

Data collection and review will continue to be an on-going activity throughout the IRWMP process as new project and planning information and data are developed, completed, or become available. Regionalization of stakeholder efforts was a primary focus of this process in order to reduce duplicate data collection efforts, to identify opportunities for partnership, and to reduce costs. An example of such an effort is the regional partnership (Regional Mobile Lab) to assist and educate growers in regards to water conservation and nitrate management practices throughout the watershed. Data management will be conducted for all projects that are implemented through implementation grant funding, and will be strongly encouraged for all projects included in the IRWMP.

Data collected for the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP will be utilized in any eventual Monterey Bay Area IRWMP, along with the data collected in other relevant IRWMP efforts. It is critical that all data gaps for each IRWMP effort be identified and addressed prior to integration with a greater Monterey Bay Area IRWMP so that this larger effort may focus on identifying, evaluating, and recommending solutions to meet greater regional needs.

Managing the list of projects in the IRWMP is another component of future data management. As projects are added or removed from the list of projects under consideration for the region, the IRWMP should be modified accordingly. The Partners will keep track of new projects that have been submitted for inclusion in the IRWMP as well as projects which have been implemented or are no longer under consideration, and the Partners will publish, on an annual basis or as needed, an updated list of projects.