

## 13 Relation to Local Planning

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

**M. Relation to Local Planning** – Discuss how the IRWM Plan relates to planning documents and programs established by local agencies. Demonstrate coordination with local land-use planning decision-makers. Discuss how local agency planning documents relate to the IRWM strategies and the dynamics between the two planning documents. Discuss the linkages between the Plan and local planning documents.

The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP process is designed to meet the collective needs of cities, counties, water and wastewater agencies and other stakeholders in the region. These entities have been involved in many planning efforts to develop goals and plans related to land use and water management issues. The planning documents created from these efforts serve as an important foundation for the IRWMP. The IRWMP has integrated the goals, objectives and programs contained in these documents to ensure that it is consistent with local issues and needs.

The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP process was borne out of Collaborative discussions regarding regional needs, proposed projects, and teaming for regional effectiveness. With the recognition that multiple agencies had shared needs and similar objectives, the Collaborative began aggressively working toward developing a regional plan and programs that could bring about integrated projects for the benefit of many stakeholders. This effort is supported by the MOU described in Section 1 that was signed by all Partners to support regional water resources management planning. This MOU demonstrated their dedication to joint coordination of local water resources planning efforts.

### 13.1 IRWMP Relationship to Local Planning Documents

The IRWMP was developed in coordination with local agencies and the planning documents that have been produced for the Pajaro River Watershed region. These include General Plans, Urban Water Management Plans, and other plans covering a number of areas such as recycled water, groundwater management, water resources, and environmental enhancement. The relevance of these documents to the IRWMP is discussed below and summarized in Table 13-1. Studies, analyses and assessments which directly support these plans are also shown. Coordination and collaboration occurred through meetings, teleconferences, workshops, and personal communications (See Section 14 – Stakeholder Involvement) with agencies and entities identified in this table to understand their various efforts, planning goals and objectives, and proposed water management strategies. This table is not intended to be a comprehensive list of every report reviewed, but does reflect many of the documents and efforts within the Pajaro River watershed. Table 13-1 also includes some plans that are currently being prepared. In the future, local planning efforts will be incorporated into the IRWMP through an ongoing local planning review process that will identify additional documents, efforts, and projects throughout the implementation of the IRWMP. Water management strategies employed within these plans are shown in Table 13-2.

**Table 13-1: Major Planning Documents Utilized for IRWM Planning**

Document Title/Description	Publication Date	Agency/Entity	Relation to IRWMP
<b>General Plans</b>			
City of Gilroy General Plan	June 2002	City of Gilroy	Provides list of Cities’ policies, goals and actions for land use, water conservation, water reclamation, flood control, habitat protection and open space preservation
City Hollister General Plan	December 2005	City of Hollister	
City of Morgan Hill General Plan	July 2001	City of Morgan Hill	
City of Watsonville General Plan	February 2006	City of Watsonville	
Monterey County Draft General Plan 2006	August 2006	Monterey County	Provides list of Counties’ policies, goals and actions for land use, water conservation, water reclamation, flood control, habitat protection and open space preservation
San Benito County General Plan		San Benito County	
The Santa Clara County General Plan (1995-2010)	December 1994	Santa Clara County	
Santa Cruz County General Plan	1994	Santa Cruz County	
<b>Urban Water Management Plans</b>			
City of Watsonville Urban Water Management Plan UWMP 2005	February 2006	City of Watsonville	Provides understanding of Watsonville urban water needs, management, and planning objectives
Hollister Area UWMP	July 1999	Sunnyslope County Water District, City of Hollister, and SBCWD	Provides understanding of Hollister urban water needs, management, and planning objectives
SCVWD UWMP	December 2005	SCVWD	Provides understanding of Santa Clara County water needs and management strategies
<b>Other Plans</b>			
Biological Assessment Pajaro River and Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks Management and Restoration Plan Santa Cruz County, California	September 2001	County of Santa Cruz	Provides understanding of biological and restorative plans within the Pajaro River
City of Hollister Long-Term Wastewater Management Plan	December 2005	City of Hollister	Provides plan for wastewater treatment, effluent management and recycled water for the City of Hollister. Identifies projects and schedule of implementation.
Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Master Plan (HUAWWMP)	In Preparation	City of Hollister, San Benito County and SBCWD	Will provide understanding of the water and wastewater needs of the Hollister urban area as well as a plan for implementation for meeting those needs
Lower Pajaro River Enhancement Plan: For Green Valley, Casserly, Hughes, Tynan, Coward, and Thompson Creeks	December 2002	Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District	Directly related to Erosion Control, Vegetative Treatment, and Riparian Restoration Project, which is part of the Pajaro River Water Quality Program

Document Title/Description	Publication Date	Agency/Entity	Relation to IRWMP
Pajaro River Watershed Study Reports Phase I Phase II Phase III Phase IV	July 2002 April 2003 February 2005 March 2005	Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority (PRWFPA)	Directly related to Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project, Pajaro River Flood Protection Program
Pajaro River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan	June 1999	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Provides understanding of AMBAG water quality management goals
Revised Basin Management Plan (BMP)	February 2002	PVWMA	Directly related to the Pajaro Valley Water Supply Program
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)	In preparation	Cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, SCVWD	Will provide understanding of habitat needs for endangered species and determine appropriate land use strategies
SBCWD Groundwater Management Plan Update for the San Benito County Part of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin	May 2004	SBCWD and Water Resource Association of San Benito County	Provides understanding of San Benito groundwater issues and management plans for the Gilroy-Hollister groundwater basin
SCVWD Groundwater Management Plan	July 2001	SCVWD	Provides understanding of groundwater basins and management objectives for SCVWD jurisdiction.
SCVWD Integrated Water Resources Planning Study 2003 - Draft	2003	SCVWD	Provides understanding of SCVWD water management plans in Upper Pajaro River watershed
South County Recycled Water Master Plan	October 2004	SCRWA & SCVWD	Provides understanding of South Santa Clara County plans for recycled water availability and use
South County Water Supply Plan (SCWSP)	In preparation	SCVWD	Will provide specific strategies for ensuring a reliable supply of high quality water in southern Santa Clara County; being prepared in conjunction with local land use agencies
Water Quality Control Plan for Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan)	2000	Central Coast RWQCB	Provides understanding of the surface- and groundwater quality objectives of the Central Coast RWQCB.
<b><i>Analyses, Assessments, Reports and Studies</i></b>			
Salsipuedes Creek Maintenance Analysis (File #50275)	February 2005	Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Conservation District Zone 7	Provides technical understanding of Salsipuedes Creek hydrology, hydraulics, and sedimentation and further understanding of Lower Pajaro River watershed dynamics and maintenance activities

Document Title/Description	Publication Date	Agency/Entity	Relation to IRWMP
Pajaro River Bench Excavation Analysis 1 (Supplemental) & Analysis 2	February 2004 October 2004	Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Conservation District Zone 7	Directly related to the Lower Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project, Pajaro River Flood Protection Program
Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project, Tree Resource Evaluation/ Sediment Excavation Impact Assessment	May 2005	Santa Cruz County Public Works Department	Directly related to the Lower Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project, Pajaro River Flood Protection Program
File #50275; Memo, RE: Pajaro River Bench Excavation Analysis;	October 2004	Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Conservation District Zone 7	For technical understanding of the Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project
Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project – Draft Initial Study and Negative Declaration	September 2004	PRWFPA	Directly related the Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project, Pajaro River Flood Protection Program
Watsonville Area Water Recycling Project Feasibility Study	August 2004	City of Watsonville and PVWMA	Directly related to the WRWTF & CDS projects, Pajaro Valley Water Supply Program
Technical Report for an Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility at the San Juan Road Well Site for the Pleasant Acres and San Juan Road Wells	August 2004	Aromas Water District	Provides understanding of the Aromas Wellhead Treatment Project
San Benito County Regional Recycled Water Project Feasibility Study Report - Draft	May 2004	SBCWD and Water Resource Association of San Benito County	Provides understanding of San Benito County Recycled Water project plans
Pajaro River Flood Control Project Alternative Formulation Briefing Document (F4a Milestone)	April 2004	USACE, San Francisco District	Directly related to the USACE Pajaro Levee Reconstruction Project, Pajaro River Flood Protection Program
Pajaro River Bench Excavation Analysis 1 (File #50275)	January 2004	Santa Cruz County Flood Control and Conservation District Zone 7	Directly related to the Lower Pajaro River Bench Excavation Project, Pajaro River Flood Protection Program
San Felipe Preventive Maintenance Shutdown, Final Study/Environmental Assessment	August 2003	SCVWD	For understanding of the environmental issues surrounding San Felipe Preventative Maintenance Shutdown
Pajaro River Stable Planform Study – Pajaro River Channel Planform and Channel Forming Discharge Analysis	July 2003	USACE	For recommendations regarding lowering bench elevations as one of four methods proposed for restoring the Pajaro River channel to its original bankfull dimensions
SCVWD Groundwater Conditions 2002/2003	January 2005	SCVWD	For understanding of existing groundwater conditions in SCVWD jurisdiction

Document Title/Description	Publication Date	Agency/Entity	Relation to IRWMP
Final Environmental Impact Report Pajaro River and Salsipuedes and Corralitos Creeks Management and Restoration Plan, Santa Cruz County, California	February 2002	County of Santa Cruz	For understanding of the environmental impacts of environmental and restorative plans for the Pajaro River and tributaries
Draft - Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Revised Basin Management Plan Environmental Impact Report	October 2001	PVWMA	Provides understanding of environmental issues surrounding the Pajaro Valley Water Supply Program
Action Plan IV: Agriculture and Rural Lands Water Quality Protection Program	October 1999	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	Provides understanding of the MBNMS water quality protection program, which has aided in the development of the Pajaro River Water Quality Program
Final EIR for the Long Term Wastewater Management Plan, Cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill	May 1990	South County Regional Wastewater Authority	Provides understanding of Gilroy and Morgan Hill wastewater management plans/needs

**Table 13-2: IRWMP Water Management Strategies Contained in Planning Documents**

	<i>Ecosystem Restoration</i>	<i>Environmental &amp; habitat protection &amp; improvement</i>	<i>Water Supply Reliability</i>	<i>Flood Management</i>	<i>Groundwater Management</i>	<i>Recreation &amp; Public Access</i>	<i>Stormwater Capture &amp; Management</i>	<i>Water Conservation</i>	<i>Water Quality Protection &amp; Improvement</i>	<i>Water Recycling</i>	<i>Wetlands Enhancement &amp; Creation</i>	<i>Conjunctive Use</i>	<i>Desalination</i>	<i>Imported Water</i>	<i>Land Use Planning</i>	<i>NPS Pollution Control</i>	<i>Surface Storage</i>	<i>Watershed Planning</i>	<i>Water &amp; Wastewater Treatment</i>	<i>Water Transfers</i>
City of Gilroy General Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			X		
City of Hollister General Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
City of Morgan Hill General Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		
City of Watsonville General Plan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		
Monterey County Draft 2006 General Plan																				
San Benito County General Plan		X		X		X	X	X											X	
Santa Clara County General Plan	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X					X		X	X		
Santa Cruz County General Plan																				
City of Watsonville Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)			X					X	X				X							
Hollister Area UWMP			X	X			X	X	X				X						X	
SCVWD UWMP			X	X			X	X	X		X		X			X	X	X	X	
Biological Assessment Pajaro River and Salsipuedes & Corralitos Creeks Management & Restoration Plan				X																
City of Hollister Long Term Wastewater Management Plan (City of Hollister)			X		X				X	X									X	
Hollister Urban Area Water and Wastewater Management Plan (HUAWWMP)			X		X				X	X									X	
Lower Pajaro River Enhancement Plan	X	X				X								X	X		X			
Pajaro River Watershed Study Reports	X	X		X		X	X				X			X	X		X			
Pajaro River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan															X		X			
Revised Basin Management Plan (BMP)				X			X								X					
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)	X	X												X						
SBCWD Groundwater Management Plan Update for the the San Benito County Part of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin			X		X							X	X				X	X		
SCVWD Groundwater Management Plan					X				X										X	
SCVWD Integrated Water Resources Planning Study (IWRP) 2003			X		X		X	X	X		X	X	X			X		X	X	
South County Water Supply Plan (SCWSP)		X	X		X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	X	
South County Recycled Water Master Plan			X					X	X											
Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		X	X		

### 13.1.1 General Plans

The IRWMP has been coordinated with the elements of local General Plans through the stakeholder involvement of cities and counties within the Pajaro River Watershed. General Plans provide land use, environmental, economic, administrative, and other pertinent information with regard to the use, need, quantity, quality, and management of water resources within a particular jurisdiction. General Plans also chart existing and future goals and objectives to be accomplished for the communities they describe, and can provide valuable insight into the needs, priorities, and values of the local community. These elements have been considered and have helped to shape the water resources management needs identified in this IRWMP for the communities of the Pajaro River watershed.

To assist in development of the IRWMP, the General Plans of the major cities (Gilroy, Hollister, Morgan Hill and Watsonville) and all of the counties (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz) that comprise the region were reviewed. The IRWMP goals of water supply, water quality, flood protection and environmental protection and enhancement are consistent with local needs expressed in the General Plans as discussed below.

#### **Water Supply Goal**

The IRWMP Water Supply goal contains objectives of meeting future water demand, promoting water conservation and increasing recycled water usage. These objectives mirror planning goals as expressed in the General Plans. All General Plans describe plans for future growth and recognize the need for a reliable water supply to support the projected growth. Water conservation is emphasized in all of the General Plans as an important strategy for meeting water supply. The expanded use of recycled water is specifically called for in the General Plans of the Cities of Gilroy, Hollister and Watsonville.

#### **Water Quality Goal**

All of the General Plans stressed the need for maintaining high levels of water quality, and this is supported through objectives contained in the IRWMP Water Quality Goal. One of the major water quality issues listed in the General Plans of Monterey County and the City of Watsonville is seawater intrusion, which has been brought on by overdraft of the groundwater basin. Prevention of seawater intrusion is implicit within the IRWMP water quality objectives, consistent with action items found in these General Plans. The IRWMP objective of minimizing impacts from stormwater through Best Management Practices is consistent with all of the cities' General Plans and many of the Counties' General Plans which specify actions such as the use of stormwater detention basins and the preservation of permeable surfaces for stormwater management.

#### **Flood Protection Goal**

Flood Mitigation is recognized as a high priority item by the City of Watsonville, Santa Cruz County and Monterey County in their General Plans, consistent with the IRWMP emphasis on achieving flood protection in the Lower Pajaro area of the watershed in the immediate term. Goals, actions and policies consistent with other IRWMP Flood Protection objectives such as protecting infrastructure from a 100-year flood; preserving and enhancing ecologic and stream functions; and providing community benefits beyond flood protection can be found in all sections of the General Plans that discuss flood control.

#### **Environmental Protection and Enhancement Goal**

The IRWMP objectives under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Goal are consistent with provisions listed in all of the General Plans regarding habitat restoration, open space and protection of the Monterey Bay. The Gilroy General Plan contains specific implementation actions to preserve and protect natural resource and habitat areas, which include both Uvas Creek and Llagas creek riparian communities, preserve greenbelts and recreational lands. Other General Plans call for actions consistent with IRWMP

projects such as wetland restoration programs and removal of non-native plants. The IRWMP objective of supporting Monterey Bay marine life is consistent with a section in the City of Watsonville's General Plan that recognizes the Monterey Bay as a National Marine Sanctuary and calls for specific actions to protect it.

### 13.1.2 Urban Water Management Plans

The IRWMP has been coordinated with various Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs) that have recently been updated in the Pajaro River Watershed to comply with State of California requirements. UWMPs take into account city and county population growth projections developed at the local level and link these directly to the assessment of water supply needs. The UWMPs rely in part on other planning documents such as general plans and land use plans to provide these projections. The projected water demands from the UWMPs are utilized in the IRWMP to determine regional water supply needs. UWMPs also take into account local conservation and recycled water planning and provide a greater understanding of water needs and issues faced by local water agencies and communities.

### 13.1.3 Other Plans

Other plans in the Pajaro River Watershed consist of efforts to address specific water management issues. Some of these plans have already taken steps to consolidate local planning efforts and address specific issues such as water supply, groundwater, wastewater, and habitat restoration on a sub-regional basis within the Pajaro River Watershed. In most cases, these are multi-agency efforts that involve the participation of a number of stakeholders. Thus, these sub-regional plans have achieved certain levels of integration and stakeholder consensus and provide an important foundation for development of the IRWMP. Projects recommended in sub-regional plans have already been coordinated at the sub-regional level and can be considered excellent candidates for implementation of the IRWMP. Examples of sub-regional plans are described below.

#### Pajaro Valley Revised Basin Management Plan

Lower Pajaro River Valley issues of seawater intrusion, water supply and water recycling have been determined as high priority issues through the IRWMP process. The Revised BMP is the result of a comprehensive planning effort to determine solutions to those issues and its incorporation into the Water Supply Program ensures that the IRWMP will address the local needs identified for that area of the watershed. As an indicator of the importance of the BMP, the City of Watsonville's General Plan specifically calls for the city to participate in the BMP.

#### Groundwater Management Plan Update for the San Benito County Portion of the Gilroy-Hollister Groundwater Basin

The Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) Update addresses groundwater issues such as groundwater quality, high groundwater levels and limited wastewater effluent disposal options, which are a priority in the San Benito County area. Many of the objectives described in the GMP Update are represented in the IRWMP objectives. The IRWMP includes a number of near- and long- term projects that were drawn from the GMP Update project toolbox.

#### Santa Clara Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)

The HCP and NCCP are currently under development. They are a partnership between SCVWD, the County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill

and San Jose. These partners, in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) and other resource agencies and stakeholder groups will develop long-range plans in specified areas of Santa Clara County where land development activities and the continued survival of endangered, threatened, or other species of concern are in conflict. The goal of these plans is to provide the means for conservation of these species, thereby contributing to their recovery while allowing for compatible and appropriate development to occur. This is consistent with many of the IRWMP objectives listed under the Environmental Protection and Enhancement goal and both plans will provide additional implementation opportunities for meeting these objectives when complete.

### **South County Water Supply Plan**

The South County Water Supply Plan (SCWSP) is being prepared by SCVWD and will develop a long-term water supply plan for southern Santa Clara County. The planning effort is a follow-up to the IRWP 2003, but will be specific to South County. It represents a collaborative effort between SCVWD, the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy and the County of Santa Clara. It will focus on the Uvas/Llagas watershed, with emphasis on the Llagas Groundwater Sub-basin. 15 stakeholders have been identified to date that will participate in development of the SCWSP. The SCWSP will be coordinated with Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP implementation, as well as other efforts in South County. The SCWSP will address objectives related to water supply reliability, water quality, cost, and environmental and community benefits. The planning effort will consider conservation, water recycling, reservoir storage, groundwater recharge and banking, dry-year transfers, treatment and re-operations. When complete, the SCWSP will provide a coordinated strategy of implementation which will help achieve the IRWMP water supply and water quality goals.

The IRWMP will strive to include all possible existing local and sub-regional plans and projects and to integrate these at the scale of the Pajaro River Watershed Region to identify additional opportunities for linkages and integration between sub-regions.

#### **13.1.4 Central Coast RWQCB Basin Plan**

The Central Coast RWQCB Basin Plan contains goals for protecting and enhancing all basin waters, allowing unrestricted use of surface waters, efficient management of wastewater, and utilization of recycled water and reducing man-made erosion. These goals are all reflected in the IRWMP objectives. In addition, implementation of the IRWMP will contribute directly towards helping meet these goals. For instance, the Pajaro Valley Water Supply Program includes water recycling as an essential component. The Pajaro River Water Quality Program has a number of projects that provide for TMDL implementation and NPS pollution management, which is a major water quality focus of the Central Coast RWQCB.

### **13.2 Coordination with Land Use Decision Makers**

Projected land use changes impacts water management as different land uses require different water management strategies. The cities and counties are the major land use decision makers in the watershed. Coordination with cities and counties as well as other land use decision makers occurred through the stakeholder process and allowed land use considerations to be fully incorporated into the IRWMP while also ensuring that future land use decisions necessary for successful IRWMP implementation will be supported at the local level. Additional coordination will be achieved through consideration of local plans currently under development such as the HCP, HUAWWMP and the SCWSP, whose recommendations will reflect land use considerations. IRWMP coordination with cities and counties is most evident through

their direct involvement in IRWMP Programs. The cities of Aromas and Watsonville have responsibility for a number of Water Supply Program projects. The Flood Protection Program has been coordinated with all four counties and their respective flood management agencies through their representation on the PRWFPA, which developed the Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation project. The counties of Santa Cruz and Monterey are the local sponsors, in coordination with the Army Corps Engineers, for another Flood Protection Program - the Lower Pajaro River Levee Reconstruction. The SCCRCD provides coordination with various landowners for a number of projects in the Water Quality Program.

Land use decision maker coordination and involvement with the IRWMP will ensure that regional priorities and efforts developed by the IRWMP are 1) consistent with local land use plans and 2) will be supported through local decisions and updates to General Plans.

### **13.3 Linkages and Interaction with Local Plans**

The IRWMP has been built upon a number of previously completed planning documents. The role of the IRWMP is to consolidate the projects and programs within these documents and allow them to be considered and prioritized at a regional level through the stakeholder process. Local plans can then be updated to account for the impact of regional implementation on local planning. For instance, the City of Watsonville will need to update its General Plan as specified water supply and flood control actions become implemented through the IRWMP. As the Soap Lake Floodplain Preservation Project proceeds, the Counties of San Benito and Santa Clara may need to update their General Plans and add the goal of maintaining flood attenuation benefits of the Soap Lake floodplain. Mechanisms for maintaining active stakeholder involvement (discussed in Section 7) will help to ensure that these updates occur as the opportunities arise.

### **13.4 IRWMP Implementation of Local Plans**

The projects included in the IRWMP programs will effectively implement many of the local plans that are its foundation and serve as sources of projects. This includes the BMP, the Pajaro River Watershed Studies, the GMP Update, the SCWSP, the HCP, the Lower Pajaro River Enhancement Plan and the Pajaro River Parkway Plan. The IRWMP projects will also implement many actions called for in the cities' and counties' General Plans, such as reduction of groundwater overdraft, water conservation, water recycling, flood protection, habitat restoration and open space creation. Some examples of specific General Plan policies or actions implemented by IRWMP projects are placing development restrictions in flood areas (City of Gilroy), wetlands preservation and enhancement (City of Hollister), and upgrades to the Corralitos filter plant (City of Watsonville).

### **13.5 Conclusions**

The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP has been designed to combine and build upon the strategies and recommendations of local planning documents. As demonstrated by the consistency of the IRWMP with local plans and the implementation of projects that help achieve local objectives, the IRWMP has been developed as an extension to and integration of, rather than a substitution for, local planning efforts. To avoid conflict with local efforts, stakeholder involvement has been and will continue to be an integral part of the IRWMP process. Stakeholder workshops have been conducted to provide a forum for interaction and collaboration and to allow the IRWMP to interface with local planning efforts. Such stakeholder involvement and participation ensures that local agency planning (and their respective goals and objectives) are represented and considered in the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP process. Local planning strategies are at the heart of this IRWMP and have played a dynamic role in its development.

In many instances, local planning efforts will overlap IRWMP boundaries and include planning that affects multiple IRWMP regions. This is particularly true with the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP where the Pajaro River centerline is utilized as a boundary between multiple counties, each of which has a responsibility to manage shared surface and groundwater resources in these respective areas. With multiple IRWM planning efforts underway, coordination is occurring between all Monterey Bay planning efforts and will be on-going. Planning for these shared areas is being performed conjunctively, and any project proposed in an overlap area will be proposed for implementation by only one IRWMP effort, but may be spoken to in other regional IRWMP documents. One example is Watsonville Slough, a water body within the County of Santa Cruz, a Central Coast Region Priority Critical Coastal Area, and a tributary to the Pajaro River near its mouth to Monterey Bay. Santa Cruz County has developed a Resource Conservation and Enhancement Plan for Watsonville Slough, and as part of their Santa Cruz County IRWMP, will propose a strategy for plan implementation. The Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP Collaborative has and will continue to participate as an interested stakeholder in the Watsonville Slough plan and implementation; however, the project is not included in the Pajaro River Watershed IRWMP as it is an ongoing Santa Cruz County project and will be covered within the Santa Cruz County IRWMP effort.

Existing planning documents and current planning efforts are, and will continue to be, an integral part of the IRWMP process. As previously described, existing planning documents were reviewed to identify needs and issues in the region and were used to develop IRWMP goals, objectives, strategies, and integrated implementation programs. Together, local planning documents and stakeholder input have provided the basis to complete the IRWMP development effort and have provided direction to the Collaborative with regard to the most feasible and beneficial water management strategies to pursue.