



# Monterey Peninsula, Carmel Bay, and South Monterey Bay Regional Water Management Group Meeting

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# Agenda

1. Department of Water Resources Future Plans
2. Other Federal and State Efforts
3. Central Coast Funding Area Future
4. RWMG - What we've done
5. RWMG - What we could do
6. Open Discussion

# DWR Future Focus

Build upon IRWM program with a stronger emphasis on:

- ▶ Assessment of multi-sector climate vulnerabilities
- ▶ Plan for and achieve regional climate resilience at the watershed scale,
- ▶ Collaborate across all water management sectors at the watershed scale, and
- ▶ Equity and inclusiveness

# DWR Watershed Resilience Program

- ▶ \$52.5M Budget Act of 2021 and 2022 for DWR to implement program
  - ▶ Phase 1: Direct expenditure at DWR Director discretion (pilot projects)
  - ▶ Phase 2: Proposal solicitations
- ▶ Potential future appropriations and potential Climate Resilience Bond 11/2024
- ▶ <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/watershed-resilience-program>

# DWR Watershed Resilience Program - Pilot

- ▶ Pilot projects announcement expected the end of 2024
- ▶ Key Tasks
  - ▶ climate vulnerability and risk assessments (including hazard identification);
  - ▶ formulation and evaluation of adaptation strategies
  - ▶ and development of performance tracking indicators and watershed resilience plan (or updates to an existing regional plan).
- ▶ Inform future guidelines, evaluate the establishment of watershed networks, enhance and improve coordination between existing regional collaborations
  - ▶ Integrated Regional Water Management,
  - ▶ Groundwater Sustainability Agencies,
  - ▶ Climate Collaboratives, etc.

# Other Climate Resilience Grant Programs

- ▶ Monterey Bay Adaptation and Resilience Implementation and Funding Road Map
  - ▶ Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP)
  - ▶ \$649,335 announced 12/21/2023
  - ▶ Lead: City of Watsonville
  - ▶ Partners: City of Santa Cruz, CivicWell, Ecology Action, AMBAG, Regeneracion of Pajaro Valley
- ▶ Regional Adaptation for Climate Resilience of Monterey Bay Coastal Communities
  - ▶ NOAA, Climate Resilience Regional Challenge; \$575M available, 120 applicants, summer 2024 awards
  - ▶ Lead: California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
  - ▶ Participants: Many Jurisdictions and Collaborators

# Central Coast Funding Area

## 5 of 6 regions met in April

- ▶ Interest in meeting quarterly to information share and identify opportunities for larger voice with local elected officials.
- ▶ 2015 Proposition 1 grant funding MOU success
- ▶ No Regions have established future plans
- ▶ Other Regions' meetings
  - ▶ 2 regions meet regularly, 2-4x/year, informational
  - ▶ 1 region has a steering committee that meets more frequently
  - ▶ 1 region is redundant to a Water Resources Advisory Committee with largely the same agencies; meet for funds

# RWVG

- ▶ What we've done
- ▶ What could we do



# What we've done - Grants

- ▶ Successfully met IRWM and grant requirements
- ▶ Stakeholder communication for IRWM funding
- ▶ Successfully selected projects
- ▶ Voice of support
  - ▶ Applicants for non-IRWM grants
  - ▶ Bond funding

# Support - Climate Resilience Bond Letter

- ▶ Climate bond working groups in the Senate and Assembly
- ▶ Final proposal somewhere in the \$6.5 to \$10 billion range.
- ▶ The Administration has signaled a spending limit of \$20B in bond debt across the three bond categories currently being pursued by the Legislature - schools, climate resilience and housing; schools bond is widely regarded as the frontrunner.
- ▶ Request to urge our elected officials to ensure that critical IRWM-related funding for local and regional communities is retained in the final climate bond proposal.
  - ▶ Senator Caballero and Assemblymember Addis
- ▶ Vote

# What we've done - IRWMP

- ▶ Regional resource
- ▶ Met requirements for IRWM program and grants
- ▶ Require project monitoring
  - ▶ MPWMD has been tracking
- ▶ Basis for future plans

# What we could do - Collaboration

- ▶ Participate in larger and connected efforts
  - ▶ RWMGs, CCFA, GSAs, Climate Collaboratives
- ▶ Share assessments, plans, and actions
- ▶ Meet future Climate Resiliency requirements

# What we could do - MOU Update

- ▶ Process for letters/emails of support
- ▶ Voting process
- ▶ Members adopt MOU vs. IRWMP
- ▶ Other

# What we could do - IRWM Plan Update

- ▶ Streamline plan with regard for legacy strategies
- ▶ Update project ranking process
- ▶ Include new, related planning documents
- ▶ Future requirements, if any
- ▶ Timing vs. future grant requirements vs. readoption?

# What we could do - Projects

- ▶ Tracking communication
- ▶ Define/streamline submission process
- ▶ Streamline ranking process (future)

# Project tracking

- ▶ Central Coast Conservation Action Tracker website map - <https://www.ccactiontracker.org/site/about>
  - ▶ Vote
- ▶ MPWMD IRWM page



# Open Discussion

- ▶ Collaborative voice
- ▶ Integration with other groups - water and climate
- ▶ MOU Update
- ▶ Projects
  - ▶ Our role in obtaining grants?
- ▶ IRWM Plan?

# Next Steps

Filled in at meeting

- ▶ Some things (IRWMP) too early
- ▶ Approach GMC with collaboration interest
  - ▶ Bring in Robert from Marine Sanctuary
- ▶ Fall meeting? Collaboration with GMC, share special interest topics, NOAA grant
- ▶ Easy projects addition - send to group, mpwmd hosted website
- ▶ Hold on mou until future is clearer.