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## Section 1: Introduction

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### 1.1 Background

The Mojave Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan, Plan) is a product of a long-term collaborative stakeholder process that begun with the development of the first IRWM Plan adopted in 2005. This IRWM Plan updates and expands upon the original IRWM Plan, documents progress towards meeting IRWM Plan goals, identifies current regional water resource management needs and issues, and evaluates strategies for addressing the Region's challenges.

This Mojave IRWM Plan update was developed by a Project Team with broad stakeholder input. The Project Team included participants from the Coordinating Committee (described in Section 1.1.5), staff from members of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) (described in Section 1.1.4), volunteers from the Region, and the technical, public outreach, and facilitation consultants (Consultant Team).

This section provides an introduction to the Region covered by this IRWM Plan, the Stakeholder participation in the development of Plan, and the development, organization and adoption of the Plan.

#### 1.1.1 Regional Features

The Mojave Region is a hydrologically diverse area covering over 4,900 square miles in the California High Desert, in San Bernardino County (see **Figure 1-1**). The IRWM Region includes portions of both the South Lahontan and Colorado River Hydrologic Regions, as defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Draft California Water Plan, Bulletin 160 (DWR, 2013).



*Mojave River*

The Region encompasses nearly the entire Mojave River watershed, excluding only the upper and lower-most portions of the watershed. The Mojave River Area, making up the larger of the Region's two major surface water drainage features, drains an area of 3,800 square miles. The Morongo Basin/Johnson Valley Area, the Region's smaller drainage area, in contrast has no sizeable river, but rather consists of small ephemeral streams that drain from surrounding mountains.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to major surface water features, the Region overlies portions or all of 34 local groundwater basins, which are experiencing general declines in water levels. Most of the Mojave Region groundwater is covered by two completed adjudications, relating to the major basins: the Mojave Basin Judgment and the Warren Valley Basin Adjudication, located within the Morongo Basin/Johnson Valley Area ("Morongo").

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<sup>1</sup> 2004 MWA IRWM Plan.

For water management purposes, the Mojave Region is generally separated into six management areas, including the five “subareas” of the Mojave River watershed and associated groundwater basins (Alto, Baja, Centro, Este, and Oeste) and the Morongo Basin/Johnson Valley Area (referred to throughout this document as “Morongo” or the “Morongo Area”). The five subareas were defined under the Mojave Basin Judgment and are referred to as the “Mojave River Groundwater Basin”, “Mojave River Area” or “Mojave Basin Area” in this document. Section 2.6.2.1 describes the adjudications within the Region, and Figure 1-2 depicts the management areas and adjudicated areas within the Region.

Resulting in part from the diversity of water resource challenges and the geographic expanse of the IRWM Region, numerous groups are participating in IRWM Plan development and its ongoing implementation. The Mojave IRWM Region encompasses 45 municipal water purveyors with authority over water supply and management in the Region, who share a common interest in enhancing water resource management to improve the reliability and sustainability of available resources.<sup>2</sup> These water purveyors, along with other numerous public agencies and community groups, are part of the collaborative Mojave IRWM Planning process.

### 1.1.2 Primary Focal Points for the IRWM Plan

This IRWM Plan was developed to address the standards outlined in the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Program 2012 Guidelines while focusing on the Region’s key water management issues and challenges that have been re-evaluated as part of this IRWM Plan update.

As a result, this IRWM Plan integrates components related to all aspects of water management in the Region, including, but not limited to, water supply, water quality, wastewater, recycled water, water conservation, storm water/flood management, watershed planning, climate change, habitat protection and restoration, and stakeholder and public outreach.

The fundamental objectives that were established during the 2004 update continue to be the major focus of the IRWM Plan. These overarching objectives are to: 1) balance future water demands with available supplies and, 2) maximize the overall beneficial use of water throughout the Region.

Comment [SC1]: These will change after we finalize the objectives of the plan. Logan commented to add SNMP here.

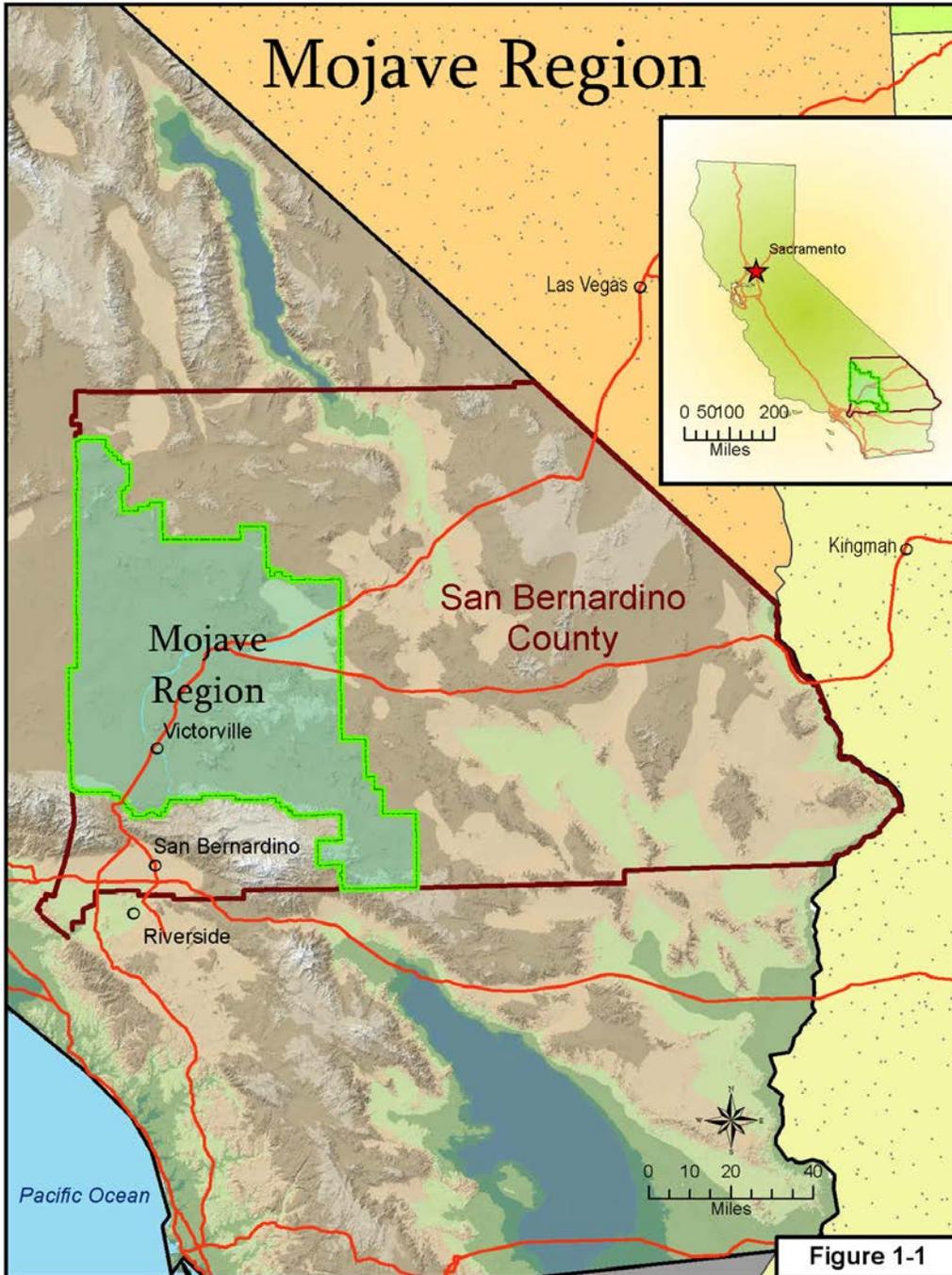
### 1.1.3 Formation of the IRWM Region

The IRWM Region is currently consistent with Mojave Water Agency service area boundaries, which were originally established in 1959 for the purpose of improved management of declining groundwater levels in the Mojave Basin Area, El Mirage Basin, and Lucerne Valley area. Later annexation in 1965 expanded the area to encompass Johnson Valley and Morongo Basin areas as well.

During the 2009 Region Acceptance Process, the Department of Water Resources strongly suggested expansion of the Region’s boundaries to include the upper and lower portions of the Mojave River Watershed. Currently under consideration is inclusion of the areas shown on Figure 1-3. The outcome will be discussed here when completed.

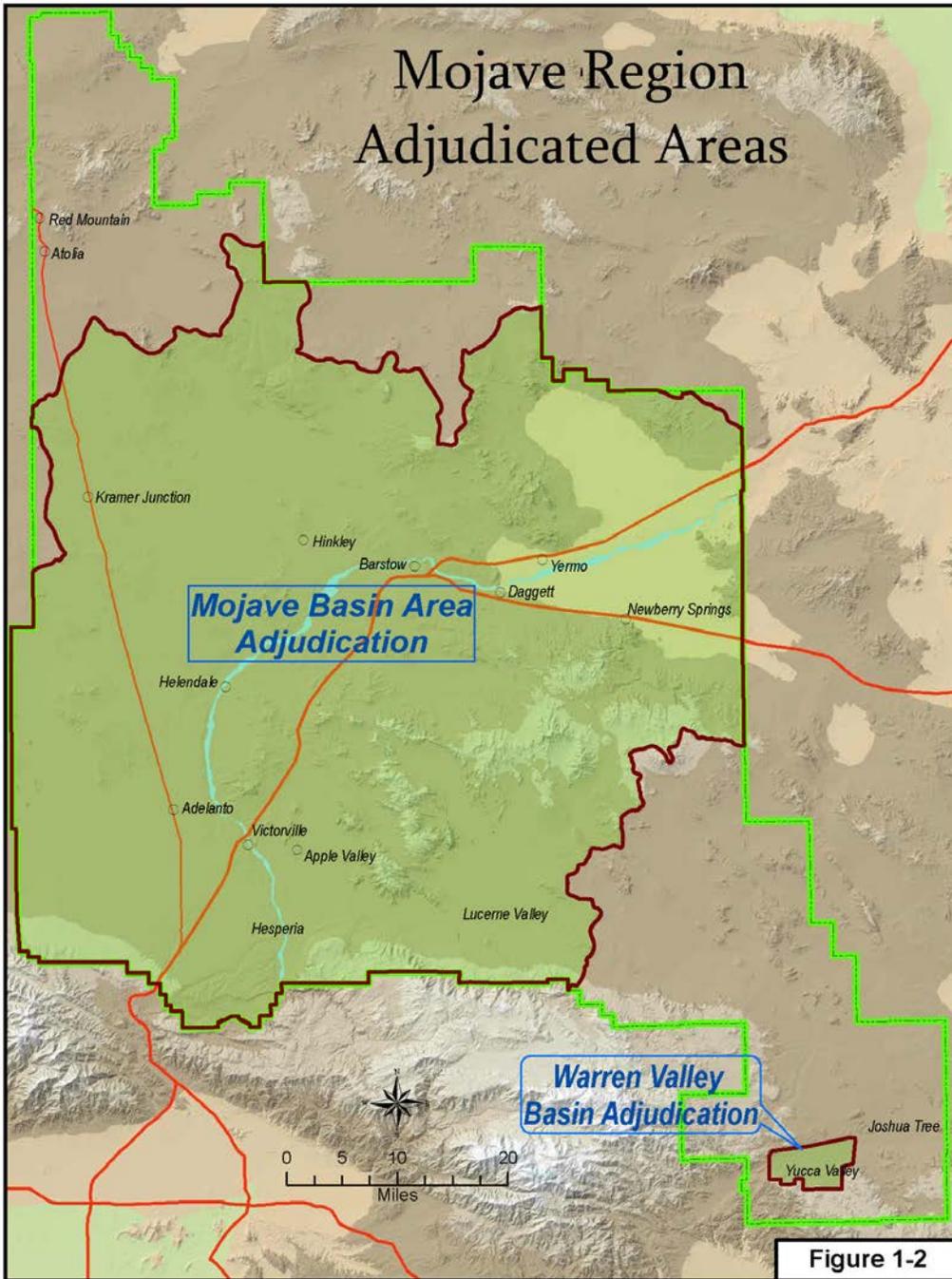
<sup>2</sup> MWA 2009 RAP.

**FIGURE 1-1  
MOJAVE REGION VICINITY MAP**

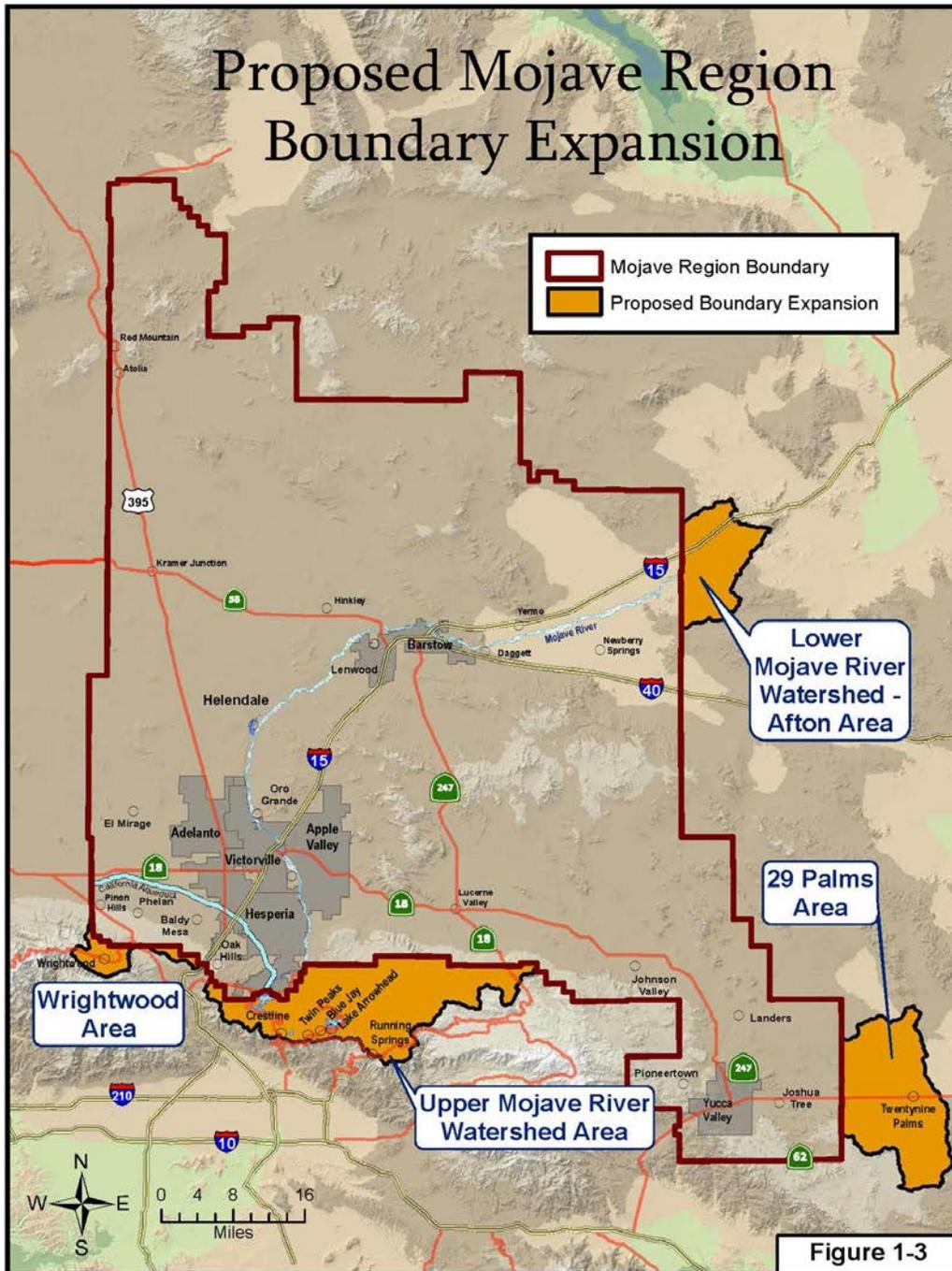


**Figure 1-1**

**FIGURE 1-2  
MOJAVE REGION ADJUDICATED BOUNDARY AND SUBAREAS**



**FIGURE 1-3  
PROPOSED MOJAVE REGION BOUNDARY EXPANSION**



#### 1.1.4 Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)

The Mojave RWMG was formed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the following agencies:

- Mojave Water Agency (MWA)
- Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority
- MWA Technical Advisory Committee
- Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District
- Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission

Mojave's RWMG meets the definition of a RWMG as defined by CWC Section 10539, which states a "RWMG means a group in which three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management..."

As stated in the MOU ([Appendix 1.X](#)), these agencies joined together to develop an IRWM Plan that will:

- Foster coordination, collaboration and communication between agencies responsible for water-related items and interested stakeholders to achieve greater efficiencies, to provide for integration of projects, enhance public services and build public support for vital projects.
- Assist in the development of a comprehensive integrated regional water management plan to facilitate regional cooperation to benefit water supply reliability, water recycling, water conservation, water quality improvement, storm water capture and management, flood management, and environmental and habitat protection and improvements.

In 2009, MWA submitted a Region Acceptance Process (RAP) application for the Mojave IRWM Region, which falls within the Proposition 84 South Lahontan Funding Region and the Colorado River Basin Funding Region (the Mojave Region overlies two funding regions). Following approval of the Mojave Region, MWA began planning to update the Mojave IRWM Plan. This Plan is the culmination of the stakeholder driven process overseen and supported by the RWMG.

The authority and role of each of the public agencies that comprise the RWMG is discussed below.

##### 1.1.4.1 Mojave Water Agency (MWA)

Formed in 1960 to manage groundwater levels that have been in decline since the early 1950s, MWA is a regional wholesale provider responsible for managing groundwater resources and for ensuring a reliable water supply within its service area boundaries for present and future beneficial needs. MWA is one of 29 State Water Project contractors permitted to deliver water from the California Aqueduct and MWA imports water from this source as needed. MWA strategically invests in infrastructure, groundwater banking, and conservation to ensure a

sustainable water supply. MWA is also responsible for implementing the Mojave Basin Area Judgment, which by court action, adjudicated the rights to produce water from the available natural water supply to better manage groundwater supplies.

MWA has had a leadership role in the development of the Mojave IRWM Plan and organized the planning group which developed the 2004 IRWM Plan and developed the Regional Acceptance Process application. MWA has invited Stakeholders to participate in the planning meetings.

#### **1.1.4.2 Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA)**

The Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA) was originally formed by MWA to help meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and provide wastewater treatment for the growing area. The original treatment plant (Regional Treatment Plant), with supporting pipelines and infrastructure, began operating in 1981, providing tertiary level treatment for up to 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD). The VWVRA is now a joint powers authority and public agency of the state of California and serves portions of Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, and San Bernardino County Service Areas 42 and 64.

The Regional Treatment Plant, which has a capacity of 18.0 MGD, is currently capable of treating a portion of the flow to a tertiary level and the remaining flow to a secondary level for percolation. A majority of the tertiary treated wastewater is discharged into the Mojave River Basin and a smaller amount is currently used to irrigate landscaping at the treatment plant and the nearby Westwinds Golf Course. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) Order R6V-2008-004, along with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0102822, allows the facility to discharge up to 14.0 MGD of tertiary-treated effluent to surface water, which is the Mojave River.

#### **1.1.4.3 MWA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

The Technical Advisory Committee to the Mojave Water Agency (TAC) is an independent, voluntary group of water purveyors, pumpers, and other interested parties located within MWA's service area boundaries. The TAC serves as the advisory panel for MWA and provides critical input, including helping to define key issues related to potential water management activities in the Region. The TAC provides a forum for information sharing and discussion of water management issues and solutions and serves as the primary venue through which project ideas will be articulated, evaluated, and prioritized.

The TAC meets bi-monthly in a public forum to discuss common concerns and acts to assist the MWA in pursuit of its legal objectives. For the IRWM Plan, the TAC meeting times were used as the venue to reach the public, because these meetings were already established as being stakeholder meetings for MWA and the Region and it seemed natural and obvious to extend these meetings for the purpose of Plan outreach.

A complete list of entities comprising the Technical Advisory Committee in 2013 is included in [Appendix 1.XX](#).

#### **1.1.4.4 Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District**

Established in March 1951, the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District (MDRCD) is a non-regulatory special district – operating with partners - committed to the development of a

private land stewardship ethic that promotes long-term sustainability of the Region's rich and diverse natural resource heritage. The MDRCD is bounded to the north by Inyo County, to the south by Riverside County, to the east by the Arizona and Nevada borders, and to the west by Los Angeles County.

#### **1.1.4.5 Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission**

The Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission is comprised of five officials, one from each of the member entities of Improvement District M (entities that lie within the greater Morongo Basin/Johnson Valley Area ("Morongo Area") and take water from the Morongo Basin Pipeline), including: Mojave Water Agency, County of San Bernardino Service Area 70, Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, Hi-Desert Water District, and Joshua Basin Water District. This Commission addresses issues of interest to the residents in the Morongo Basin and pertinent to the Morongo Basin Pipeline project. The Commission meets quarterly.

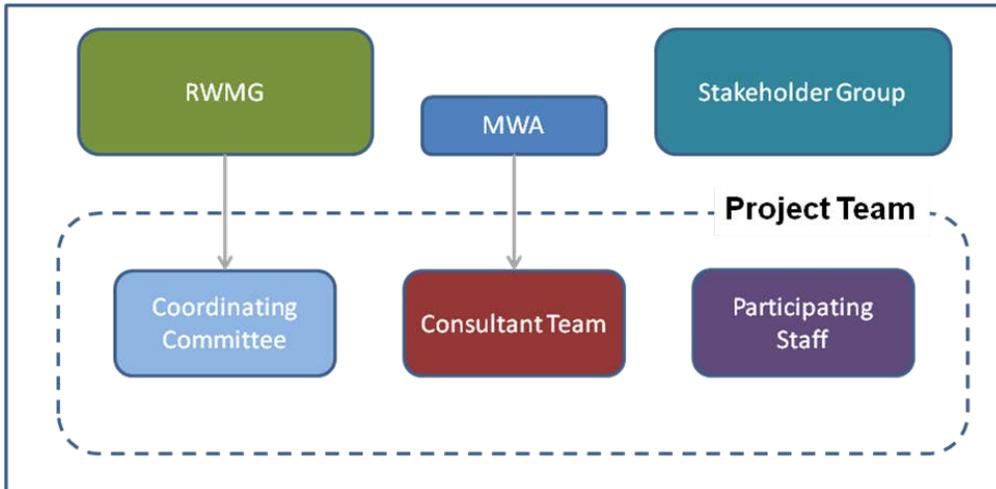
#### **1.1.5 Coordinating Committee**

The Region Coordinating Committee (CC) consists of one staff representative or volunteer Board member and an alternate appointed from each of the agencies and associations that comprise the RWMG. The CC's overall function is to oversee the preparation of the Mojave IRWM Plan through its adoption, including identifying proposed Plan goals and objectives, proposing a process for prioritizing projects, and developing and reviewing drafts of the IRWM Plan.

Members of the CC, staff, and the Consultant Team formed a Project Team Charter which outlines the goals and responsibilities of the CC and establishes shared principles for Plan development (see Appendix 1.Y). It also included agreements to develop the IRWM Plan in an open and transparent process, encouraged the participation and input of stakeholders, and supported a decision-making process led by broad public agreement wherever possible.

The CC committed to engage the vast array of knowledge and talent among staff and other integrated water resources professionals within the Region, and to do so in a way that fostered professional development and growth among various agency staff while developing the IRWM Plan. The intent was to engage local professionals during the development of the Plan to benefit from their expertise and to prepare them to help implement the Plan after it was developed. The Consultant Team worked closely with designated staff and other experts participating on the Project Team (see Figure 1-4) to develop the Plan and foster professional development.

**FIGURE 1-4  
PROJECT TEAM**



#### 1.1.6 Existing IRWM Plans and Previous Planning Efforts

With the recognition that long-range planning is key to sustaining the Region's water resources, MWA and the other various water agencies in the Region have been working for years on collaborative planning documents and efforts to guide water resource management actions.

MWA first prepared a Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP) in 1994 (1994 Plan) in recognition of the generally deficient water supplies within the MWA and the need to develop a basis for decision-making to manage both local and imported water supplies as a means of eliminating overdraft conditions in the underlying groundwater basins. The 1994 Plan provided the details for structural and non-structural projects that could be completed in part or in full over three phases ranging from short-term to long-term implementation timelines.

Since that time, several water resource management accomplishments and Regional developments prompted MWA to update the 1994 Plan, including advancements in the basin adjudication process, a more refined understanding of the hydrology and hydrogeology of the service area, population increases, shifts in agricultural and urban water demands, and the growing realization that the Mojave Region can be a strategic element in the long-term management of California's water supplies with nearly two million acre-feet of available storage capacity in the Mojave River Groundwater Basin.

As a result, in 2005, MWA adopted the 2004 Regional Water Management Plan (2004 IRWM Plan), which updated the 1994 RWMP and served as the Region's first IRWM Plan (and one of the first IRWM Plans in California). The 2004 IRWM Plan was developed in collaboration with local stakeholders, such as water and wastewater agencies, and civic and technical leaders, and evaluated potential water supply projects and programs that provided Regional benefits. It provided a road map for long-term water resources management and outlined 60 water resource management actions for the Region. Development of the 2004 IRWM Plan provided a

means to 1) review and revise, as necessary, previous estimates of water supply and demand, 2) identify and solicit input from stakeholders with interest in long-term reliable water supplies for the region, and 3) identify a suite of preliminary alternatives that would help MWA achieve its goals in water supply management through 2020.

Importantly, the Plan has also provided the basis for acquiring State and Federal funding for local water supply, conservation, and management projects, enabling a total of \$170 million in investments in the Region's water infrastructure and supplies over the last decade. The 2004 IRWM Plan has been used as the foundation for developing this 2013 update of the Mojave Region IRWM Plan.

**Comment [SC2]:** Somewhere in the Plan we will specify what was done with previous \$.? Chuck's comment.

## 1.2 Stakeholder Involvement

Recognizing that the success of any water management plan depends on the degree of involvement with the stakeholder community, broad stakeholder involvement has been and continues to be an essential component of the Mojave IRWM Planning process, as described below.

### 1.2.1 Overview of Stakeholder Involvement Process

During the development of the 2004 IRWM Plan, significant efforts were made to identify and solicit input from stakeholders with interest in long-term reliable water supplies for the Region from the onset of the process. These efforts involved one-on-one interviews, evaluation of questionnaires and holding meetings with individuals, groups and the TAC. Outreach efforts were directed at stakeholders from local water agencies, state and federal agencies, municipalities, San Bernardino County, and local community groups, including environmental organizations, regulatory agencies, development interests, tribal communities, disadvantaged communities and other community associations.

These stakeholder involvement efforts have been continued and expanded during the 2013 update process. Stakeholders were notified regarding the update process by means of various outreach processes including an IRWM Plan website, emails, newsletters, letters via the US Postal Service, and personal phone calls.

Will insert timeline graphic here.

## 1.2.2 Stakeholders/Plan Participants

The planning group involved in development of the IRWM Plan update is an inclusive group of participants, including 45 municipal water purveyors, seven municipal and county agencies, fourteen state and federal agencies, and over 30 community interest groups.

Water users and public agencies form the core of the stakeholder group in the Region, including water districts, cities, private water suppliers, and agriculture. Additional essential stakeholder involvement includes environmental organizations, regulatory agencies, land use planning authorities, development interests, private stakeholders and community associations. All of these groups have participated in the IRWM Plan update development and its ongoing implementation.

### 1.2.2.1 Municipal and County Governments

Regardless of whether or not municipalities are water purveyors, they all share a keen interest in their local and regional water supplies. The economic health of a region is tied to its ability to demonstrate that affordable high quality water is going to be available as the Region develops. The following municipalities and county governments are stakeholders of the Mojave Region IRWM Plan process:

- City of Adelanto
- City of Barstow
- City of Hesperia
- City of Victorville
- San Bernardino County Planning Department
- Town of Apple Valley
- Town of Yucca Valley

### 1.2.2.2 Wholesale and Retail Water Purveyors, Wastewater Agencies, Flood Management Agencies, and Other Special Districts

Local water-related agencies include wholesale and retail water purveyors, wastewater agencies, flood management agencies, as well as other special districts. Despite varying objectives, these agencies share many common issues associated with local and regional water resources. Each agency has its own set of quantity and quality needs and each agency has individual goals for the regional water system, yet they are all interested in the ability of their individual systems to meet the needs of their customers.

There are currently 45 municipal water purveyors in the Mojave Region, as shown in Table 1-1, including water districts, cities, mutual water companies, and community services districts.

**TABLE 1-1  
MUNICIPAL WATER PURVEYORS WITHIN REGION**

**Municipal Water Purveyors**

1. Apple Valley Foothill County Water District	24. Gordon Acres Water Company
2. Apple Valley Heights County Water District	25. Helendale Community Services District
3. Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company	26. Hesperia Water District
4. Apple Valley View Mutual Water Company	27. Hi Desert Mutual Water Company
5. Bar H Mutual Water Company	28. Hi-Desert Water District
6. BarLen Mutual Water Company	29. Indian Wells Valley Water District
7. Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency	30. Joshua Basin County Water District
8. Center Water Company	31. Jubilee Mutual Water Company
9. Chamisal Mutual Water Company	32. Juniper-Riviera County Water District
10. City of Adelanto Water District	33. Lucerne Valley Mutual Water Company
11. County Service Area 42	34. Lucerne Vista Mutual Water Company
12. County Service Area 64	35. Mariana Ranchos County Water District
13. County Service Area 70 J	36. Navajo Mutual Water Company
14. County Service Area 70 W1	37. Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District
15. County Service Area 70 W4	38. Rancheritos Mutual Water Company
16. Daggett Community Services District	39. Rand Communities Water District
17. Desert Dawn Mutual Water Company	40. Sheep Creek Water Company
18. Desert Springs Mutual Water Company	41. Stoddard Valley Mutual Water Company
19. Golden State Water Apple Valley North System	42. Thunderbird County Water District
20. Golden State Water Apple Valley South System	43. Victorville Water District
21. Golden State Water Barstow System	44. West End Mutual Water Company
22. Golden State Water Desert View System	45. Yermo Community Services District
23. Golden State Water Lucerne Valley System	

Source: MWA's 2012 Water Purveyor Guide.

The following flood management agencies, as well as other special districts agencies are stakeholders of the Mojave Region IRWM Plan process:

- Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission
- Newberry Community Services District
- San Bernardino County Flood Control District

**1.2.2.3 State and Federal Regulatory and Resource Agencies**

The involvement of and coordination with State and Federal regulatory and resources agencies is essential to the success of the Region's IRWM process. Their roles and responsibilities are to ensure that regulatory compliance standards and goals are incorporated in this IRWM Plan. The development and implementation of recommended projects requires regulatory and environmental approval prior to implementation. In addition, these agencies have provided resources and services that have enabled advancement of the IRWM process, including a variety of services provided by the U.S. Geological Survey to improve understanding of the

Region's water resources, including stream gaging, hydrogeologic assessment and modeling. The following agencies have been involved in the update of the Mojave Region IRWM Plan:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Department of Water Resources
- Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
- State Water Resources Control Board
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB)

#### **1.2.2.4 Environmental Community**

The Environmental Community includes groups with specific interests in conservation and protection of the natural resources and habitats within the Region.

- Audubon Society
- California Desert Coalition
- Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District
- Morongo Basin Open Space Group
- Morongo Basin Conservation Association
- Sierra Club
- The Wildlands Conservancy

#### **1.2.2.5 Tribal Community**

During construction of a flood control project in the Town of Apple Valley (the Desert Knolls Wash Project), the San Bernardino County Flood Control District encountered tribal artifacts from burial sites that pertain to San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. In addition, tribal lands of the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians are located in one of the proposed IRWM Region expansion areas. Therefore, this IRWM Plan will include these two Tribes in its Stakeholder Outreach Program.

### **1.2.2.6 Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)**

The inclusion and participation of DACs is considered essential to the Mojave IRWM Plan process, as more than half of the Region qualifies as disadvantaged (see Figure 2-6 in Section 2.5.3). DACs within the IRWM planning region included both rural and urban areas. Among the DACs identified in the Region are the following:

- Adelanto
- Barstow
- Daggett
- El Mirage
- Hinkley
- Johnson Valley
- Joshua Tree
- Kramer Junction
- Landers
- Lenwood
- Lucerne Valley
- Newberry Springs
- Oro Grande
- Pinon Hills
- Pioneertown
- Yermo
- Yucca Valley
- Portions of Apple Valley, Hesperia, Phelan, and Victorville

### **1.2.2.7 Wastewater Agencies**

Six wastewater agencies serve residents and businesses within the Mojave Region, treating about 20 MGD (about 22,000 acre-feet per year), and three wastewater agencies serving communities outside the Region discharge about 5 MGD (over 5,000 acre-feet per year) of treated effluent to the Region:

- Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Authority
- City of Adelanto
- City of Barstow
- City of Victorville
- Crestline Sanitation District
- Helendale Community Services District

- Lake Arrowhead Community Services District
- Marine Corps Logistics Base – Barstow and Yermo
- Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority

#### **1.2.2.8 Electrical Corporations**

Several electricity generating plants are located within the Mojave Region, including solar and natural gas-fueled power plants. The plants notified of the Plan update include:

- Hi-Desert Power Project
- NextEra Energy – Harper Lake solar plant
- NextEra Energy - Kramer Junction solar plant
- Reliant Energy Coolwater
- Sunray Energy, Inc.

#### **1.2.2.9 Community Organizations**

All local and community groups with an interest in the Region's water resource management have an opportunity to provide input on issues and needs associated with their particular location and specific group mission. This type of broad stakeholder involvement is very beneficial to the Regional planning process and can provide enhanced opportunities for integrated efforts.

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) - Victorville Senior Citizens Center
- Spring Valley Lake Association
- Adelanto Chamber of Commerce
- Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Barstow Chamber of Commerce
- Daggett Chamber of Commerce
- El Mirage Chamber of Commerce
- Helendale Chamber of Commerce
- Hesperia Chamber of Commerce
- Hesperia Kiwanis Club
- High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Jess Ranch Association
- Johnson Valley Improvement Association
- Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce
- Joshua Basin Citizens Advisory Group
- Landers Chamber of Commerce

- Lucerne Chamber of Commerce
- Newberry Springs / Harvard Property Owners Association
- Oak Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Oro Grande Agriculture
- Pinon Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Rancho Las Flores
- Rolling Start
- San Bernardino County Farm Bureau
- SAV-AG
- Silver Lakes Association
- Victor Valley Museum
- Victor Valley National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Victorville African American Chamber
- Victorville Chamber of Commerce
- Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

#### **1.2.2.10 Self-Supplied Water Users**

A number of self-supplied water users exist within the Mojave Region, ranging from self-supplied homeowners to large industrial and agricultural water users. Two groundwater adjudications exist within the Region – the Mojave Basin Area and Warren Valley Basin Area. The watermasters for each adjudicated basin were included as stakeholders. Additionally, the members of the Subarea Advisory Committees, representing the self-supplied water users in each of the subareas of the Mojave Basin Area, were notified and included.

#### **1.2.2.11 Industry Organizations**

Organizations from various industry sectors are located within the Mojave Region, including the following organizations involved in the Plan update:

- Association of California Water Agencies
- Building Industry Association
- Southern California Water Agency
- State Water Contractors, Inc.
- Victor Valley Association of Realtors

#### **1.2.2.12 Others**

Over 35 individuals were notified or directly participated in the IRWM Plan update. Flyers with information on the public meetings were placed at community-specific venues throughout the Region, were sent to newspapers, medical centers, educational institutions, and other water-

related industries, as well as a handful of consulting, engineering, or scientific firms with an interest in the Region's water resources.

### 1.2.3 Public Outreach Process

#### 1.2.3.1 Inclusive Planning Area Outreach

This IRWM Plan development included evaluating and addressing regional issues while recognizing local interests. To do this, the planning process involved stakeholders and incorporated their input. The general approach to outreach during this planning process involved three key elements:

1. Identify stakeholders including disadvantaged communities and tribes;
2. Hold DAC meetings at various locations within the Region to encourage participation; and
3. Provide multiple opportunities and methods for participation and communication.

As discussed in Section 1.2, the planning process centered on stakeholder input meetings, all of which were open to the public to facilitate participation; attendees were invited to participate through facilitated discussions and review of draft documents; the meetings and opportunities to review and comment on draft documents were announced to a broad distribution list via e-mail and mailed invitations; and meeting materials were made available on the Plan website one week before each stakeholder meeting.

Public outreach activities throughout the IRWM Plan process are described below:

- **Review of Plan Sections** – The sections of the IRWM Plan were drafted incrementally and provided to stakeholders at multiple points for review and input. The content in draft sections was discussed with stakeholders and refined until there was broad agreement about the content.
- **Stakeholder Meetings** – Nine stakeholder meetings were held throughout the IRWM Plan development process. These meetings provided background on the planning process, identified challenges and opportunities within the Region, drafted and discussed Plan goals and objectives, considered opportunities for coordination among local and regional agencies, presented Plan sections and received comments on Plan sections, and identified and prioritized projects as well as other topics included in the IRWM Plan. In addition, three public meetings and three DAC meetings were held at various locations around the Region to encourage participation. **The three public meetings were held at x, y, and z. The three DAC meetings were held at X1, y1, and Z1.** The topics discussed during the course of the stakeholder meetings are summarized in Section 3.1
- **Project Website** – The Mojave IRWM website (<http://www.mywaterplan.com>) serves as an important tool to solicit involvement from interested parties of the Region as well as to provide information and updates pertinent to the IRWM Planning process. Participation opportunities described on the website include regular public meetings, submittal of written comments, and online surveys. The public meeting dates, agenda and other meeting materials are provided on the website.

- **Electronic and Written Communications** – Email was the main tool used to maintain stakeholder communication and engagement. The email list, which contained approximately xx entries, was used to invite participation at the meetings as well as to notify stakeholders that materials were available for review.
- **Newsletter** – **Is there a newsletter that will be sent?** The newsletters contained important updates on the IRWM planning process as well as information on upcoming stakeholder meetings.
- **Contact Information** – Both email addresses and phone numbers were made available to any stakeholder or interested party to ask questions or offer comments about the IRWM Plan.



The IRWM Plan website is an important tool for facilitating communication.

### 1.2.3.2 Disadvantaged Community Outreach

The inclusion and participation of disadvantaged communities (DACs) is considered to be essential to the Mojave IRWM Plan process, and numerous efforts were conducted to identify needs of, seek input from, and communicate with disadvantaged communities within the IRWM Region.

The outreach effort included special efforts to connect with DACs within the Region. A number of areas throughout the Region are considered DACs, defined as a community with a median household income (MHI) less than 80% of the statewide MHI (2012 IRWM Guidelines). Refer to Section 2.5.3 for additional information regarding DACs.

Informational invitations were sent or emailed to water agencies servicing known DACs within the Region, inviting them to stakeholder meetings and soliciting their input to the Plan and Plan projects. Additional information targeting DACs included mailers and focused meetings to engage DACs as well as coordination with agencies such as the ????

Although no organizations specifically addressing Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns have been identified in the Region, opportunities to address EJ issues were coordinated with DAC outreach as appropriate.

### 1.2.3.3 Tribal Outreach

### 1.2.3.4 Media Coverage of Plan Preparation

Comment [CP3]: Updated methods from 1.2.3.1 may fit in here.

## 1.2.4 Interregional Coordination

Still to complete.

## 1.3 Plan Development

This subsection gives a brief overview of the process of developing this IRWM Plan.

### 1.3.1 Goals for the IRWM Planning Process

The Project Team developed the following goals to guide development of the Plan, and the overall intent of the effort:

The Mojave IRWM Planning process is a collaborative, stakeholder-driven effort to manage all aspects of water resources in the Region. The purpose of the IRWM Plan update is to provide long-term direction for water resource management with specific strategies to address the identified current and anticipated future needs in the Region. The IRWM Plan enables integration of planning and implementation efforts and facilitates regional cooperation with the fundamental objectives of (1) balancing future water demands with available supplies and (2) maximizing the overall beneficial use of water throughout the Region.

Comment [SC4]: Update once we have new objectives. These are from 2004 IRWM Plan.

The following ??? key water management issues emerged as a result of this process:

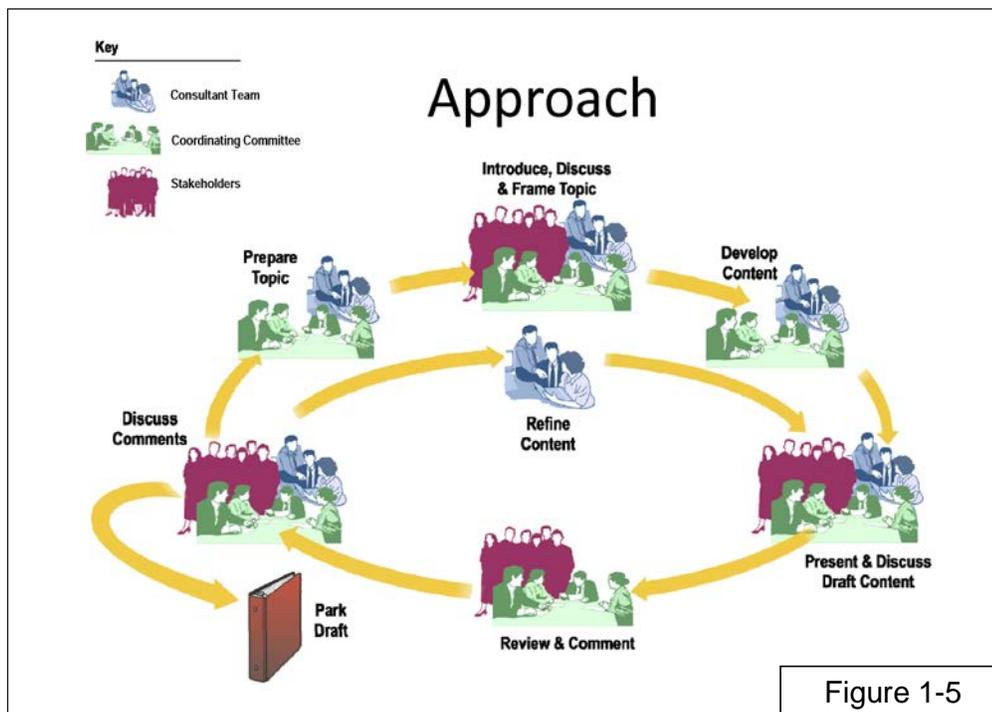
- List issues once we figure them out.

To compare expected performance of alternative combinations of projects and management alternatives, a screening model was developed. The screening model simulates the changes to groundwater hydrology, Mojave River flows, and pumping and return flows that would result from implementation of the identified projects and management actions. Each alternative was evaluated and ranked according to its effectiveness in meeting the long-term needs of the Basin.

### 1.3.2 Plan Development Process

#### 1.3.2.1 Overview

The IRWM Plan development process was organized around the stakeholder input meetings, as described in Section 1.2.2. a set of Topics for Engagement, discussed in Section 1.3.2.2 were identified at the beginning of the process and scheduled for discussion at specific times during the stakeholder and public outreach process. The Project Team introduced these topics during meetings, and introduced and discussed draft Plan sections addressing these topics at the meetings. The Project Team also invited stakeholders to review these Plan sections and submit written comments after the meetings. The graphic in **Figure 1-5** illustrates this interactive and iterative planning process.



### 1.3.2.2 Topics for Engagement

The Project Team developed the following list of topics to be discussed in a logical sequence that includes all of the content necessary to develop an IRWM Plan consistent with DWR's published standards for IRWM Plans (see DWR IRWM Grant Program Guidelines, November 2012). Table 2 in the DWR Guidelines Document lists 16 standards that must be covered in the IRWM Plan. The topics discussed included:

- Topic 1: Team Charter
- Topic 2: Plan Development Process
- Topic 3: Plan Scope
- Topic 4: Current Conditions
- Topic 5: Future Conditions
- Topic 6: Challenges and Opportunities

- Topic 7: Potential Projects
- Topic 8: Integration
- Topic 9: Benefits and Impacts
- Topic 10: Project Selection and Priority
- Topic 11: Plan Recommendations
- Topic 12: Governance
- Topic 13: Finance
- Topic 14: Plan Performance and Monitoring

See **Appendix 1-Z** for more detail on each topic.

### 1.3.2.3 Plan Section Development and Refinement

The Project Team presented information related to each of the Topics for Engagement and facilitated collaborative discussions through an interactive process initiated during stakeholder input meetings. Content for most of the topics was discussed in more than one stakeholder input meeting. The Project Team then prepared Draft IRWM Plan content based on the discussion of each topic and posted the content for public review and comment throughout the planning process. The Project Team revised draft content as needed based on comments received by the stakeholders and then offered the revised content for review and comment until the content was broadly accepted by the stakeholder group. At the end of the planning process, the Project Team combined and refined the agreed upon content into this IRWM Plan for final public review and member agency adoption.

### 1.3.3 Subcommittees

May not need this section because of the Project Team format we are using.

## 1.4 Plan Organization

The Project Team fashioned this Mojave IRWM Plan as a narrative, telling the story of the challenges and opportunities of the Region and how those challenges and opportunities informed the Plan goals and objectives, projects, and recommendations.

Also, the Plan includes all of the elements required by the IRWM Guidelines issued by DWR. **Appendix 1-ZZ** contains a cross-referencing table which describes where each of the DWR required elements are presented in the Mojave **IRWM Plan**.

**Comment [SC5]:** Logan commented he wants to mention the SNMP here. Tim wants to know if the GWMP will be included here?

## 1.5 Plan Adoption

To be completed.