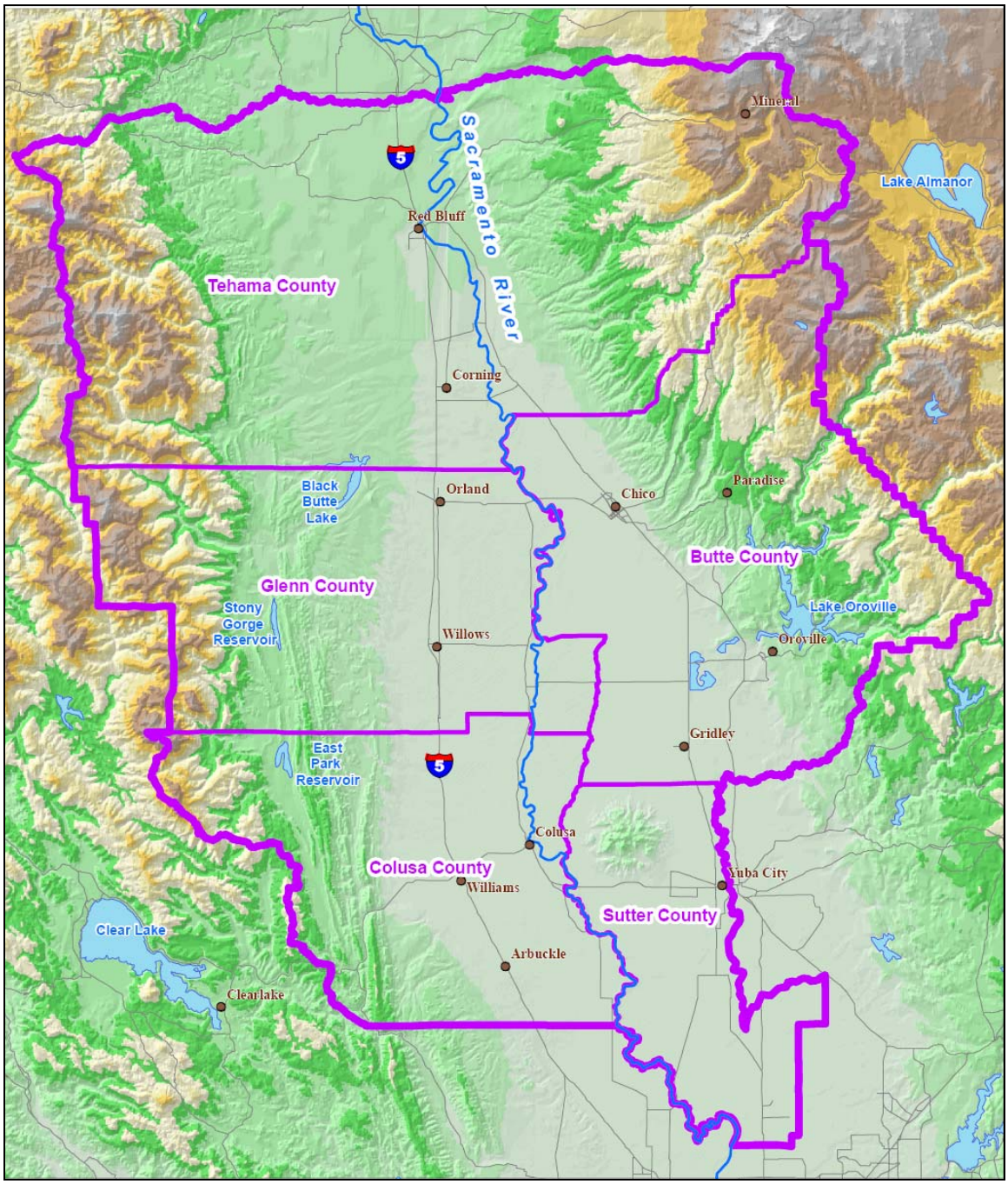
Northern Sacramento Valley
Four County Group
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Acceptance Process
2009 Application



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Executive Summary

The Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama have worked together on resource management issues for many years. This relationship was formalized through the Four County Memorandum of Understanding (Four County MOU) in early 2006 and the participants have become known as the Four County Group. The Four County MOU was followed by three addendums to the MOU which further defined the working relationship between these four counties and also added the County of Sutter in 2009. The Four County Group intends to submit a planning grant application under the Integrated Regional Water Management section of Prop 84 as an emerging planning region.

This document was developed in response to the Department of Water Resources Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) as described in the final guidelines published in February 2009. This process was developed to define the way that neighboring and/or overlapping Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) will work together in the management of water and other natural resources throughout the State.

This RAP application reflects the current cooperative relationships within the Four County planning area which is located in the northern Sacramento Valley within the Sacramento River Hydrologic Area and encompasses the five Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama. These five counties, together with other regional partners have come to understand the value of regional planning. As will be discussed in this application, the Four County Group intends to apply for planning funding under the Integrated Regional Water Management section of Prop 84 as an emerging Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) regioni. This application also discusses the interface and cooperation between the Four County planning area and other IRWMPs which border or overlap this geographic area.

At a minimum, a region is defined as a contiguous geographic area encompassing the service areas of multiple local agencies; is defined to maximize the opportunities to integrate water management activities; and effectively integrates water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region as defined in the California Water Plan, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region, or subdivision or other region specifically identified by DWR. The Four County area qualifies as an emerging IRWM region pursuant to this definition and has been recognized by DWR as a planning area as shown in the Prop 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Program - Sacramento River Funding Area map posted on the DWR website at: http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/docs/prop84/p84_fa_sacramentoriver_contact.pdf and is also attached to this RAP application as **Appendix 1**.

The Department of Water Resources has been involved in integrated regional water management activities for a number of years, initially through the Integrated Storage Investigation (ISI) program, which made funding available to local entities. Butte County received funding through the ISI program to complete their Integrated Water Resources Plan, which was approved by their Board of Supervisors in May 2005**. (See Appendix 14)**

After the development of this plan, it soon became apparent that geographically, implementation of specific projects would require partnerships with neighboring counties because natural resources often do not adhere to political boundaries. In addition, as more information became available regarding the parameters of the groundwater basin and the associated aquifer systems, integrated regional management seemed the most efficient way to approach resource management. The Four County Group initially represented the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama. As these four counties formed partnerships and moved forward, the County of Sutter was added to the planning area.

The Four County Group is an evolving and dynamic planning effort. Although the Butte County plan will be used as a foundational document, it also exemplifies the basis for a more regional approach to resource planning that is more broad-based and inclusive and strives to meet the needs and desires of the entire five counties and other interested groups and organizations within the planning region.

1. Introduction

The Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama have worked together on resource management issues for many years. This relationship was formalized through the Four County Memorandum of Understanding (Four County MOU) in early 2006 and the participants have become known as the Four County Group. The Four County MOU was followed by three addendums to the MOU which further defined the working relationship between these four counties and also added the County of Sutter in 2009. The Four County MOU and Addendums One, Two and Three are attached to this RAP application as **Appendix 2** and currently express a desire by the five counties in the Northern Sacramento Valley – Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama - to work together on water-related issues and a commitment to enter into an Integrated Regional Water Management planning process. Also included in **Appendix 2** is a copy of the minute order from the Butte County Board of Supervisors authorizing staff to submit this RAP application.

Pursuant to Section 5.1 of the Four County MOU, participation is strictly on a voluntary basis and may be terminated at any time without recourse. Neighboring counties and other parties who share water resources common to the participating counties and who are engaged in similar activities will be invited to participate. The Four County Group aspire to work collaboratively with other regional programs and technical outreach efforts within the greater Sacramento River Funding Area.

Through the adoption of Addendum Three, the signatories to the Four County MOU agreed to begin a regional water management planning process pursuant to the Four County MOU, geographically covering the area of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama and Sutter Counties. Pursuant to Addendum Three, this planning process will utilize and incorporate existing plans and processes developed within the region.

The Four County Group intends to submit a planning grant application under the Integrated Regional Water Management section of Prop 84 for the area encompassing all five counties as an emerging planning area. Funding for this planning effort will build on current and future partnerships throughout the Sacramento Valley including cities, water purveyors, non-governmental agencies and other interested parties in the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the identified planning area. It is anticipated that the Four County IRWMP will adhere to the timeline presented as Table 1 included as **Appendix 3** to this RAP application.

1.1 Purpose

This document was created in response to the Department of Water Resources Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) as described in the guidelines published in December 2008 and finalized in February 2009. This process was developed to define the way that neighboring and/or overlapping IRWMPs will work together in the management of water and other natural resources throughout the State of California.

This RAP application reflects the current cooperative relationships within the Four County planning area which is located in the northern Sacramento Valley within the Sacramento River Hydrologic Area and currently encompasses the five Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama. It also discusses the interface and cooperation between the Four County planning area and other IRWMPs which border or overlap this geographic area. The Four County Group has been coordinating with the following IRWMPs in this regard:

Upper Feather River IRWMP – overlap issue
Sacramento Valley IRWMP – overlap issue
Yolo County – border issue
Shasta County – border issue

In addition, representatives from the Four County Group have been participating in meetings with other IRWMP planning areas throughout the Sacramento River Hydrologic Area in an attempt to coordinate all efforts throughout the larger region (see Section 8.3). This group of IRWMPs has met several times to discuss an approach to integrated planning that would provide for the needs of all potential participants within the Sacramento River Funding Area. In this regard, the Four County Group has coordinated with the following IRWMPs with regard to the RAP to help facilitate a regional approach to funding distribution that will be equitable for all parties:

American River Basin IRWMP	Solano Agencies IRWMP
CABY IRWMP	Upper Feather IRWMP
Lake County IRWMP	Yolo County IRWMP
Napa-Berryessa IRWM	Yuba County IRWM
Sacramento Valley IRWMP	

As the process has moved forward and additional partnerships have been formed, some of these IRWMPs have experienced changes and consolidations, much like the expansion of the Four County Group. For instance, Lake, Napa-Berryessa, Solano and Yolo have consolidated into the Westside IRWMP. However, the Four County Group has continued to cooperate and collaborate with these entities throughout the various transitions that have taken place and anticipates continuing to do so into the future.

1.2 Regional Water Management Group Contact Information

Coordination for the Four County effort currently is facilitated through the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation. The primary contact person for the Four County Group is Vickie Newlin, Assistant Director. It is anticipated that as the governance process evolves, the roles and responsibilities of the members of the group will be clearly defined.

Through approval of the Four County MOU, these counties have agreed to work together on water related issues and now are committed to proceed with the development of a

regional plan that reflects the needs of the larger geographic area. This commitment was made by each Board of Supervisors through their support of the Four County Memorandum of Understanding and associated Addendums One, Two and Three. Upon completion of the IRWMP, each entity plans to adopt the IRWMP, which will reflect the goals and objectives of the entire region.

Primary contact information for each county is listed below. Although all parties have participated in the development of this RAP application, for purposes of the RAP, DWR should coordinate with Vickie Newlin.

Butte County:	Vickie Newlin, Assistant Director Butte County Water and Resource Conservation 308 Nelson Avenue Oroville, CA 95965 vnewlin@buttecounty.net (530) 538-2179 (phone) (530) 538-3807 (fax)
Colusa County:	Steve Hackney, Director of Planning & Building Colusa County 220 - 12th Street Colusa, CA 95932 shackney@countyofcolusa.org (530) 458-0480 (phone) (530) 458-2035 (fax)
Glenn County:	Lester Messina, Water Resources Coordinator Glenn County Agricultural Commissioner P. O. Box 351 Willows, CA 95988 wateradv@countyofglenn.net (530) 934-6501 (phone) (530)934-6503 (fax)
Sutter County:	Daniel Peterson, Water Resources Engineer Sutter County Public Works 1130 Civic Center Blvd. Yuba City, CA 95993 dwpeterson@co.sutter.ca.us (530) 822-7450 (phone) (530) 822-7109 (fax)
Tehama County:	Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager Tehama County Flood Control and Conservation District 9380 San Benito Avenue Gerber, CA 96035

ernie@tcpw.ca.gov
(530) 385-1462, x 3014 (phone)
(530) 385-1189 (fax)

1.3 RAP Background

Since the inception of DWR's IRWMP grant program, the department has encouraged and supported the formation of self-determined IRWM planning regions. However, DWR recognizes that IRWM regions are dynamic and therefore may evolve over time as more information becomes available and different partnerships are formed as a result of additional research.

In response to the challenges associated with a cookie-cuter approach to IRWM, DWR developed the RAP as a mechanism to evaluate and accept both existing and developing IRWM regions for the purposes of the Proposition 84 IRWM Program (California Water Code (CWC) §10541 (f) effective March 1, 2009. The RAP Guidelines include the definition of a region as, "At a minimum, a region is defined as a contiguous geographic area encompassing the service areas of multiple local agencies; is defined to maximize the opportunities to integrate water management activities; and effectively integrates water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region as defined in the California Water Plan, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region, or subdivision or other region specifically identified by DWR (Public Resources Code §75026.(b) (1))." These guidelines are in response to SB1 (Perata, Stats. 2008, ch.1; eff. March 1, 2009), also known as the "Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act," which provided guidelines to DWR about what an IRWM should or must contain. SB1 was signed by the Governor, in September 2008 and codified as CWC §10530 *et seq).*

2.0 Four County Regional Water Management Group

2.1 Overview

The Four County planning area which is located in the northern Sacramento Valley within the Sacramento River Hydrologic Area currently encompasses the five Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama as depicted in the map attached as **Appendix 4.** Although counties within the Northern Sacramento Valley have worked together on various water and resource management issues for many years, the catalyst for a more formal relationship was funding for a water quality project provided by the California Bay-Delta Authority Drinking Water Program and administered through the Glenn County Agriculture Department.

While this project primarily addressed the drinking water conditions within the region and provided for the development of drinking water quality management strategies on a regional basis, it also highlighted the commonalities of the participating counties on water and resource related activities as well as the efficiencies and benefits associated with working together on a regional basis.

The group began meeting regularly to produce the Northern Sacramento Valley (Four County) Drinking Water Quality Strategy Document in June 2005 (**Appendix 5**) and after the recognition of the added value of a regional approach has continued to meet on a monthly basis to address water quality and many other water-related issues throughout the region. At the conclusion of that project, the group continued this collaborative effort to increase the understanding of their common resources, recognizing that water and other natural resources do not recognize political boundaries and that land use planning activities are connected by natural resources. Copies of the Four County Group meeting agendas are available upon request.

Early in 2006, the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama formalized this relationship with the approval of the Four County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by all four Boards of Supervisors. This was followed up with their approval of Addendum One to the MOU early in 2007, which consists of a Statement of Principles Regarding Water Related Programs and Projects.

Another project benefiting the region and demonstrating the working relationship within the Four County area is the Basin Management Objective Information Center (BMOIC). This device is a user friendly GIS tool created to support the development, management and reporting of county-wide Basin Management Objectives (BMOs). The site allows the user to navigate through map layers, historical groundwater level data, and configure maps and reports as applicable. The creation of this site was made possible through grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources awarded to Butte County through the AB303, Groundwater Assistance Act. The counties within the Four County Group worked together to develop this tool so that it could be used region-wide.

Through the adopted Four County MOU, the county partners came together to build upon the original Butte County BMOIC and expand the coverage to include Glenn, Tehama and Colusa Counties. Operation and maintenance of a Four County BMOIC helps to meet the goals and objectives of each individual county, as well as the collective goals outlined in the Four County MOU. It also allows for a more uniform manner of collecting and reporting data across the region and assists in the groundwater management efforts across the Sacramento Valley. A functional diagram of the Four County BMOIC is attached to this RAP application as **Appendix 6**.

The BMOIC can be accessed through this link: **http://gis.buttecounty.net/bmoic3**.

On February 17, 2009, the Sutter County Board of Supervisors voted to join the Four County planning process. As of the submittal of this application, all five Boards of Supervisors have approved the MOU and Addendum One. In addition, they have all supported Addendum Two, which adds Sutter County and Addendum Three, which commits all five counties to enter into an Integrated Regional Water Management planning process for the entire region. A copy of the Four County MOU and all three addendums are included in **Appendix 2** to this document.

2.2 Current Management Group Composition

A Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is defined under California Water Code §10537 as a group of three or more local agencies; at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or management, as well as those other persons necessary for the development or implementation of a plan. Under Baldwin v County of Tehama (1994) 31CalApp4th166, the 9th District Court of Appeal has held that State law does not occupy the field of groundwater management and does not prevent cities and counties from adopting ordinances to manage groundwater under their police powers. Therefore, the courts have determined that local governments, such as counties, have statutory authority over the regulation or management of the groundwater supply within their jurisdiction.

Through California Water Code §10750 *et seq*, each of these local jurisdictions have water management authority through their groundwater management plans, which have been approved by each Board of Supervisors. A copy of a Groundwater Management Plan for each county is attached to this application as **Appendix 7**. With regard to surface water supplies, Butte County is a State Water Project (SWP) Contractor with statutory authority over the management of their annual State Water Project Table A allocation of surface water and Colusa County is a Central Valley Project (CVP) Contractor receiving project water on the federal system.

The current management composition consists of the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Tehama and Sutter. Each of these counties holds statutory authority over water supply or management as defined under California Water Code §10750 *et seq*, Currently, staff representatives from each of these counties are actively participating in the development of this RAP application to formally begin the regional planning process. As this process

moves forward, each will bring forward options to the decision-makers as described in Section 2.2.1 through 2.2.5 of this RAP application.

In addition, the Four County Group continues to work with other potential stakeholders from within the region, as well as with neighboring planning processes. A list of potential participants in the Four County IRWMP is attached to this RAP application as **Appendix 8**.

The following sections briefly outline the individual county government structures currently utilized for resource management issues. It is anticipated that once funding is awarded, the regional governance process will emerge.

2.2.1 Butte County

Per Chapter 33 of the Butte County Code, the Butte County Board of Supervisors has appointed a nine-member Water Commission to advise them on water-related issues. This Commission is comprised of water experts from within the County. The Water Commission is assisted by a seven-member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), also appointed by the Board, representing various disciplines in water and resource management and therefore bringing a variety of expertise into the decision-making process.

To develop policy, staff from the Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation will present information to the Water Commission, who formulates a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for action by the Board. If these issues are more technical in nature, the Water Commission can choose to refer them to the TAC for input prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Absent some exceptions under the Butte County Code, the Board of Supervisors is the authorized decision-making body.

Butte County also has a Water Advisory Committee (WAC), which is specifically tasked with the development of Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) associated with groundwater levels and quality. This body consists of citizen volunteers, appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The WAC meets a minimum of four times a year to review groundwater elevation measurements, but as many times as necessary to compile the annual BMO document.

Each of the advisory committee meetings (the Water Commission, the Water Advisory Committee and the TAC) is conducted in an open meeting format regulated under the Brown Act. In addition, the Board of Supervisors meetings where the policies are developed is a Brown Act entity as well. All activities of the Water Commission, the WAC and the TAC are posted on the departmental website at http://www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource/.

2.2.2 Colusa County

Per Resolution No. 98-44 "A Resolution Of The Colusa County Board Of Supervisors Establishing The Rules And Bylaws For The Colusa County Groundwater Commission," the Colusa County Board of Supervisors has appointed a five-member Groundwater Management Commission to make decisions and recommendations to the Board on water-related issues. The Commission is comprised of individuals from within the County that are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

The Groundwater Management Commission is staffed by the Director of Planning and Building acting as Secretary to the Commission. Staff from the Department of Planning and Building schedule Commission meetings, formulate agendas, perform noticing and posting requirements, submit legal notices, write press releases, and address public inquiries; write staff reports to the Commission; and schedule presentations to the Commission. The Commission has delegated authority to staff to consider and approve those items that are non-policy related in content. The Commission acts in an advisory capacity and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in all other matters related to policy decisions. Each step of the Groundwater Management Commission process to the Board of Supervisors is conducted in an open meeting format pursuant to the Brown Act.

2.2.3 Glenn County

The Glenn County Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) was adopted by the Glenn County Board of Supervisors on February 15, 2000. The GWMP is administered through the County Department of Agriculture and enforced by the County Board of Supervisors, via recommendations from the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The Glenn County WAC is made up of a 22 person advisory body appointed by the BOS. The WAC includes one member of the Board of Supervisors as an ex officio member. The primary responsibility of the WAC is to help establish BMOs and to serve as a liaison between the local groundwater users, the TAC, and provide overall water resource information to the Board of Supervisors.

The Glenn County TAC is a nine person committee nominated by the WAC and appointed by the BOS. The TAC serves in a technical advisory role, and reports directly to the WAC. The TAC includes technical representatives from Federal, State, County, and other local agencies, as well as members of the general public that are knowledgeable in groundwater management and hydrology. The Glenn County WAC, with input from the TAC, reports directly to the Board of Supervisors through Department of Agriculture staff.

2.2.4 Sutter County

Staff from the Sutter County Department of Water Resources presents information to the Sutter County – Public Works Support Committee (Support Committee), which is comprised of two Supervisors nominated annually by the full Board of Supervisors. The Support Committee relies upon staff information and recommendations, as Sutter County does not have a TAC for water, wastewater, drainage or flood control. The Support Committee may act on that information by formulating a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for action by the Board. The Board of Supervisors is the authorized decision-making body. Both the Board of Supervisors meetings and the Sutter County – Public Works Support Committee are conducted in an open meeting format under the Brown Act.

2.2.5 Tehama County

The Tehama County Board of Supervisors regulates the requirements of local Ordinance 1617 through Chapter 9.40, Aquifer Protection, of the Tehama County Charter and Code. The Ordinance requires that a permit is needed from the County to extract groundwater from one parcel of land to be used on a non-contiguous parcel of land. The Ordinance prohibits the "mining" of groundwater and sets forth an application and public hearing process.

The Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) adopted and administers the Tehama County AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan. The District Board of Directors, (same members as the Board of Supervisors) appoints a nine member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of city representatives, private pumpers, water district and natural resource members. They are advisory to the Water Resources Manager who reports directly to the Board. The make-up of the TAC provides a well rounded overview of all water resource issues and actions being considered by the Board.

Activities of the District can be reviewed on the District's website, www.tehamacountywater.ca.gov, which provides the public open access to past and ongoing projects. Both the Board of Directors meetings and the TAC meetings are subject to the Brown Act.

2.2.6 The Brown Act

The Brown Act Open Meeting for Local Legislative Bodies, prepared by the Attorney General, outlines the requirements of this act for public agencies. The Brown Act, in addition to other requirements, necessitates the posting of an agenda at least seventy-two hours prior to each meeting and also requires that these meetings are open to the public and encourages public participation. The entities described in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.5 are all subject to the Brown Act.

2.3 Commitment to Integrated Regional Water Management

Currently under the Four-County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the associated Addendums One, Two and Three, staff from each county works in cooperation with staff from the other four counties to help formulate a set of preliminary options on water-related issues of regional concern. These options are sent through each county following their independent advisory route for final action by each Board of Supervisors. At times these actions are consistent for all counties, such as the passage of the MOU and the associated addendums. At other times, Boards may independently choose to modify an action to more specifically reflect the needs of their constituents. Regardless, the cumulative input from throughout the region helps to further refine and integrate independent responses to issues of regional concern.

The Four County MOU commits all five counties to the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) through approval of Addendum Three to better meet the needs of the entire region. The Four County Group intends to apply for planning funding under Prop 84 to develop an IRWMP. This plan will further define the common objectives and goals of the region and also create the governance and future decision-making processes on water-related projects within the region.

At the conclusion of the planning process all members of the Four County Group are expected to adopt the IRWMP. It is the goal of these parties that this planning process will produce an IRWMP that reflects the needs of the region and will provide a roadmap of integrated regional water management strategies for the five signatory counties and other participants from throughout the region involved in the planning process.

2.4 Stakeholders, Statutory Authority and Roles

In addition to the Counties within the planning areas there are other entities and agencies with statutory authority over water supply or water management. These entities are listed in the following table, by county, within the planning area. This list includes entities with statutory authority over water supply, water quality management, wastewater treatment, flood management/control, or storm water management.

As discussed further in this document, many of these entities have been involved or will be contacted and invited to be included in the IRWMP process. For many, this planning process is just a beginning and will provide valuable partnership opportunities that will benefit all parties. However, many of these entities have a history of working with the Four County Group entities in the past and it is anticipated that those partnerships will continue into the future through the IRWMP process.

The table below lists the entities with statutory authority over water by county, some of which are multi-jurisdictional.

Table of Entities with Statutory Authority
Over Water By County – Four County IRWMP

County	Entity	Provider	Emphasis
Butte	Biggs-West Gridley Water District		Irrigation Supply
Butte/Sutter	Butte Water District		Irrigation Supply
Butte	Richvale Irrigation District		Irrigation Supply
Butte/Glenn	Western Canal Water District		Irrigation Supply
Butte	Themalito Irrigation District		Domestic and Irrigation Supply
Butte	Paradise Irrigation District		Domestic Supply/Water Quality
Butte	City of Biggs		Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Butte	City of Chico	California Water Service, Chico	Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Butte	City of Gridley		Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Butte	City of Oroville	California Water Service, Oroville	Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Butte	South Feather Water and Power		Supply/Water Quality
Butte	Durham Mutual Water Company		Supply
Butte	Durham Irrigation District	California Water Service, Chico	Domestic Supply
Butte	Joint Boards		Supply
	Reclamation districts		Flood control and Drainage
Colusa/Glenn	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District		Supply
Colusa	Colusa County Water District		Supply
Colusa	Maxwell Irrigation District		Supply

County	Entity	Provider	Emphasis
Colusa	Carter Mutual Water Company		Supply
Colusa	Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company		Supply
Colusa	Mehrhof & Montgomery		Supply
Colusa/Glenn	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District		Supply
Colusa/Glenn	Provident Irrigation District		Supply
Colusa/Glenn	Reclamation District 1004		Supply
Colusa/Yolo	Reclamation District 108		Supply
Colusa	Roberts Ditch Irrigation Co.		Supply
Colusa	Sycamore Family Trust		Supply
Colusa	Willow Creek Mutual Water Co.		Supply
Colusa	Maxwell PUD		Municipal
Colusa	City of Colusa Water Company		Municipal
Colusa	Arbuckle PUD		Municipal
Colusa	4-M Water Co.		Supply
Colusa	Cortina Water Company		Supply
Colusa	Davis Water Company		Supply
Colusa	Glenn Valley Water District		Supply
Colusa	Holthouse Water District		Supply
Colusa	La Grande Water District		Supply
Colusa	Myers-Marsh Mutual Water Company		Supply
Colusa	Westside Water District		Supply
Glenn	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District		Supply
Glenn/Colusa	Reclamation District #1004		Supply

County	Entity	Provider	Emphasis
Glenn	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District		Supply
Glenn	City of Willows	California Water Service, Willows	Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Glenn	Willow Creek Mutual Water District		Supply
Glenn	Kanawha Water District		Supply
Glenn	Glide Water District		Supply
Glenn	City of Orland	City of Orland	Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Glenn	Orland Unit Water Users Association		Supply
Glenn/Butte	Western Canal Water District		Supply
Glenn	Orland-Artois Water District		Supply
Glenn	Provident Irrigation District		Supply
Sutter	City of Yuba City	City of Yuba City	Supply & Wastewater
Sutter	City of Live Oak	City of Live Oak	Supply & Wastewater
Sutter	Community of Robbins	Water Works District Number One	Supply & Wastewater
Sutter	Community of Sutter	Sutter Community Services District	Supply
Sutter	Community of Rio Ramaza	Rio Ramaza Community Services District	Wastewater
Sutter/Butte	Butte Water District		Supply
Sutter	Meridian Farms Water Company		Supply
Sutter	Sutter Extension Water District		Supply

County	Entity	Provider	Emphasis
Sutter/Butte	Biggs-West Gridley Water District		Supply
Sutter	Sutter Mutual Water Company		Supply
Sutter	Pelger Mutual Water Company		Supply
Sutter	Oswald Water District		Supply
Sutter	Tisdale Irrigation District		Supply
Sutter	Natomas Central Mutual Water Company		Supply
Sutter	Pleasant Grove/Verona Mutual Water Company		Supply
Sutter	South Sutter Water District		Supply
Sutter	Gilsizer County Drainage District		Drainage
Sutter	State of California		Drainage & Flood Control
Sutter	Reclamation District 823		Drainage & Flood Control
Sutter	Reclamation District 70		Drainage & Flood Control
Sutter	Reclamation District 1660		Drainage & Flood Control
Sutter	Reclamation District 1500		Drainage & Flood Control
Sutter	Reclamation District 1001		Drainage & Flood Control
Tehama	City of Red Bluff		Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Tehama	Proberta Water District		Supply
Tehama	El Camino Irrigation District		Supply
Tehama	Thomes Creek Water District		Supply

County	Entity	Provider	Emphasis
Tehama	City of Tehama		Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Tehama	Gerber-Las Flores CSD		Supply
Tehama	City of Corning		Domestic Supply/Wastewater/Water Quality
Tehama	Corning Water District		Supply
Tehama	Stanford Vina Ranch Irrigation Company		Supply
Tehama	Deek Creek Irrigation District		Supply
Tehama	Los Molinos MWC		Supply
Tehama	Rio Alto Water District		Supply
Tehama	Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District		Supply
Tehama	Mineral County Water District		Supply
Tehama	Golden Meadows Estates CSD		Supply
Tehama	Los Molinos CSD		Supply
Tehama	Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District		Flood Management and Supply
Tehama	Thomes Creek Water Users Association		Supply

2.5 Additional Stakeholders

There are many additional stakeholders that need to be included and will be pursued for participation in the planning process. This section provides an overview of potential participants in the IRWMP. A list of potential partners to the Four County IRWMP is attached as **Appendix 8** to this RAP application. Each of these entities have expressed an interest in participating in the Four County IRWMP.

2.5.1 Private Water Companies

A number of private water companies provide water supply and distribution to the region and are therefore stakeholders to the process on water supply issues. As water suppliers,

they will be contacted and encouraged to participate in the development of the IRWMP. The major private, for profit water companies are California Water Service, Chico serving the City of Chico and Hamilton City; California Water Service, Oroville, serving Oroville; Del Oro Water Company, serving areas on the Paradise Ridge; California Water Service, Willows, serving the City of Willows. These entities are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and play a vital role in water supplies throughout the region. We have contacted these entities and invited them to participate in the development of the IRWMP.

2.5.2 Watershed Groups and other Non-Governmental Organizations

There are several watershed groups and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within the planning area. Many have a history of working relationships with each other and also with the signatory counties of the Four County MOU. Provided below are examples of partnerships with non-governmental organizations in addressing watershed and groundwater issues that would likely be enhanced in the future through the IRWMP.

2.5.2.1 Butte County

In Butte County, there has been an effort to partner with the local watershed groups and other non-governmental organizations (NGO) on various projects over the past several years. Butte County and the Little Chico Creek Watershed Group worked together to produce portions of an existing conditions report. The County also worked with the Cherokee Watershed Alliance to complete a series of water quality strategies. Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy and the Butte County Department of Public Works sponsored a flood plain management study. Butte County and Big Chico Creek worked in partnership with Streaminders to design and implement a flood-control/restoration project on Big Chico Creek.

Most recently, Butte County received funding through Prop 50 under the DWR Watershed Program to develop a groundwater model to determine run-off and recharge within the watershed areas. Another component of this grant provided funding for watershed outreach activities. This program included partnerships with representatives from Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance, Little Chico Creek Watershed Group, Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy, Cherokee Watershed Alliance, and Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy. It is anticipated that this funding will soon become available after being frozen by the State Department of Finance in January 2009 to continue this good work and capacity building.

Groundwater users that share the groundwater basin have organized as a 501C3 known as the Butte Sutter Area Groundwater Users, Corporation (BSGWU). This group includes farmers with large and small landholdings and has been very active in pursuing the protection of the groundwater resources within the planning area. The Four County Group has worked with this group to address their concerns and anticipates that this working relationship will continue and evolve through their involvement in the planning process.

2.5.2.2 Colusa County

Although Colusa County has only one watershed group, the Upper Little Stony Inholder's Alliance, which is primarily focused on wildfire management. Colusa County does have a very active RCD. The Colusa County RCD has recently completed the Colusa Basin Watershed Assessment funded through a Watershed Program grant (Proposition 50) administered by DWR. The next phase of the project will provide a limited streambank analysis of the 36 foothill streams within the watershed. Over the past years the Colusa County RCD has actively worked with a number of partners to implement conservation practices and provide educational outreach to address natural resource concerns within Colusa County watersheds.

2.5.2.3 Glenn County

Glenn County currently has no formal NGOs but they do have an active Resource Conservation District (RCD) that has works extensively with landowners on resource conservation projects.

The Glenn County RCD is an independent local state government liaison between federal government and local landowners. Their basic function is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of local land users with the emphasis on voluntary landowner participation and coordination of efforts of all involved partners.

Established in 1989, the RCD provides leadership to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources, our environment, and our county's economic viability.

The Glenn County RCD:

- Promotes voluntary action to resolve natural resource issues;
- Focuses attention on local resource problems and opportunities;
- Develops and implements educational programs for the benefit of landowners;
- Provides input for the development and implementation of government programs;
- Coordinates with federal, state, and local agencies as needed for technical assistance.
- Participates as a voting member of the Glenn County Water Advisory Committee.

Erosion control, flood control, and range management have been historic concerns of the RCD. Water quality issues around dairy farms and rice cultivation are increasingly important. Wetlands restoration, Integrated Pest Management projects, and landowner education are all vital issues in Glenn County. The RCD is a leader in securing the adoption and voluntary implementation of best management practices to enhance and sustain the natural resources of the county for the benefit of present and future residents of both the urban and rural areas. Current specific goals include:

- Encouraging landowners to learn about improved stewardship practices;

- Encouraging communication between landowners and partner agencies;
- Improving the health of Stony Creek;
- Improving the health of rangeland;
- Improving dairy waste management;
- Improving integrated resource management on orchards through research and cooperation with landowners;
- Increasing the number of people who are practicing total resource management, conservation, and stewardship;
- Increasing opportunities for "value added" agriculture; and
- Increasing opportunities for wetlands conservation

One of Glenn County's valuable assets is Stony Creek, and about 90 percent of the creek lies within the county. To follow up a highly successful effort in the Upper Stony Watershed that implemented practices to reduce soil erosion and sustain agricultural production, the RCD is planning a project for the Lower Stony Creek watershed with an emphasis on Arundo and Tamarix removal.

2.5.2.4 Sutter County

Sutter County currently has no active watershed group or formal NGO in the water arena. However, they do have an active RCD, which works on resource conservation projects in coordination with landowners and local governments.

2.5.2.5 Tehama County

The Tehama County Resource Conservation District recently completed the Tehama Westside Watershed Assessment and is currently conducting the Eastside Watershed Assessment. District staff sets on the advisory committees for these projects to provide impute and coordinate on proposed activities. Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and private forestry industries are also coordinating on the projects as related to upper watershed issues.

The Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy recently completed the Deer Creek Restoration and Flood Management Project. The upper Deer Creek watershed extends into Butte County. Staff has coordinated with the Butte County Water and Resource Conservation Department and the Four County signatories to discuss the project. The Four County Group understands that the entire watershed is important when considering any project which involves Federal levees, channel restoration and environmental enhancement.

It is anticipated that the development of the IRWMP will include active participation from the RCDs, watershed groups and other NGOs as the IRWMP process evolves. The table below lists active watershed and other NGOs that have a history of working with the members of the Four County Group.

County	Stakeholder Group
Butte	Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy
Butte	Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance
Butte	Little Chico Creek Watershed Group
Butte	Cherokee Watershed Alliance
Butte	Butte Sutter Area Groundwater Users Corporation
Butte	Butte County RCD
Colusa	Colusa County RCD
Glenn	Glenn County RCD
Tehama	Battle Creek Watershed Group
Tehama	Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group
Tehama	Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy
Tehama	Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy
Sutter	Sutter County RCD

Other potential stakeholders within the watersheds and the planning area would include PG&E, the Family Water Alliance and the Northern California Water Association. Specific outreach will be made to these organizations to solicit their involvement in the IRWMP planning process.

2.5.3 State and Federal Stakeholders

The Four County Group has worked closely with State and federal agency representatives in the evolution of planning activities and projects for the IRWMP. The Four County Group has a working relationship with the California Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CalTrans, California State University, Chico. These agencies will be contacted and invited into the IRWM planning process. It is anticipated that strong working relationships will continue with these agencies in the development and implementation of the IRWMP.

2.6 Working Relationships

The approval of the Four County MOU and associated Addendums One, Two and Three reflect the region's desire to continue to work closely together in water resource planning and management activities within the planning area. Continued outreach to other entities and planning efforts will help with the coordination of the IRWMP with land use planning activities, watershed and resource conservation efforts and water supply operations. The Four County Group anticipates continuing outreach regarding IRWMP activities, which will build on the partnerships already discussed in this application. The Four County Group intends to promote these working relationships and seek participation from the local Farm Bureaus, Fire Safe Councils and other resource management groups and associations.

2.7 Schedule and Workplan

It is anticipated that the development of the Four County IRWMP will require up to two years to complete as shown in the schedule attached as **Appendix 3** to this RAP application. The work plan will be further defined as the process evolves, but the Four County Group is determined to include substantial outreach to all potential participants.

3.0 Stakeholder Involvement

Inclusive stakeholder involvement is the key to successful IRWM planning efforts. The Four County Group strives to provide a forum for regional planning that will be conducive to creative solutions and partnerships. This section will explain some of the activities undertaken by the Four County Group to try to engage participants in a constructive and collaborative discussion regarding the management of water and other natural resources.

3.1 Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement

Coordination and collaboration among stakeholders within the planning area has been demonstrated by the approval of the existing Four County MOU and the associated Addendums One, Two and Three. In addition, the Four County Group has worked in cooperation with the three major water districts within the region, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Western Canal Water District and Richvale Irrigation District in a process to identify key players within the region deemed necessary by the group for the success of the planning process and integrated water management. This organizing group, known internally as the Regional Partners, has worked with DWR since 2007 to obtain the services of the Center for Collaborative Policy to complete an assessment of potential stakeholders from throughout the region to reflect their opinions on water resource management activities. The goal in this endeavor was to identify areas of concern to the identified stakeholders with the management of our water resources and to seek to identify better ways to work together in a cooperative and collaborative manner.

The report produced by the Center for Collaborative Policy, Four County Water Planning and Management Assessment is attached to this RAP application as **Appendix 9**. This document provided a "*snapshot of a range of stated stakeholder perspectives*". It was hoped by all parties that through a follow-up facilitated process the stakeholders could come to some understanding on resource management approaches. Unfortunately, due to the economic crisis, funding to continue the facilitated process was frozen with the State budgetary woes. It is anticipated that the Four County IRWMP planning process will provide funding to continue this facilitated process and build support for the IRWMP.

As discussed in Section 2.2.6 of this application, each county has a public process subject to the Brown Act where currently the public can become involved in resource management activities. Through the evolution of the planning process, the Four County Group intends to enhance this public involvement through additional outreach and identification of additional key stakeholders, including disadvantaged communities (DAC) and tribal interests, from within the region. The Four County Group realizes the value of bringing other potential stakeholders into the process and providing a forum for a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process.

A variety of media will be used in the stakeholder outreach efforts for the development of the IRWMP, including the internet, newspapers, brochures and various reports and studies to entice participation from multiple stakeholders including DAC and tribal

interests. In addition, the Four County Group will host workshops throughout the planning area during the development and implementation of the IRWMP in cooperation with representatives from U.C. Extension.

3.1.1 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Outreach

Each of the counties within the planning area is predominately rural in nature. However, there are municipalities throughout the region, the largest in population being Chico located in Butte County. Chico has a population of approximately 90,000 according to the California Department of Finance 2008 Population Estimate.

Overall, the local economies are generally linked to agriculture and agricultural-related businesses and therefore each are engaged in similar activities and face comparable challenges to resource management. As a result of the agricultural-based economy, Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) have historically existed throughout the planning area as depicted in the table of Median Household Incomes shown below.

The agricultural-based economy contributes the largest share to regional output, followed by manufacturing. The service and government sectors of the economy are also significant contributors to regional output. Rice has become the region's principal crop, followed by orchard crops, primarily almonds, but also walnuts, deciduous tree fruits, olives and other tree nuts. Dairy and livestock are also important commodities for the region.

The 2007 Median Household Income (MHI) for the state of California was $59,928. MHI falls below the statewide average in each of the five counties that comprise this region, with Butte County at $39,466 (65.8% of statewide MHI), Colusa County at $43,882 (73.2% of statewide MHI), Glenn County at $38,521 (64.2% of statewide MHI) Sutter County at $49,104 (81.9% of statewide MHI), and Tehama County at $36,884 (61.5% of statewide MHI). [1]

The estimated 2007 total population for the region is 424,337. That breaks down by county as follows; Butte County 218,312, Colusa County 21,648, Glenn County 28,833, Sutter County 93,835 and Tehama County 61,709. Note that all are below the statewide MHI. The population[2], and MHI for each is as follows:

County	MHI	% of Median CA income	Population	% of total Regional population	% of County individuals below poverty level
Butte	$39,466	65.8%	218,312	51%	17.1%
Colusa	$43,882	73.2%	21,648	5%	12.7%
Glenn	$38,521	64.2%	28,833	7%	15.8%
Sutter	$49,104	81.9%	93,835	22%	12.2%
Tehama	$36,884	61.5%	61,709	15%	19.3%

[1] http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06101.html
[2] http://www.maps-n-stats.com/us_ca

Census data from 2007 shows that in California, that 12.4% of individuals are living below the poverty level. Four of the five counties in the Region have a higher number of individuals living below the defined level of poverty than the statewide average. 17.1% of Butte County's individuals live below poverty level. Colusa County is close to the state average, but still above with 12.7%. Glenn is at 15.8%, and Tehama County is significantly higher than the state average at 19.3%. Sutter County is the only county in the Region lower than the state average, and at that, it is on two tents of a percent, at 12.2%.

It is imperative, with these high numbers, that DACs will be identified and invited to participate in the planning process. Outreach to DACs will be specific in order to ascertain and address their needs, and will also include noticed public hearings within identified DAC areas.

With the assistance of a qualified consultant it is anticipated that the IRWMP outreach process will include a comprehensive effort to activate and engage stakeholders, including DACs and tribal interests in the IRWM planning process. This will be accomplished by utilizing a suite of outreach tools including local and regional media, websites, workshops and brochures. Additionally, the Four County Group will coordinate with Allan Fulton from U.C. Extension in the distribution and development of outreach program activities and documents.

3.1.2 Outreach to Cities/Municipal Purveyors

Staff from the Four County Group has started the outreach to cities within the planning area and also are working with the water purveyors for these municipalities. The following discussion provides the names of the incorporated municipalities within each county and the status of their notification and or interest in participating in the IRWM planning process. This information is summarized in Table 2.

3.1.2.1 Butte County

Butte County has five incorporated communities, the City of Chico, City of Oroville, City of Biggs, City of Gridley and the Town of Paradise. Specific outreach regarding the IRWMP process has been made to the City of Chico and the City of Oroville and it is anticipated that outreach to all municipalities will take place during the development of the IRWMP.

Both the City of Chico and the City of Oroville have contracts with California Water Service Company for their water supply. Butte County has recently partnered with California Water Service, Chico in the submittal of an AB303 grant application to investigate the use of SWP Table A water as a potential supply for the City of Chico and the community of Durham at some point in the future. It is hoped that this type of conjunctive water management can provide some relief for the groundwater basin from the concentrated pumping regime necessary to serve the City of Chico. Additionally,

Butte County provides Table A water to California Water Service, Oroville on an annual basis to augment their groundwater and other surface water supplies.

3.1.2.2 Colusa County

Colusa County has two incorporated communities, the City of Colusa and the City of Williams. Other, non-incorporated populated areas are Stonyford, Arbuckle, and Maxwell. Focused outreach to all the above cities and communities regarding the IRWMP process is anticipated to take place during the development of the Four County IRWMP.

3.1.2.3 Glenn County

Glenn County has two incorporated communities, the City of Willows and the City of Orland. To a lesser extent other populated areas are Hamilton City, Butte City, Artois, and Elk Creek. Specific outreach regarding the IRWMP process has been made to the City of Willows and the City of Orland and it is anticipated that outreach to all municipalities will take place during the development of the IRWMP.

3.1.2.4 Sutter County

Sutter County has two incorporated communities, the City of Yuba City and the City of Live Oak. Specific outreach regarding the IRWMP process has been made to the City of Yuba City and the City of Live Oak and it is anticipated that continued outreach will take place during the development of the IRWMP. Sutter County, the City of Yuba City and the City of Live Oak have been involved in the development of a Sutter County – Groundwater Management Plan, and in planning for a potential Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. On February 17, 2009 and again on April 21, 2009, District staff conducted presentations on the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning process at the Sutter County Board of Supervisors meetings. District staff also conducted a presentation on the Integrated Regional Water Management Process at the Sutter-Butte Flood Control Agency meeting on January 21, 2009.

3.1.2.5 Tehama County

Tehama County coordinates on Water Resources management activities with the Cities of Red Bluff and Corning on a regular basis. Both Cities have members on the Tehama County AB3030 Technical Advisory Committee (AB3030 TAC). The agendas of the monthly public meetings are available on the District's website at www.tehamacountywater.ca.gov. Issues of flood control, groundwater monitoring, water quality, etc. are discussed at various times during the year. The DWR RAP process was discussed at the March 2009 TAC meeting with the AB3030 TAC.

On May 28, 2009 District staff will conduct a presentation on the Integrated Water Management Planning process and the District's Groundwater Trigger Levels and Awareness Actions at the Joint Agency Quarterly meeting of the Tehama County Board

of Supervisors, and Council members from the cities of Corning, Red Bluff, and Tehama. As the Four County IRWM planning process moves forward representatives of each municipality will be provided an opportunity to participate in the planning process.

Table 2. Municipalities by County

County	Municipalities
Butte	Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Biggs and Gridley
Colusa	Colusa and Williams
Glenn	Orland and Willows
Sutter	Live Oak, Yuba City
Tehama	Corning, Red Bluff and Tehama

3.1.3 Resource Conservation Districts

In addition to the involvement of the cities, outreach has been made to the local Resource Conservation Districts (RCD). Each of the counties within the planning area has a very active RCD and each are involved with resource conservation and management through on the ground projects on both private and public lands throughout the watershed. The counties work closely with the RCDs and each RCD has a history of partnering with their host county on local conservation projects. All RCDs within the planning area have been notified about the Four County IRWMP process and are included as potential partners in **Appendix 8**. As the planning process moves forward it is anticipated that the RCDs will be instrumental in the identification and implementation of local environmental stewardship projects for the IRWMP that will provide multi-beneficial, regional solutions within the planning area.

The existence of RCDs within each county also brings the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) into the process. This agency is charged with the implementation of various US Department of Agriculture Farm Bill programs, which emphasize resource conservation actions in farming practices and will be a valuable partner in future activities of the Four County IRWMP.

3.1.4 Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of 17 Central Valley Project water contractors. The service area spans four counties (Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo) along the west side of the Sacramento Valley, providing irrigation water to farmers growing a variety of permanent and annual crops. TCCA operates and maintains the 140 mile Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals irrigation water supply system. The service area is approximately 150,000 acres, producing over $250 million in crops per year, and contributing $1 billion to the regional economy annually.

The mission of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority is to secure, protect and develop dependable and affordable sources of water, and to operate, maintain and deliver the

works essential to deliver such water. The TCCA has expressed an interest in participating in the Four County IRWMP on behalf of their member agencies. And the TCCA is listed as a potential partner in **Appendix 8** of this RAP application.

3.1.5 Colusa Basin Drainage District

The Colusa Basin Drainage District was formed by the State Legislature in 1987, after landowners recognized the need to address flooding and winter drainage, irrigation drainage, groundwater recharge, and subsidence problems in the Colusa Basin. The Colusa Basin Drainage District encompasses approximately 650,000 acres in Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo Counties, with the Colusa Basin Watershed being nearly 1,036,000 acres. It has been long recognized that the Colusa Basin faces significant flooding, drainage, and groundwater recharge problems. Periodic flooding affects up to 100,000 acres of primarily agricultural land within the Colusa Basin.

The majority of the watershed lands within the Colusa Basin Drainage District are located in the Four County planning area. The Four County Group has collaborated with the Colusa Basin Drainage District and they have expressed an interest in participating in the Four County IRWMP effort and are listed as potential partners in **Appendix 8** of this RAP application

3.2 Collaborative Effort

The Four County Group will continue the use of a collaborative, multi-stakeholder process to encourage the review of diverse views on water management issues. By directly contacting currently identified stakeholders and inviting and encouraging them to participate in the IRWMP development, the stakeholders will be able to voice their interests regarding resource management issues within the region. Through the Four County Group proactive stakeholder outreach efforts, additional stakeholders will be identified and invited to participate in the IRWMP development efforts.

IRWMP outreach will emphasize that the Four County IRWMP will strive to include all aspects of water resource management, from wastewater to watershed issues. The IRWMP process will be looking for integrated, multi-benefit, regional solutions to issues including projects related to environmental stewardship, water supply and water quality enhancement and protection and flood control.

3.3 Outreach Process for Emerging Four County IRWMP

The proposed stakeholder outreach process for the development of the Four County IRWMP includes at a minimum, the following meetings and activities which are designed to encourage public involvement in the process and included in the proposed timeline presented in **Appendix 3** to this RAP application

3.3.1 Initial Public Meetings

With the assistance of a qualified consultant, the Four County Group will hold public meetings throughout the planning region to solicit input from the community regarding the development of the Four County IRWMP. The Four County Group will publically announce the meetings in local newspapers, and on their websites, inviting all members of the public to attend. They will also include a discussion of this meeting posted on the agenda of each county's advisory committee and make other public announcements where appropriate.

The purpose of the meetings will be to present the public with information about the Four County region and the proposed planning process and receive comments from interested parties. The presentations will describe the region encompassed by the proposed IRWMP, including coordination with the neighboring IRWMPs. County representatives will be at the meeting to answer questions, solicit input, and increase public awareness of the proposed IRWMP. Documentation of the meetings and the comments received from the public will be recorded and made available to the public via the Four County Group website, the independent county websites, the local libraries, and identified local government offices.

3.3.2 Develop Stakeholder List and Involvement Plan

The Four County Group has developed an initial working list of stakeholders from within the region through their outreach activities to date. This list is attached to this RAP application as **Appendix 8**, which displays the stakeholder group and the contact person for that entity. However, this list will not be exclusive to these entities. Through various outreach efforts it is anticipated that the existing list will be expanded to incorporate other interested parties.

The Four County Group will specifically contact currently identified stakeholders from this list to ensure they receive notice of the initial public meetings and are invited to participate in the process. The Four County Group will continue to update the list of stakeholders interested in participating in the planning process during IRWMP development. Meetings will be regularly scheduled throughout the Four County IRWMP process allowing all interested stakeholders to have multiple opportunities to provide input during the process.

3.3.3 Outreach Framework

Working with a qualified consultant, the planning process will be developed through a planning team and a steering committee appointed by the Boards of Supervisors. This group will outline the planning process, but a governance structure has yet to be determined.

The Four County Group will initially contact stakeholders in writing to specifically notify them when the meetings are held for the IRWMP. By participating in these meetings,

stakeholders will have a forum for comment and input throughout the development of the IRWMP. Additional stakeholders will be identified and included in the planning process based on attendance at meetings, other expressions of interest from the stakeholder, or invitations initiated by the Four County Group.

4.0 Public Outreach and Education

Although the various counties work together on water-related issues through the Four County Group, each county also invests in local outreach activities, which will be discussed in this section and are anticipated to be used in the IRWMP planning process in addition to the ordinance-required publicly noticed hearings and meetings discussed in Section 2.2.1 through 2.2.5 of this RAP application.

4.1 Public Outreach and Involvement of General Public

The Four County Group values an informed public that can provide valid input into the planning process and stimulate creative, multi-beneficial solutions to resource management challenges. Numerous public workshops and events are held throughout the Four County region to help inform and educate the general public on water-related activities and issues.

4.1.1 Butte County

Butte County participates in outreach through many avenues including monthly meetings of the Butte County Water Commission. The Commission is a Brown Act body, which requires the posting and distribution of agendas seventy-two hours prior to each meeting.

In addition to the posting and mailing of agendas prior to each meeting, the Department of Water and Resource Conservation also publishes a monthly newsletter, Water*Solutions* which includes articles on water related activities of the department, as well as the Commission, the Board of Supervisors and other regional entities. The current distribution of the newsletter is approximately 250 individuals and entities.

Butte County also has a Water Advisory Committee (WAC), which is specifically tasked with the development of Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) associated with groundwater levels and quality. This body consists of citizen volunteers, appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The WAC meets a minimum of four times a year to review groundwater elevation measurements, but as many times as necessary to compile the annual BMO document, which is approved by the Board of Supervisors annually.

The Water Commission Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides another opportunity for outreach to the public. This body meets as needed and provides technical advice and support to the Water Commission and the WAC. It is also governed by the Brown Act and all meetings of the TAC are open to the public.

All agendas for the various committees are posted on the County website at www.buttecounty.net/WaterandResourceConservation in addition to being electronically distributed to interested parties. The website also includes copies of various reports and studies conducted by the department since its inception in 1999. A report of particular interest is the Butte Basin Water Users annual report, which includes information on current and historic groundwater resource fluctuations and identifies potential areas of

concern. The website is designed to keep the community informed on various activities taking place within the county related to water resource management.

Butte County works closely with numerous State, federal and local resource management agencies including the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation; California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services; local flood control and irrigation districts, local groundwater pumpers and other water purveyors from within the region to inform the public about resource management issues.

The County has also worked in cooperation with University of California Extension Services and other entities to sponsor bi-annual Water Awareness Workshops, which provide the public with data and information regarding current activities throughout the region. The last Water Awareness Workshop took place on April 16, 2009 and included topics such as the 2009 Drought Water Bank. A copy of the agenda for this workshop is included in **Appendix 10** to this RAP application.

4.1.2 Colusa County

Colusa County has recently developed and adopted a new groundwater management plan. Foremost in the plan is the recognition that a successful program must include certain essential elements; such as a sound technical program, a functioning institutional structure, and an identified sustainable funding source. During the course of the plan development there were eight Plan Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, three presentations to the County Groundwater Commission, two presentations to the Board of Supervisors, and five public workshops.

This plan consists of the following components:

- Groundwater Management Goals
- Basin Management Objectives
- Action Program
- Groundwater Management Process

As the County proceeds with implementing the identified elements updates can be found at the University of California Cooperative Extension hosted website for the plan at http://colusagroundwater.ucdavis.edu. All of the presentations and other meeting information are posted on the website.

4.1.3 Glenn County

Glenn County provides outreach to the general public through advertised open meetings of its Water Advisory and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Staff travels to adjoining counties to make presentations regarding various water topics of regional importance and county administrative issues. Recently staff from Glenn and Colusa Counties participated in a public meeting in support of the Colusa Basin Drainage District and their ongoing and planned flood control and groundwater replenishment

projects. Staff provides presentations to the county Board of Supervisors on water resource management activities within the county and updates the Board on water resource programs from surrounding counties. It is the goal of the County to provide at least three press releases annually up dating the conditions of the county groundwater resources.

Glenn County staff works closely with the Department of Water Resources, the Bureau of Reclamation, University of California Extension Services, all local water and irrigation districts, the cities of Willows and Orland, individual domestic and agricultural groundwater pumpers, regional Resource Conservation Districts, and flood control agencies. In 2004, the Water Advisory Committee and the Colusa Basin Drainage District developed a cooperative program to work closely together on mutual issues relating to flood control and groundwater recharge.

Glenn County maintains a web page to keep the community informed of activities of the Water Advisory Committee and the Department of Agriculture, which provides administrative support. This can be viewed at http://www.glenncountywater.org/ or by accessing the County of Glenn website at http://www.countyofglenn.net/ in the committee section. Glenn County groundwater information is also available through the Department of Water Resources Northern District web page at http://www.nd.water.ca.gov/ and the Butte County BMOIC web page at http://gis.buttecounty.net/bmoic3/ .

4.1.4 Sutter County

Sutter County participates in several, ongoing outreach efforts to inform the general public, local agencies, and professional associations of current and future water resource management activities within Sutter County and surrounding Counties and incorporated Cities. Within the past year, Sutter County staff has held ten public workshops, given 13 public presentations, and hosted one class relating to flood control and floodplain management. Also during the past year, Sutter County has held three public hearings and five Plan Advisory Group meetings relating to the development of a Sutter County – Groundwater Management Plan, and five meetings with local agencies concerning the potential for a regional wastewater treatment plant.

Sutter County is also responsible for two Community Services Districts which provide water and sewer services. Staff has held twelve Ad Hoc meetings with local residents to discuss utility rates, level of service and to hear resident concerns. Staff also routinely attends meetings with the Four County Group, Yuba County, and the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) to discuss the IRWMP process and proposed water management processes. The Sutter County website, **www.suttercountywater.org** contains links and information relating to all water resource related data.

Sutter County also provides workshops and technical assistance to local engineers, builders and developers on design standards for water, wastewater and storm drain

utilities, on current engineering software relating to hydraulics and hydrology, and on the application process for floodplain management related activities.

4.1.5 Tehama County

Tehama County participates in many outreach efforts to inform the general public, agencies, and associations of ongoing water resource management activities within the County and surrounding Counties. Staff speaks annually on the Water Education Foundation Northern California Tour to discuss Integrated Water Management within the Region. On a biennial basis, staff helps the U. C. Extension conduct water management outreach. This year, the day long seminar entitled "Challenges and Efforts to Manage Our Water Resources" reached over 125 regional participants. Topics included Water Law, Delta Vision, 2009 Drought Water Bank, Future Water Management in Northern Sacramento Valley, Modeling, Monitoring Infrastructure, County and Multi-Party Efforts to Manage Water Resources, Groundwater Trigger Levels and Awareness Actions.

Staff and AB3030 TAC members recently completed six public outreach meetings to discuss the IRWMP process and proposed water management processes. The AB3030 Advisory meetings regularly host speakers from neighboring Counties and Agencies to discuss ongoing and proposed water resource projects and programs. The Districts website, www.tehamacountywater.ca.gov, contains links and information relating to all background and project related data.

The District coordinates and cooperates with the Tehama County Resource Conservation District (RCD) on many watershed activities. Staff is a member of the RCD Advisory Committee which just recently completed the Tehama County Westside Watershed Analysis. Currently we are conducting the Tehama County Eastside Watershed Analysis. The inner agency coordination is important as the District operates and maintains two Federal Levees which are connected to many ongoing efforts related to upper watershed management activities. Flood Control issues are also discussed and incorporated into the Watershed Studies.

4.2 Regional Outreach Activities

In addition to the county specific outreach activities, all five counties also participate at monthly Four County meetings to discuss outreach and educational issues of regional importance. Policy development through these meetings is currently routed through the individual county processes as identified in Section 2.2 of this RAP application. However, it is anticipated that the development of the IRWMP will provide a forum for the evolution of a regional governance strategy that will benefit the overall region.

In addition, members of the Four County Group serve on the steering committee for the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum, whose sole mission is to provide educational forums on water-related issues of regional concern and interest. This organization was established in 1999 and works to bring experts on specific issues together in a panel discussion format that is free of charge and open to the public.

The Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum is a diverse group from Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties representing local governments, agriculture, business and the environment. Their goal is to develop a greater understanding of water-related issues by providing an arena to discuss, promote and support the common interests of local elected officials and water users.

The Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum has provided over a dozen public forums on issues such as water transfers, the peripheral canal and flood control. The format is a panel discussion followed by a question and answer period that encourages interaction with the public. Each of these panel discussions were widely publicized and well attended by the public during the development of the Four County IRWMP. It is anticipated that the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum will be used as a means to help to provide much of the public outreach associated with the development of the IRWMP.

Throughout the development of the IRWMP, stakeholders will be encouraged to participate in the process. Initial meetings will be key in the identification of the most efficient means of accommodating public input into the process.

5.0 Governance

The Four County Group intends to apply for planning funding under the Integrated Regional Water Management section of Prop 84, which will assist in the development of a governance structure for this emerging IRWMP planning area. At present, the counties that make up the Regional Water Management Group for this effort will continue to utilize their independent public processes for decision-making on water resource management, while working in cooperation with each other under the terms of the Four County MOU and Addendums One, Two and Three, which is attached as **Appendix 2** to this RAP application.

As an emerging IRWMP, it would be irresponsible to commit stakeholders to a governance process which did not include their input. However, for purposes of selecting a consultant to assist in the development of the Four County IRWMP, the counties will utilize their current governance structures as described in the Four County MOU.

For future decision-making, the Four County Group anticipates that the process to develop a governance structure will be inclusive and transparent as has been described in this RAP application will build on current local governance structures. Currently, each of the independent county structures is open to the public and encourage public participation. These county structures are discussed in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.5 of this RAP application. Development of the governance for the IRWMP will be included as a task in the development of the Four County IRWMP and will emerge through the planning process. As the IRWMP evolves, stakeholder input and participation will determine the exact governance structure that will fit the regional planning effort, but the Four County Group is committed to an open and inclusive approach to governance.

All interested parties will be invited to provide input into the future governance structure through an open and collaborative process built into the development of the IRWMP. However, it is anticipated that the roles and responsibilities of the participants will be further defined through an investigation of their statutory authority and needs, water rights and other commitments. In order to ensure its success, the governance structure needs to be sustainable and committed to the IRWMP development and implementation. The sustainability of the Four County IRWMP is that it finds its roots in five local governments who have made a commitment to work together in an open and inclusive manner to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for their region.

6.0 Regional Boundary

6.1 Determination of Regional Boundary

The Four County planning area consists of all that area that is encompassed within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama, which are contiguous to one another and located in the northern Sacramento Valley. Each county has, or is in the process of developing, a groundwater management plan under pursuant to Water Code §10753 *et seq* for those areas not covered by another groundwater management plan, such as those lands associated with local water districts. These counties are linked by the shared use of common water resources, including a shared groundwater basin, as well as tributaries to the Sacramento River, which traverse county boundaries. The regional boundary of the planning area was selected in order to maximize the opportunity to integrate water management and eco-system activities due to the interconnectivity of the resources and the rural nature of the participating counties.

6.1.1 County Linkages

The planning area reflects the area within jurisdictional boundaries of the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama, located in the northernmost portion of the Sacramento Valley. The planning area is rural in nature, providing an abundance of open space and undisturbed resources, but also a number of linked water resource distribution canals and streams as well as a common groundwater basin.

6.1.2 Groundwater Basin

Current research indicates that these five counties share common aquifer systems within a common groundwater basin. The Lower Tuscan aquifer system is theorized to extend from the foothills located in the eastern part of Butte and Tehama Counties west under the Sacramento River into Glenn and slightly into Sutter and Colusa Counties. Research also reveals that the alluvial sediments of the Stony Creek Fan overlap Tehama and Glenn County and that the Tehama Formation extends from Shasta County south through Tehama, Glenn and Colusa down into Yolo County.

More research needs to be conducted to determine the extent of overlap and interaction among these aquifer formations as well as the interlaying of various sediments. A map recently created by DWR depicting the most current thought on the groundwater basin layers is provided in **Appendix 11** to this RAP application. This map reveals the linkages of the various aquifers systems throughout the region and accentuates the needs for a regional approach to its management.

6.1.3 Surface Water Streams and Rivers

In addition to a common groundwater basin, the planning area also includes the watersheds of several important streams and rivers. The main rivers within the Four County region are the Feather and the Sacramento, which contribute abundantly to the

statewide water supply and water quality equations. According to the California Water Plan, the Sacramento River provides approximately 80 percent of the inflow to the Delta and it is the largest and most important riverine ecosystem in the State of California.

Most of the streams within the Four County planning area are eventually tributary to the Sacramento River as shown in the map in **Appendix 12** of this RAP application. The healthy watersheds of these tributary streams provide essential spawning, holding, and rearing habitat for many anadromous fish populations, such as all runs of Chinook salmon and steelhead. They also are home for many other threatened and endangered species. Because these waterways cross local jurisdictional boundaries, the Four County Group recognizes that an integrated and basin-wide approach to eco-system planning is necessary for the protection and sustainability of these essential resources.

6.1.4 Irrigation and Reclamation Districts

The maps attached as **Appendix 13** of this RAP application display the many irrigation and reclamation districts within the Four County Planning area many of which hold surface water rights for irrigation supply within the region. Many of these district cross county lines as well. The Four County Group works with representatives of these special districts on water-related issues within the planning area. Representatives from the various districts also participate in the Basin Management Objectives (BMO) processes within each county and serve on their Water Advisory Committees, Water Commissions and Groundwater Commissions, which are advisory to the Boards of Supervisors. It is imperative that these districts are invited to participate in regional water management activities due to their integral contribution to the water supply within the area. Although some of these districts cross county lines, a map for each county displaying the water service districts is provided rather than a region-wide map to allow the reviewer to absorb in more detail the district boundaries.

7.0 Background and History

The Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn and Tehama have worked together on resource management issue for many years. This relationship was formalized through the Four County Memorandum of Understanding (Four County MOU) in early 2006 and the participants have become known as the Four County Group. The Four County MOU was followed by three addendums to the MOU which further defined the working relationship between these four counties and also added the County of Sutter in 2009. The Four County MOU and Addendums One, Two and Three are attached as **Appendix 2** of this RAP

7.1 History

The Four County planning area encompasses the five counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama. This region is primarily invested in agriculture and includes both small family farming operations, as well as large corporate agricultural holdings. The region is very rich in natural resources and open space, but feels an emerging encroachment of urbanization from other areas of the state. The region is home to many natural streams and lakes that provide homage to numerous species, some and threatened endangered, but is also used as a playground for many outdoor recreational activities. Precipitation patterns can leave parts of the region in danger of major flood events or parched from drought.

The various resources and circumstances found in the region can sometimes lead to conflicts that need to be worked out among the vested parties. The Four County Group intends to submit a planning grant application under the Integrated Regional Water Management section of Prop 84 as an emerging planning area to help the stakeholders within the planning area find the balance necessary for the sustainability of the region and its many assets.

7.2 Issues and Conflicts

Stakeholders within the Four County planning area have historically worked together on common resource management issues. One example of this cooperation is the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum (SRCAF). This organization is helping to return parts of the Sacramento River to a more natural setting, while being mindful of the needs of agriculture, the local economies and the importance of flood protection. The SRCAF Board is made up of two representatives from seven counties that border the Sacramento River. However, recent resource conflicts have made it apparent that an integrated, more regional approach to water resource management is needed, which is why the Four County Group is seeking funding as an emerging IRWM.

As more information becomes available, and as water and other resources have become taxed due to increased domestic, environmental and agricultural demands, the interconnectivity of the water resources and systems becomes more apparent and the need for integrated regional management tools becomes more evident. This awareness

stimulates the need for additional planning and integration in resource management activities to avoid future conflicts and provide multiple benefits. This section of the RAP application will outline some of the issues and conflicts emerging in the Four County planning area that will need to be addressed in the IRWMP.

7.2.1 Urban Growth

Currently the planning area is generally rural in nature, with pockets of urban development. Agriculture is the primary driver of the economy, but increased growth and urbanization threaten to encroach on prime agricultural lands throughout the region. This dynamic can contribute to conflicts within the region due to different prioritization of needs projected by the various parties involved.

For instance, groundwater data reveals that in the Chico area, concentrated pumping of groundwater for urban needs is beginning to impact the viability of agricultural groundwater users surrounding that municipality. Also, along the Interstate 5 corridor in Colusa, Glenn and Tehama Counties, proposed urbanization will require more water to be taken out of the system for these emerging developments. Although State law now requires that developments over a specific size be mandated to identify their source of water, the issue of the increased water demands associated with urban growth need to be addressed in the IRWM planning process to identify creative solutions that will benefit all water users within the region.

7.2.2 Eco-system Health

Citizens within the Four County planning area enjoy the luxury of a relatively healthy environment. However, changing regulatory and environmental regulations require that additional water resources may need to be re-directed toward the environment, placing additional demands on the water supplies within the region. Water flows necessary for a healthy fishery may be in conflict with surface water deliveries to farming operations resulting in increased cost to the farmers.

The Four County Group believes that these conflicts are best addressed by the local citizens who live and work on the land through a locally driven planning process that brings all parties together to solve these issues in an inclusive and inventive manner. The Four County Group encourages the participation of local watershed groups, fishery agencies and RCDs to work with the water purveyors to bring about creative solutions for these conflicts.

7.2.3 Flood Management

Due to the numerous wetlands and other waterways within the planning area, the low lying areas and properties located next to creeks and rivers have been subject to periodic flooding for centuries. Through the years private parties have constructed levees of varying quality and safety to protect their property. There are many conflicting laws and regulations that affect the current flood control systems.

Partially due to environmental restrictions against certain maintenance strategies such as dredging, and earlier run-off patterns due to global warming, the risk of more frequent or re-occurring nuisance flooding may increase in the future. This issue and other flood management issues would benefit from an integrated approach for flood management in which flood management activities are coordinated with environmental stewardship programs and implemented at the local level to benefit the region.

An example of a long-term flood management issue is the Colusa Basin Drainage District. The Colusa Basin Drainage District, along with assisting federal and state agencies have determined that a combination of strategically placed foothill reservoirs and up to 10,000 acres of multipurpose detention basins, catchment basins, and groundwater recharge facilities along the Colusa Drain and/or tributaries provide the most reasonable technical, environmental, and economical structural solution to significantly remedy the issues of flood control and groundwater recharge within the Colusa Basin. Continued coordination within the region through the Four County IRWMP is essential to the Colusa Basin Drainage District meeting their goals.

7.2.4 Public Access and Recreation

The numerous streams, creeks and reservoirs of the Four County Group planning area provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, including hunting, boating, fishing, birding, camping, rafting, tubing and swimming. However, how the public accesses and utilizes these resources needs to be coordinated and integrated with the other uses of the resources such as irrigation or municipal supply. The connection between the watershed and valley portions of the planning area needs to be highlighted to ensure sustainability of the resources for future generations to enjoy. Strategies to develop this connection would benefit from an integrated water management approach such as the Four County IRWMP.

7.2.5 Groundwater and Surface Water Supplies

There is an emerging conflict between users of groundwater and those who enjoy a surface water supply. Although the groundwater basin underlying the region is essentially in good health, accessibility and availability to high quality groundwater varies throughout the region. Also as surface water supplies become less reliable and these users resort to the use of groundwater to augment their supplies, conflicts arise associated with the increased use of this shared resource.

There is also a difference of opinion, sometimes even on an emotional level, with regard to the transfer of water outside of the basin through conjunctive water management programs. In addition, the foothill areas of the region are underlain by a fractured rock aquifer with a precarious yield at best. These issues will need to be addressed in an integrated and comprehensive manner through an IRWMP planning process to enable all parties to have a greater understanding of the barriers and challenges facing other parties.

7.3 Integration of Resource Management

Many opportunities exist within the Four County planning area to develop creative multi-beneficial projects through the integration of resource management tools. An example of why Integrated Regional Water Management Planning is necessary to avert conflicts on a project would be the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy project entitled "Lower Deer Creek Restoration and Flood Management" in Tehama County. The project involves native spring and fall run salmon, a Federal Levee on both sides of the creek, high upper watershed snowmelt issues, channel migration, private property owners, the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, among others. The project brought together agencies such as the District, DWR, Corps of Engineers, USFWS, Department of Fish & Game, the Conservancy, private property owners, etc. to discuss and resolve many conflicting issues which results in a win-win situation. The project will increase flood capacity, improve channel migration for fisheries, improve ecosystem restoration, and provide for a more reliable levee system. The Four County IRWMP will strive to create and enhance projects such as this one, with multiple benefits and ample support from the community.

8.0 Relationship with Adjacent IRWMP Regions

8.1 Description

The ten or so IRWMPs in the Sacramento River Funding Area identified as of March 2008 cover a large geographic area and need to address a wide range of issues including: water supply, surface and groundwater management, land use and environmental stewardship. Although there are many similarities throughout the larger region, due to the vast geographic area included in the Sacramento River funding area, there are many different approaches to the management of resources that make each planning area unique.

The Four County Group planning area has a shared interest in many common resources. One of most significant resources shared by the participants in this planning area is the Sacramento River. Each of these counties access and/or have streams that are tributary to the Sacramento River. One of the other commonalities of the planning area is a mutual groundwater basin. Current research indicates that this planning area shares portions of the Tehama and Tuscan aquifer systems that have varying linkages to one another throughout the landscape.

8.2 Regional Overlap/Boundary Issues

The discussion in the following sections will describe how the Four County IRWMP will interact with adjacent and overlapping areas within the greater Sacramento River Hydrologic Region. Outreach has been made to each entity and agreement has been made regarding how coordination and collaboration will take place between the sub-regional efforts. It is anticipated that these agreements will be formalized in the near future through a Memorandum of Understanding between parties.

8.2.1 Relationship with Upper Feather River IRWMP

The Four County IRWM has an overlapping area with the Upper Feather River Region IRWM in the portion of Butte County that includes the Upper Feather River watershed. Both planning areas consider the overlap area to be an important and appropriate part of both the Four County IRWM and the Upper Feather River Region for a number of reasons:

1. The Upper Feather River Region is based on a watershed boundary which encompasses the entire Feather River watershed upstream of Lake Oroville.

2. It is important to include Lake Oroville and the bottom portion of the watershed in the regional boundary because Lake Oroville provides a discrete point where management actions in the Upper Feather Region can be monitored and measured on a macro scale. Since the Feather River watershed supplies the State Water Project's primary storage facility at Lake Oroville, monitoring and measuring effects on the watershed scale is an important

means of quantifying benefits and directing watershed investment in collaboration with the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Project Contractors.

3. The Plumas National Forest, which is one of the key partners in the Upper Feather IRWM program and manages nearly half of the land in the Upper Feather River watershed, includes areas that extend into Butte County in the vicinity of Lake Oroville.

Butte County and the Upper Feather River IRWM agree that coordination of projects within this overlap area is appropriate and plan to address the means of coordination through an MOU. The MOU will address planning and management in the overlap area, determine areas of responsibility, and provide for appropriate consultation on certain matters. For example, the communities of Paradise, Magalia, and Concow are located on the western edge of the watershed in Butte County. For purposes of municipal water and wastewater services, any integrated management issues would best be addressed by those communities coordinating with Butte County, the Four County Group and the other population centers in the valley. For forest management and Fire Safe activities, there is already coordination between the Plumas National Forest and the Butte County Fire Safe Council, which will be enhanced through the MOU.

8.2.2 Relationship with Sacramento Valley IRWMP

The Four-County IRWM planning area encompasses the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama, which share the common groundwater basin that overlies the Tehama and Tuscan groundwater aquifers. The Sacramento Valley IRWMP overlies the valley portion of each of these counties and thereby overlies portions of the Four-County IRWM planning area. The Four County Group individual boards' have clearly defined governance structures and regulatory authorities. However, they recognize the value derived from coordination of activities, objectives and strategies of common regional participants. In addition, the Four-County entities also recognize the value of their independent utility on specific activities and participants, which may or may not be included in the Sacramento Valley IRWMP. For example, the local governments that make up the Four-County IRWM Region have fiduciary and regulatory responsibilities in the following areas which cannot legally be abdicated to non-governmental agencies:

1. Water supply;
2. Water quality;
3. Environmental stewardship;
4. Flood management;
5. Internal drainage;
6. Drought preparedness;
7. Wastewater collection, treatment and discharge;
8. Domestic water treatment and distribution;
9. Watershed management;
10. Recycled water;

11. Groundwater management;
12. Land use;
13. Natural habitat and conservation;
14. Conjunctive use; and
15. Emphasis on reduced dependence on imported water.

For the RAP, the Four-County IRWMP will create a new planning region within their County boundaries, but will continue to collaborate and coordinate with the Sacramento Valley IRWMP, while retaining its regional independence. Both the Four County Group and the Northern California Joint Exercise of Powers agree that coordination of projects within this overlap area is appropriate and plan to further address the means of coordination through an MOU in the near future.

8.2.3 Relationship with Westside Regional Water Management Group

The Four County RWMG has an overlapping area with the Westside RWMG in the portion of Colusa County that includes the Bear Creek watershed, which is tributary to the Cache Creek watershed. Both planning areas consider the overlap area to be an important and appropriate part of both the Four County RWMG and the Westside IRWMP for a number of reasons. For example, the Westside RWMG is based on a watershed boundary which encompasses the entire Putah and Cache Creek watersheds. It is important to include the Bear Creek watershed in the Westside RWMG boundary because the Bear Creek is tributary to Cache Creek. At the same time, Colusa County is a part of the Four County RWMG because of the Four County RWMG basis on political and jurisdictional boundaries. The Four-County entities, which have clearly defined governance structures and regulatory authorities, recognize the value derived from coordination of activities, objectives and strategies of common regional participants. In addition, the Four-County entities also recognize the value of their independent utility on specific activities and participants, which may or may not be included in the Westside IRWM plans for the Bear Creek watershed. For example, the local governments that make up the Four-County RWMG have fiduciary and regulatory responsibilities in the following areas which cannot legally be abdicated to non-governmental agencies:

1. Water supply;
2. Water quality;
3. Environmental stewardship;
4. Flood management;
5. Internal drainage;
6. Drought preparedness;
7. Wastewater collection, treatment and discharge;
8. Domestic water treatment and distribution;
9. Watershed management;
10. Recycled water;
11. Groundwater management;
12. Land use;
13. Natural habitat and conservation;

14. Conjunctive use; and
15. Emphasis on reduced dependence on imported water.

For the RAP, the Four-County RWMG will create a new planning region within their County boundaries, but will continue to collaborate and coordinate with the Westside RWMG, while retaining its regional independence. Colusa County, the Westside RWMG, and the Four County RWMG agree that coordination of projects within this overlap area is appropriate and plan to address the means of future cooperation and coordination through an MOU. The MOU will address planning and management in the overlap area, determine areas of responsibility, and provide for appropriate consultation on certain matters. For example, for purposes of municipal water and wastewater services in the Bear Creek watershed, any integrated management issues would best be addressed by Colusa County through the Four County RWMG. However, for ecosystem management in the Bear Creek watershed, integrated management issues would be best addressed by the Colusa County Resources Conservation District in collaboration with the Westside RWMG.

8.2.4 Shasta County

Shasta County has participated in the Four County meetings since approximately June of 2007. Although they see the value of bringing together local governments in the Northern Sacramento Valley in this coordinated effort for many resource management issues, they will not be an active participant in the Four County IRWMP. Reasons cited by staff from Shasta County are that Shasta County does not share the same groundwater basin as the Four County and that Shasta Dam separates them somewhat from the Four County Group. However, Shasta County has indicated that they will continue to attend the monthly meetings of the Four County Group to collaborate on many water related issues in the Sacramento Valley.

8.3 Relationship to the Greater Sacramento River Funding Area

The Four County IRWM Region is engaged in coordination and planning with all of the IRWM Regions in the Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA). DWR's map of IRWM funding regions identifies ten planning efforts in the SRFA: American River Basin, Cosumnes American Bear Yuba (CABY), Four Counties, Sacramento Valley, Lake County, Napa-Berryessa, Solano, Upper Feather River, Yolo County, and Yuba County Water Agency. In addition, there is a large area in the north part of the SRFA that does not yet have a recognized IRWM region.

In June of 2008, representatives from each of the 10 Regions met to discuss common interests and have met on five subsequent occasions. The six meetings have been focused on communication and collaboration, identifying joint projects, and on several specific objectives, that include:

- Ensuring that adjacent or overlapping regions define an appropriate level of coordination,
- Recognizing the need for additional planning, and the need for state funding to support it, in all of the independent regions,
- Exploring the concept of an equitable funding distribution among regions within the SRFA, for possible proposal to DWR, and
- Sending a common message that the SRFA, as the major source of water for much of the rest of the state, should receive a significant portion of the "interregional" funds.

The various IRWMPs in the region have developed specific agreements or understandings with adjacent plans with which they have a boundary overlap. Over the course of the SRFA meetings the group has identified the specific planning needs of each IRWM area based both on the evolution of events within the area and also the anticipated Proposition 84 guidelines for IRWM update and revision. Representatives from the Regions of the SRFA are currently working to develop a specific set of options for ensuring equitable funding for the region – both for planning and for implementation funding. The group has discussed possible formulas for the distribution of funds, development of a single region-wide approach to planning allocations, development of subareas within the region to facilitate development of funding allocation formulas and other similar topics.

The ongoing coordination throughout the SRFA is expected to continue indefinitely and to be memorialized by an area-wide MOU or other agreement in the future.

9.0 RAP Interview Participation

The Four County Group expects to have six or seven individuals participating in the RAP interview process. As the persons most knowledgeable of the RAP process as well as the individual characteristics of the region, it is anticipated that the staff representatives from each county will participate in the RAP interview, with the possible addition of other water leaders from within the region.

9.1 Four County Group Participation in RAP Interview

Butte County:	Vickie Newlin, Assistant Director Butte County Water and Resource Conservation vnewlin@buttecounty.net (530) 538-2179
Colusa County:	Steve Hackney, Director of Planning & Building Colusa County shackney@countyofcolusa.org (530) 458-0480
Glenn County:	Lester Messina, Water Resources Coordinator Glenn County Department of Agriculture wateradv@countyofglenn.net (530) 934-6501
Sutter County:	Dan Peterson, Water Resources Engineer Sutter County Public Works dwpeterson@co.sutter.ca.us (530) 822-3299
Tehama County:	Ernie Ohlin, Water Resources Manager Tehama County Flood Control and Conservation District ernie@tcpw.ca.gov (530) 385-1462 x 3014

10.0 Conclusions

In conclusion, the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama have been working together on resource management issues for many years. More recently, this collaboration became for formalized under the Northern Sacramento Valley (Four County) Drinking Water Strategy project and post-project the individual counties recognized the numerous benefits of that regional effort. As the Four County Group continued to meet and share ideas and strategies they have developed a solid framework for cooperation and collaboration that has the support of the Boards of Supervisors and other stakeholders within the region.

The following list summarizes the rationale for supporting this emerging regional effort:

- Each of these five counties is primarily rural in nature with centralized pockets of urban development. In addition, each of these counties are currently experiencing growth demands and therefore an increased demand on their shared water resources with limited funding to address critical resource management issues that may impact the environmental and water supply issues. This scenario serves to increase the advantages of working together collaboratively on water resource management issues.

- The Four County Group has demonstrated that they can successfully work together on the shared management of their water resources and have a history of implementing projects and programs in a collaborative manner for the benefit of the region as a whole.

- Each of these five counties overlay the same groundwater basin and often draws water supplies from the same aquifer systems to meet their cumulative water needs. In addition, each county also has surface water supplies made available through the State Water Project, the Central Valley Project and individual diversions from the Sacramento River and/or its tributaries.

- The Four County Group is defined not only by the geographic characteristics of their shared watersheds, tributaries and groundwater basin, but also by emerging water resource concerns such as urban growth; eco-system preservation and enhancement; flood management; public access and recreation and groundwater and surface water supplies.

- The Four County region is defined as the area within the boundaries of the Counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sutter and Tehama in the Northern Sacramento Valley. The shared water resources enjoyed by this region, both surface and groundwater, do not recognize political boundaries making it both logical and more efficient to manage these resources in a collective and collaborative manner to better meet the needs of the region.

- The Four County region is prepared to work with and support the needs of neighboring regions in meeting the resource management needs of the larger Sacramento River watershed. As discussed in Section 8 of this application, the Four County Group will continue to work collaboratively with the Upper Feather River IRWM, the Sacramento Valley IRWM and the Westside IRWM as well as the other IRWMPs within the Sacramento River Funding Area.