

## **2 Sacramento Valley IRWMP Objectives**

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The five Sacramento Valley IRWMP objectives are to improve the economic health of the region; improve regional water supply reliability for local water users, the region, and California; improve flood protection and floodplain management; improve and enhance water quality; and protect and enhance the ecosystem.

The objectives of this IRWMP have evolved over the last decade through development of a series of local partnership programs and forums, water rights and water supply contracts negotiations, and identification of mutual interests among local and regional water users and stakeholders. Table 2-1 lists the objectives that were developed to provide a framework for formulation and implementation of the proposed regional program, while including and accounting for ongoing and/or future subregional efforts. These objectives were developed in recognition that improved water management will benefit local, state, and federal interests and will help resolve potential water rights disputes in the valley. Inherent in these objectives is the overarching goal to minimize adverse cost effects of water management decisions on the local economy and to avoid and/or mitigate third-party impacts.

As part of moving the coordinated planning process forward across the region, the Sacramento Valley IRWMP objectives have been revised to better incorporate subregional objectives. To ensure consistency, the revisions have been made through extensive coordination and cooperation among regional planning partners, including entities with existing subregional IRWMPs or comparable plans, such as Butte County and Shasta County, and those currently developing plans, such as Yuba and Yolo Counties. Given the broad range of interests across the valley, development of mutual objectives was an important first step in building cooperation and identifying common interests that will be critical throughout the refinement of the IRWMP and its implementation. Accordingly, the following five objectives and other subobjectives (which are also summarized in Table 2-1) are the foundation of this IRWMP's development and will guide its implementation.

### **2.1 Improve the Economic Health of the Region**

Improving the economic and environmental health of the region is crucial to sustaining its viability. This objective is intended to stimulate the regional agricultural and urban economy while simultaneously enhancing other economic opportunities throughout the region.

### **2.2 Improve Regional Water Supply Reliability**

Inherent in this objective is the need to meet annual average- and critical-period regional demands, minimize localized shortages, improve system flexibility, and identify potential

**TABLE 2-1**  
Summary of Sacramento Valley IRWMP Objectives and Subobjectives

Objective	Subobjectives
<b><i>Improve the Economic Health of the Region</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the viability of the regional agricultural economy</li> <li>• Enhance economic opportunities throughout the region</li> <li>• Minimize adverse cost effects of management decisions on the local economy</li> </ul>
<b><i>Improve Regional Water Supply Reliability</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet annual average regional demands</li> <li>• Meet critical-period regional demands</li> <li>• Minimize localized shortages</li> <li>• Improve system flexibility</li> <li>• Identify potential new sources of water at the local and regional level</li> <li>• Protect water rights and area-of-origin supplies                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Resolve water rights conflicts; position the region to protect water rights for future use</li> <li>– Ensure access to area-of-origin supplies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve groundwater management                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Increase understanding of groundwater resources</li> <li>– Protect recharge areas</li> <li>– Promote sustainable groundwater use</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve regional water management                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Enhance coordination and cooperation among agencies, local entities, and other stakeholders</li> <li>– Foster the development of consistent local policies and objectives</li> <li>– Protect local uses prior to uses outside of the region</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contribute to improvement in statewide water supply reliability                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Identify issues of statewide and inter-regional cooperation related to improved water management while maintaining local economic viability</li> <li>– Formulate strategies for use of newly identified water supplies both locally and statewide</li> <li>– Meet local urban, agricultural, and environmental needs prior to addressing needs outside of the region</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**TABLE 2-1**  
Summary of Sacramento Valley IRWMP Objectives and Subobjectives

Objective	Subobjectives
<b><i>Improve Flood Protection and Floodplain Management</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure flood protection for the health and safety of the region's population</li> <li>• Minimize losses associated with flooding</li> <li>• Work toward balanced management solutions with respect to cost and monetary/nonmonetary benefits</li> </ul>
<b><i>Improve and Protect Water Quality</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve understanding of water quality cause/effect relationships at the local and regional level</li> <li>• Take action where warranted to improve water quality to support all beneficial uses</li> </ul>
<b><i>Protect and Enhance the Ecosystem</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote environmentally friendly stewardship of lands</li> <li>• Protect and enhance waterfowl and terrestrial habitat by facilitating conveyance of water supply to the refuges</li> <li>• Protect fisheries habitat</li> <li>• Protect and enhance important wetlands and riparian habitat</li> </ul>

new sustainable water supplies at the regional and local level. As discussed in this IRWMP, analyses of water demands and supplies for 2030 indicate that localized water shortages do and will occur, especially during dry years. Therefore, this IRWMP is intended to help ensure that an adequate water supply is available to meet local and regional water needs through 2030 and beyond. The following subobjectives are essential to improve regional water supply reliability:

- **Protect Water Rights and Area-of-origin Supplies** – This objective includes the desire to resolve water rights conflicts and position the region to protect water rights for future use while ensuring access to area-of-origin supplies.
- **Improve Groundwater Management** – As the Sacramento Valley continues to explore the use of additional groundwater, this objective includes the desire to increase the understanding of groundwater resources to foster improved use of the resource while protecting recharge areas and promoting sustainable use.
- **Improve Regional Water Management** – Enhanced coordination and cooperation among agencies, local entities, and other stakeholders is the key to improving regional water management. This coordination and communication will foster the development of consistent local policies and objectives while protecting local uses and the regional environment.
- **Contribute to Improvement in Statewide Water Supply Reliability** – This objective seeks to identify issues of statewide interest and with potential for inter-regional cooperation related to improved water management while ensuring local economic viability. Included is the formulation of strategies for using newly identified water supplies both locally and statewide while ensuring local urban, agricultural, and environmental needs are met prior to addressing needs outside the Sacramento Valley Region.

## **2.3 Improve Flood Protection and Floodplain Management**

This objective is focused on ensuring flood protection for the health and safety of the region's population, while minimizing flood damage losses and seeking balanced management solutions with respect to cost and monetary/nonmonetary benefits.

## **2.4 Improve and Protect Water Quality**

As the region continues to grow, this objective focuses on improving the understanding of water quality cause/effect relationships at a local and regional level, and taking action, as warranted, to improve water quality to support beneficial uses.

## **2.5 Protect and Enhance the Ecosystem**

Promoting wise stewardship of land throughout the Sacramento Valley is the intent of this objective. Included is the protection and enhancement of habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other terrestrial species and associated important riparian and wetlands habitat.