INTRODUCTION & REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP
1. INTRODUCTION & REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

STATE IRWM REQUIREMENTS: A. Regional Agency or Regional Water Management Group. Describe the regional water management group or regional agency responsible for development and implementation of the Plan. Include the member agencies and organizations and their management responsibilities related to water. Demonstrate that all agencies and organizations, including but not limited to, public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and privately owned water utilities regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, that were necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the Plan were involved in the planning process.

1-1 INTRODUCTION

Water resource issues ranging from water supply reliability and water quality to stormwater management and ecosystem enhancement have been at the forefront for agencies, organizations, residents and agricultural producers in the Tomales Bay region for over three decades. The Tomales Bay region’s water resources provide water supplies and support extraordinary and diverse ecosystems. The region has a history of resource management and protection initiated by various agencies and organizations working together over the past thirty years to preserve this unique area. This legacy is the result of collaboration of many agencies, organizations and individuals.

The Tomales Bay region is located in western Marin County, northwest of San Francisco, except for a small portion of the Tomales Bay watershed that is located in Sonoma County. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the Tomales Bay region, which is further described in Chapter 2. The Tomales Bay Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan (ICWMP) planning area includes seven “critical coastal areas” (CCAs): Tomales Bay, Lagunitas Creek, Walker Creek, and four ASBS (Areas of Special Biological Significance) areas. The planning area includes the watersheds of and areas adjacent to the CCAs.

The ICWMP is a cooperative effort by the Tomales Bay Watershed Council (TBWC), Bolinas Community Public Utility District (BCPUD), Inverness Public Utility District (IPUD), Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD), and North Marin Water District (NMWD) to identify regional management strategies projects that meet multiple objectives for the Tomales Bay region. Each of these entities has
investigated and evaluated various water resource and management issues and options for the overall health and well being of the watershed and the water and environmental resources within their jurisdictions. The history of collaboration within the region demonstrates the collective and individual capacity of local, state and federal agencies and private organizations to address regional water resource and watershed issues. It also provides the foundation that will support future actions to protect and enhance water supplies, water quality, critical coastal areas, and important ecosystems of the Tomales Bay watershed region. The ICWMP will integrate these efforts within the greater Tomales Bay region, identify and prioritize regional projects, and provide the overall framework for watershed and water resource planning and project development.

1-2 REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP

The regional water management group consists of four Marin County water and public utility districts and one stakeholder group – the Tomales Bay Watershed Council (TBWC). The TBWC represents local, state and federal agencies; non-profit groups; and other stakeholders with interests in water supply, water quality, stormwater management, habitat enhancement and conservation, agriculture, mariculture, land use and watershed management in the Tomales Bay Watershed Region. The final ICWMP will be adopted by all five partners. Figure 2 illustrates the boundaries of the watershed region and the water district service areas. Figure 3 depicts the organization of the Tomales Bay ICWMP regional water management group and its participants. The following summarizes the management responsibilities related to water resource issues for each of the five regional water management group entities.

WATER SUPPLIERS

The four water suppliers are: Bolinas Community Public Utility District (BCPUD); Inverness Public Utility District (IPUD); Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD); and North Marin Water District (NMWD). All water districts derive their water supplies from the surface and groundwater supplies within the Tomales Bay region and provide water service to residents and customers primarily within the region, except for MMWD which also serves other parts of Marin County and also derives part of its water supply from imported sources.

MMWD and NMWD are municipal water districts formed pursuant to the State Water Resources Code. MMWD provides water service, including treatment plant and system maintenance, to approximately 190,000 residents in Marin County within an approximately 150-square mile area. The District obtains the majority of its water supply from the Tomales Bay watershed, and serves a portion of the San Geronimo area in the Tomales Bay watershed. It conveys most of the water supplies obtained from the Tomales Bay watershed to serve urban areas in Marin County that are located outside of the Tomales Bay region.

NMWD provides water service, including treatment plant and system maintenance, to the greater Novato area outside of the Tomales region, primarily in and around the city of Novato in eastern Marin County (76 square miles and some 60,000 residents via 20,193 service connections) and to the
West Marin Point Reyes area (23 square miles). The NMWD’s West Marin system in the community of Point Reyes provides service to several unincorporated areas in the Tomales Bay region, including Pt. Reyes Station, Inverness Park, Bear Valley, Olema and Paradise Ranch Estates area and serves approximately 760 active service connections supplying water to approximately 1,800 people.

BCPUD and IPUD are public utility districts formed pursuant to the State Public Utilities Code. BCPUD provides domestic water service, solid waste disposal, and sewage collection and treatment to the unincorporated community of Bolinas in the southern portion of the planning area. The District serves approximately 1,400 residents within a 5-square mile service area. The IPUD provides domestic water service and fire protection to the unincorporated community of Inverness. IPUD serves approximately 700 residents within a 2.2-square mile service area.

**TOMALES BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL**

The Tomales Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) was formed in January 2000 to develop a plan to improve the water quality of Tomales Bay and tributary streams and to protect and restore the entire watershed in a manner that sustains human activities and natural resources. The aim of TBWC is to provide an ongoing, collaborative forum to comprehensively manage and protect Tomales Bay and its watershed and the interests of stakeholders. The TBWC is currently the only organization considering issues facing the future of the Tomales Bay watershed in which all primary stakeholders participate, and TBWC has successfully used consensus to make decisions for over 7 years, thereby ensuring the long-term participation of a wide spectrum of stakeholders in watershed stewardship.

The TBWC’s 32 members are drawn from local interest groups and agencies affected by or responsible for the watershed and its resources. The TBWC includes representatives from local, state and federal agencies; environmental organizations; citizen and residential groups; agricultural and shellfish industry interests; and recreational interests. Many of these entities are already involved in efforts to protect and improve the health of the watershed either individually or through partnerships with others. All partners who manage water resources or areas that drain to or are within the watersheds of Tomales Bay, critical coastal areas, and/or “Areas of Special Biological Significance” (ASBS) are included within the regional water management group. Thus, all public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other entities that were necessary to address the objectives and water management strategies of the ICWMP were involved in the planning process. The combination of these agencies and groups address all key issues identified in the ICWMP planning process: water supply and reliability, water quality, stormwater and flood management,
habitat and ecosystem protection and enhancement, and watershed management. Further discussion of stakeholder identification and involvement is included in Chapter 13.

1-3 OVERVIEW OF ICWMP PROCESS

PROPOSITION 50 BACKGROUND

Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, was passed by California voters in November 2002. It amended the California Water Code to add, among other articles, Section 79560 et seq., authorizing the Legislature to appropriate funding for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) projects. The intent of the IRWM Grant Program is to provide funding via competitive grants for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water while encouraging water management on a regional level. This legislation also includes a provision for coastal watershed and wetland protection.

The IRWM Program is administered jointly by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the State Department of Water Resources (DWR). Upon completion of IRWM (or ICWM) Plans, the State envisioned two rounds of implementation grant funding. The first funding cycle of the IRWM Implementation Grants was made available in March 2005, and seven applicants were awarded grants in late 2006.

In late January 2007, the SWRCB and DWR considered the status and future of a second round of Implementation Grant funding due to a variety of factors, including the recent passage of Proposition 84. Draft Grant Program Guidelines for Round 2 of Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funding were released in April 2007, and final guidelines are expected in June 2007. Step 1 grant applications are due August 1, 2007. Up to approximately $21 million may be available to northern California.

ICWMP PREPARATION

The key goals in development of the Tomales Bay ICWMP were to:

- Review and assess water supply and operations demands and needs within the planning area’s critical coastal areas.

- Identify mutually agreeable solutions to address issues related to water supply, water quality, flood control, and ecosystem and habitat concerns.

- Develop narrative describing the existing conditions, summarizing existing data, and identifying data gaps for ASBS and CCAs.

- Develop an adopted ICWM Plan that addresses impacts on ASBS and CCA sites in the region.
Use ICWM Plan as guiding document to develop proposals for implementation funds and manage the watersheds cooperatively among stakeholders.

The ICWMP has been prepared in accordance with State Proposition 50 Guidelines. The ICWMP was prepared via a combination of methods, including review of existing management plans and studies, stakeholder input, and preparation of three technical reports to supplement existing data. These supporting analyses and work products are included in Appendices K, L, and M and include:

- Watershed assessments for the four ASBS areas in the region.
- Evaluation of municipal stormwater management networks and source area and condition of stormwater facilities.
- Implementation of a septic outreach and education program and include public discussions regarding the development of maintenance and monitoring programs to identify community based septic management solutions.

Preparation of the ICWMP was overseen by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), composed of eleven members from the TBWC member groups and water agencies, as well as representatives from the Marin County Public Works Department. Subcommittees were further established as needed to work on specific technical issues. (See Figure 3.) As discussed throughout this Plan, The TAC and its subcommittees provide input on issues, formulation of objectives, review of projects, and review of Plan sections and technical data. Public meetings and outreach efforts were held throughout the process. Detailed descriptions of the stakeholder, agency and public involvement components are included in Sections 13 and 14. Written and oral public comments on the ICWMP were received during the public review period (June 19 through July 20, 2007), and the Draft ICWMP has been revised accordingly.

1-4 REPORT ORGANIZATION

The ICWMP chapters follow the Proposition 50 “IRWM Plan Standards” (Appendix A of the Grant Guidelines). The Plan chapters are organized to follow these topics that are outlined from “A” through “O.” The ICWMP combines the State’s topics “D” and “E” (Management Strategies and Integration, respectively) into a single chapter. Figures are included at the end of the chapter in which they are first referenced.
TOMALES BAY INTEGRATED COASTAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Figure 1. Regional Location

Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Marin County Outside Study Area
- Other Counties
- Major Highway

Sources: MarinMap (GIS Data for Marin County) and State Water Resources Control Board
**Legend**

- Study Area Boundary
- Bolinas Community Public Utility District Service Area
- Inverness Public Utility District Service Area
- North Marin Water District Service Area
- Marin Municipal Water District Service Area
- Areas of Special Biological Significance

**Figure 2. Tomales Bay Region & ASBS Areas**

Sources: MarinMap (GIS Data for Marin County) and State Water Resources Control Board
TOMALES BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL
BROAD STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT
- Local, State & federal agencies
- Community groups
- Agricultural interests
- Environmental groups
- Mariculture interests
- Recreational interests

WATER DISTRICTS
ALSO PARTICIPANTS IN TBWC
- Bolinas Community PUD
- Inverness PUD
- Marin Municipal Water District
- North Marin Water District

ICWMP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION:

- Water Suppliers (NMWD)
- Water Quality (RWQCB, County EHS)
- Resource Management (PRNS, RCD, TBWC, UCCE)
- Stormwater Management (County)
- Environmental & Citizens Groups (Sierra Club, East Shore Group)
- TBWC Representative
- Agricultural Interests (MRCD)

TAC SUBCOMMITTEES

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Figure 3. Tomales Bay ICWMP Management Group