



Meeting Date: 12/12/2006

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Anthony Emmert *AE* Agenda Item No. K-2  
 Reviewed By: City Manager *JMMH* City Attorney *JA* Finance *SW* Planning *GM* Public Works *OP*

**DATE:** December 4, 2006

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Anthony Emmert, Water Resources Manager *AE*  
Public Works, Water Resources Division

**SUBJECT:** Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Adoption

**RECOMMENDATION**

That City Council: (1) adopt a resolution approving the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Prepared by the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, and (2) direct the City Manager or designee to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**DISCUSSION**

In November 2002, California voters approved the passage of Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, which provided, among other water programs, funding for a new water resource planning model known as Integrated Regional Water Management Planning. Under Chapter 8 of Proposition 50, the authors set aside \$500 million as an incentive to encourage water interests to work together to plan projects that address multiple needs and multiple uses in a region, including increased water supply, improved water quality, heightened flood protection and enhanced habitat and recreation. Water interests in Ventura County have a long history of working together to address water resources issues and decided to pursue funding under this program.

The Ventura Countywide Integrated Regional Water Management (VCIRWM) Group was formed in September 2004 in response to funding opportunities found in Chapter 8 of Proposition 50, which requires that any projects proposed for funding under Chapter 8 be consistent with an adopted Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The VCIRWM Group consisted of key stakeholders in the Ventura and Santa Clara River watersheds, including the City of Oxnard. This Group guided the development of an Interim Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for these two watersheds, which was completed in July 2005.

In July 2005, the VCIRWM Group and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee each applied for a Step 1 Proposition 50 Implementation Grant to construct and advance the projects outlined in their respective interim and adopted IRWMPs. In the fall of 2005, the Department of Water Resources, as one of the agencies authorized to oversee Proposition 50 grants, requested the voluntary consolidation of a number of regions for the purposes of application for Step 2 Implementation Grant funds. The VCIRWMP Group and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee agreed on November 22, 2005 and December 15, 2005, respectively, to consolidate into one planning region, consolidate the two IRWMPs, and to submit a single application for Step 2 Implementation Grant funds.

In March 2006, the newly consolidated region was one of sixteen to receive a call-back from the State to apply for Step 2 Implementation Grant funds. In April 2006 the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) was formed by joint resolution of the VCIRWM Group and the Calleguas Creek Steering Committee to oversee the consolidation of the two IRWMPs, submit a Step 2 Implementation Grant application for \$25 million, and pursue future IRWMP funding. On April 27, 2006 the WCVC by Resolution 06-01, authorized, designated and requested the County of Ventura to file an application for a Proposition 50, Step 2 Implementation Grant and to enter into an agreement with the State.

Proposition 50, Chapter 8 implementation funds will only be awarded to agencies with an adopted IRWMP. Future water bond funding for Integrated Regional Water Management projects will likely require the adoption of an IRWMP. The IRWMP for the WCVC (consisting of some 60-plus agencies and organizations) was developed through a comprehensive stakeholder process and provides for ongoing data gathering, planning, design, implementation and evaluation through a long-term, iterative, community-based process.

The City of Oxnard has reviewed the WCVC IRWMP, and has determined that the IRWMP is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15262 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because the IRWMP is a planning study that identifies potential projects, programs, and policies for possible future actions; and Sections 15306, 15307, and 15308 because the IRWMP consists of basic data and information collection and includes possible actions, subject to future adoption and approval, which would protect natural resources and the environment.

It is recommended that the City of Oxnard adopt the IRWMP through the attached Resolution, and approve and authorize the City Manager or designee to file the attached CEQA Notice of Exemption.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The adoption of the IRWMP will improve the City's chances to be eligible for future grants.

AAE:tds

- Attachment # 1: Resolution Adopting the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.  
# 2: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Note: Attachment #2 has been provided to City Council under separate cover. Copies for review are available at the Circulation Desk in the Library after 6:00 p.m. on Thursday prior to the Council meeting and in the City Clerk's Office after 8:00 a.m. on Friday prior to the Council meeting.

**000020**

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD APPROVING THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PREPARED BY THE WATERSHEDS COALITION OF VENTURA COUNTY, AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OF DESIGNEE TO FILE A CEQA NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, in November 2002, the California electorate approved Proposition 50, (the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Water Code Section 79560 et seq), which included \$500 million under Chapter 8 for projects to develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP); and

WHEREAS, Proposition 50, Chapter 8 implementation funds will only be awarded to regions with an adopted IRWMP; and

WHEREAS, the IRWMP for the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County was developed through a comprehensive stakeholder process and provides for ongoing data gathering, planning, design, implementation, and evaluation through a long-term, iterative, community-based process; and

WHEREAS, the widespread adoption of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP ensures multi-agency participation and future water management planning efforts in the region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard has reviewed the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP, and has determined that the IRWMP is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15262 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations because the IRWMP is a planning study that identifies potential projects, programs, and policies for possible future actions; and Sections 15306, 15307, and 15308 because the IRWMP consists of basic data and information collection and includes possible actions, subject to future adoption and approval, which would protect natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxnard has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP in accordance with CEQA and the City's procedures for the implementation of CEQA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Oxnard hereby resolves as follows:

1. All of the above recitals are true and correct.
2. Based on review of the Notice of Exemption prepared by the City of Oxnard, the adoption of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP is hereby determined to be exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Sections 15262, 15306, 15307, and 15308 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

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**Attachment 1**  
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3. The City Manager or designee is hereby authorized and directed to file a Notice of Exemption in accordance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. The City of Oxnard hereby approves and adopts the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

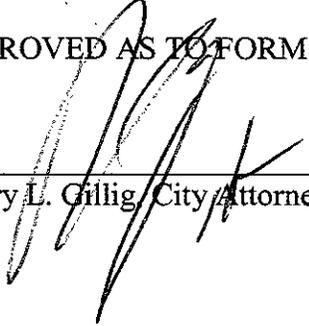
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Martinez, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Thomas E. Holden, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary L. Gillig, City Attorney