

Merced IRWM Engagement & Outreach Overview

The Merced Irrigation District, City of Merced, and County of Merced are initiating preparation of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), which will encourage cooperative planning among various aspects of water resources management in the Merced Region. The IRWMP will be compliant with guidelines established by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), increasing the Region’s eligibility for state grant funding.

As part of IRWMP development, process decisions will be made through coordination with three distinct groups of stakeholders.

- **Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)** - Overall direction, funding, and approval for the IRWM planning process and work products is provided by three elected bodies – the Merced Irrigation District (MID), the Merced County Board of Supervisors, and the City of Merced. Collectively, these are the IRWM Governing Bodies. The Final IRWM Plan will be adopted by the elected governing bodies of each these organizations. The Merced Irrigation District serves as the fiscal agent for managing state grant funds from the Department of Water Resources.
- **Regional Advisory Committee** - The RWMG is seeking community representatives to participate in a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) to review regional water management issues and needs, goals and objectives, plans and projects, and future funding and governance. The RAC will advise the RWMG, and ultimately the governing bodies, on these topics. Meetings of the RAC will be noticed and open to the public.
- **Stakeholders** - Stakeholder outreach and engagement will consist primarily of open RAC meetings, information and updates to the project website, and five stakeholder workshops held at important stages of the IRWM planning process. The RWMG will also provide information briefings to elected officials (City Councils, County Board of Supervisors, and Merced Irrigation District Board of Directors), community organizations, neighborhoods, and others as needed to keep them informed and participating. Each governing body will conduct a public hearing to receive public comments before adopting the final IRWM Plan.



Appointing the RAC

The RWMG has requested that MID's Board of Directors appoint individuals representing the broad interests and perspectives in the region to participate on the RAC. Candidates who can work together to help the RWMG and staff develop the IRWM Plan will be identified through an application process, which will be publicly announced at a regularly-scheduled meeting of the MID Board of Directors. RAC participants are expected to represent the broad interests and geography of the region. Subject to final approval by the Merced Irrigation District Board of Directors, the intended makeup of the RAC would include 15 to 20 members who represent one or more of the following interests:

- Water Supply Interests
- Wastewater Interests
- Stormwater Interests
- Flood Control Interests
- Local Government
- Agricultural Interests
- Other Business Interests (non-agriculture)
- Environmental Interests
- Other Institutional Interests (e.g. UC Merced)
- Disadvantaged Community and Environmental Justice Interests
- Recreational Interests
- Community / Neighborhood Interests

The RWMG is seeking individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to community service and civic leadership, prior experience participating constructively on similar task forces and advisory committees, and an understanding of water issues.

Participation in the RAC will require a significant commitment of time and attention. The RAC is expected to meet monthly beginning in May 2012 and complete its work in June 2013.

The RAC application is attached.