# Project Charter Date: 6/17/12 Rev. #2

## Project Purpose

The Merced Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) represents the broad interests and perspectives in the region to assist in the completion of the Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM) Plan, which will encourage cooperative planning among various aspects of water resources management in the Merced Region. The RAC reviews regional water management issues and needs, goals and objectives, plans and projects, and future funding and governance and advises the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), and ultimately the governing bodies, on these topics.

## Benefits

Improved understanding, analysis, coordination, and cooperation on regional water management challenges and opportunities.

## Objectives/Focus

* Review water management issues and needs
* Develop near- and long-term goals and objectives
* Identify information needs
* Identify and evaluate actions and projects to improve regional water management
* Identify and recommend governance structures and funding sources for implementation
* Review and comment on draft IRWMP

## Core Topics

* **Water Supply** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future water supply resources and needs for agricultural, urban, recreation, and environmental purposes.
* **Water Quality** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future water quality issues.
* **Flood and Stormwater Management** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future flooding and stormwater management needs and integrated flood and stormwater management strategies.
* **Wastewater Management** – Reviewing, discussing, and understanding historical and future wastewater management needs and resources.
* **Water-related needs of disadvantaged communities –** Identifying and understanding critical water-related needs of disadvantaged communities.
* **Water-related needs of environmental resources -** Reviewing, discussing, and understanding water-related needs of environmental resources and sensitive ecological areas.
* **Water-related needs for recreation** – Identifying and understanding water needs for recreational activities in the region.
* **Watershed management** – Reviewing and understanding best practices to manage water supply and water quality in the region’s watersheds.

## Related Topics

The following topics are related to the core discussions of the Regional Advisory Committee. These topics will not be discussed in the group except as they may be relevant to informing and advancing the purpose and outcomes of the discussions regarding Integrated Regional Water Management.

* **Land Development** – Topics and issues related to General Plans in the region, except as they relate to the IRWMP. The IRWMP is an umbrella document intended to identify how the region can best meet water management and water quality needs of the land uses identified in the General Plans.
* **Claims or Lawsuits Related to Past Incidents** – The Regional Advisory Committee is not the forum for addressing or resolving individual landowner’s claims or other legal actions related to past flooding, water supply, water quality, or other issues. To the extent that information from past impacts can help inform future monitoring, thresholds, and impact avoidance, they will be discussed.
* **Assumptions used in local planning documents** – The IRWM Plan is an umbrella document which builds upon and coalesces information contained within local planning documents. The Regional Advisory Committee is not the forum for revisiting technical analyses performed in support of local documents. To the extent there is discomfort with assumptions used in local planning documents, those issues will be discussed and documented.

## Deliverables and Major Milestones

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| --- | --- |
| When | What |
| June 2012 | * Draft Plan Inventory TM * Draft Land Use Planning TM |
| July 2012 | * Draft Goals and Objectives TM * Resource Management Strategies TM |
| Aug 2012 | * Draft Project Solicitation and Review Process |
| Sep 2012 | * Draft Planning Process Governance TM * Call for projects |
| Oct 2012 | * List of prioritized projects |
| Dec 2012 | * Draft CEQA/NEPA TM * Draft Tech Analysis section |
| Jan 2013 | * Draft Plan Performance and Monitoring section * Draft Data Management section |
| Feb 2013 | * Draft Finance section * Draft Implementation Governance Section |
| Mar 2013 | * Draft IRWM Plan |
| Apr 2013 | * Draft Highlights Document |
| May 2013 | * Final IRWM Plan |

## Meetings & Process

* Approximately 12 monthly meetings of 2 to 4 hours between May 2012 and June 2013.
* Technical work groups and conference calls between meetings as necessary to exchange specific topical information.
* Stakeholder and public workshops at key milestones to inform and engage the broader community.
* Technical support from the Merced Irrigation District, City of Merced, Merced County, and the consulting team as needed.

## Communications & Decision-making

* **Communications** – The meeting participants will maintain responsibility for bringing forward issues, concerns, and ideas from their communities and constituents who are not able to attend the meetings. RAC members are also expected to inform and educate constituents of the information and discussions from each meeting.
* **Decision-making** – The three governing bodies (the Merced Irrigation District, City of Merced, Merced County) maintain overall decision authority for the IRWM Plan and planning process. The governing bodies have delegated day-to-day management and decision-making to the Regional Water Management Group. The Regional Advisory Committee is a forum for discussion and information exchange on regional water management topics among community representatives. The RWMG representatives will participate in RAC meetings. Joint recommendations of the RAC to the RWMG and governing bodies are encouraged, but not required.

The RAC Governing Procedures provide additional details on the communications and decision-making agreements of the RAC and RWMG.

## Participants

The Regional Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and will be announced on the IRWMP website ([www.mercedirwmp.org](http://www.mercedirwmp.org)). The following are the members and alternates for the Regional Advisory Committee.

| **Name** | **Organization** | **Category** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Members** |  |  |
| Hicham ElTal | Merced Irrigation District | RWMG, Flood control |
| Mike Wegley | City of Merced | RWMG, Stormwater |
| Ron Rowe | Merced County | RWMG |
| Constance Farris | Meadowbrook Water Co. | DACs, EJ Interests |
| Jim Marshall | (Retired) City Manager | Local Government |
| Jean Okuye | Merced County Farm Bureau | Environment |
| Lydia Miller | San Joaquin Raptor / Wildlife Rescue | Environment |
| Cynthia "Cindy" Lashbrook | East Merced RCD | Environment |
| Kathleen M. Crookham | Retired Supervisor, owner of a cattle ranch | Local Government |
| Gordon Gray | Snelling MAC | Recreation |
| Paul van Warmerdam | PH Ranch | Agriculture |
| Thomas Grave | Merced Alliance / Responsible Growth | Environment |
| Larry S. Thompson | Thompson Insurance Agency | Other Business |
| Terry Rolfe | Phase I Construction | Other Business |
| Johnnie Baptista | Winter Water & Sanitary District | Community |
| Kole Upton | La Grand WD Dir, Chowchilla WD Dir, SOI Merced County Dir, Farmer | Agriculture |
| Bob Giampoli | Live Oak Farms | Agriculture |
| Daniel De Wees | Grazing lands | Agriculture |
| Martha Conklin | UC Merced | Other Institutional |
| Jose Antonio Ramirez | City of Livingston | Water supply |
| Robert D. Kelly | James J. Stevinson, a Corporation | Water supply |
| Craig Smith | Former Assistant City Manager | Community |
| Jim Cunningham | Cunningham Ranch | Agriculture |
| **Alternates** |  |  |
| Irene De La Cruz | Between Friends / Entre Amigos Publication | DACs, EJ Interests |
| Marjorie Kirn | Merced County Assoc. of Govts | Local Government |
| Bill Hatch | Protect Our Water | Environment |
| Bill Spriggs | Self-employed | Local Government |
| Dena Traina | Resident / Provost & Pritchard | Recreation |
| Gino Pedretti, III | Pedretti Ranches | Agriculture |
| Jerry Shannon | Shannon Pump Co. | Other Business |
| William (Skip) George | Commercial Construction Co. of Merced | Other Business |
| Brad Samuelson | Fagundes Bros. Dairy | Community |
| Walt Adams | Licensed Pest Control Advisor | Agriculture |
| Tom Roduner | Roduner Farms | Agriculture |
| Scott Magneson | Riparian Land Owner | Agriculture |
| Thomas Harmon | UC Merced | Other Institutional |

## Completion Criteria

* Complete Draft and Final IRWMP
* Prioritized list of regional water management projects
* Governance process description

## Charter Update

* Review and update Charter in January 2013