



DATE March 20, 2014

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director

BY: Teresa Eade, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution to Adopt the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update

BACKGROUND:

To be eligible for state water bond grants, watershed areas must develop and implement an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan. The San Francisco Bay Area IRWM plan was developed to encourage integrated regional strategies and is a comprehensive nonbinding plan that analyzes and prioritizes water supply, wastewater and recycled water, storm water and flood protection, watershed management, habitat protection and restoration needs and projects in the nine county Bay Area region. The original plan was created in 2006 and was broadly adopted by cities, counties and water districts throughout the Bay Area. The Bay Area IRWM Plan was updated and submitted to the Department of Water Resources in January, 2014. A copy of the plan can be seen here: <http://bairwmp.org/docs/2013-bairwm-plan-update/2013-final-plan/final-bairwmp-2013>

DISCUSSION:

In 2011, StopWaste collaborated with several water agencies, cities, and counties to jointly apply for nearly \$30 million dollars to fund programs on Recycled Water, Water Conservation, Wetland Ecosystem Restoration and Green Infrastructure. DWR awarded a grant, known as Prop. 84 Round I funding, to the Bay Area IRWM group, including StopWaste’s portion of \$230,247 to leverage Bay-Friendly Landscape & Garden education resources with the regional lawn rebate programs being implemented by 10 water agencies in the 9 Bay Area counties. Staff learned last month that DWR has approved additional funding to StopWaste as part of Prop. 84 Round II in the amount of \$200,000. A condition set by DWR for grant acceptance is the adoption of the Bay Area IRWM Plan Update by May 11, 2014. The third "Whereas" on the second page of the Resolution makes clear that adopting the plan creates no obligation on the part of this Agency.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Waste Management Authority Board adopt the attached Resolution 2014- [___], adopting the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update.

ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION #WMA 2014 – []

MOVED:

SECONDED:

AT THE MEETING HELD MARCH 26, 2014

**ADOPTING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, the State electorate approved multiple statewide bond measures since 2000, including Propositions 50 and 84, to fund water and natural resource projects and programs, including Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM); and

WHEREAS, the benefits of integrated planning for water resources management activities include increased efficiency or effectiveness, enhanced collaboration across agencies and stakeholders, and improved responsiveness to regional needs and priorities; and

WHEREAS, state statute and guidelines required that an IRWM Plan be adopted by the governing boards of participating agencies before IRWM grant funds would be provided for water resources management projects that are part of the IRWM Plan; and

WHEREAS, several of the participating agencies in the Bay Area, including the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (“Authority”) jointly submitted an IRWM grant application for state consideration where a condition for funding required the Bay Area IRWM Plan to be adopted by January 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area agencies that received funding in previous grant rounds did adopt the Bay Area IRWM Plan before such funds were received; and

WHEREAS, more recent state statutes and guidelines require that the Bay Area IRWM Plan be updated before agencies may receive future IRWM grant funding; and

WHEREAS, a grant was received to update the Bay Area IRWM Plan, that Plan having been completed in the fall of 2013 and submitted to the Department of Water Resources in January 2014; and

WHEREAS, a series of workshops were held on the initial Bay Area IRWM Plan and recently the Plan Update to provide stakeholders, including Bay Area local governments, an opportunity to ask questions, provide comments and make recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Bay Area IRWM Plan Update was posted on the internet and made available for public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area IRWM Plan Update before the Authority Board for consideration incorporates changes based on comments received during the public review period in the areas of environmental justice, technical project data, and other elements of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area IRWM Plan Update provides an implementation framework that calls for tracking accomplishments, developing lists of prioritized projects and periodically updating the Bay Area IRWM Plan as conditions warrant, provided that funding and resources are available to carry out these activities; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Bay Area IRWM Plan Update does not entail a direct commitment of resources and implementation of each project, as such will be the responsibility of the project proponent and any applicable project partners, and there is no joint commitment or responsibility by the Bay Area IRWM Plan Update participants, including the Authority, to implement any or all of the projects; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area IRWM Plan Update is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15262 and §15306 because the IRWM Plan Update consists of basic data collection that would not result in the disturbance of any environmental resource and involves planning studies for possible actions that the participating agencies have not yet approved; and

WHEREAS, the IRWM Plan Update is meant to be complementary to participating agencies' individual plans and programs and does not supersede such plans and programs, and adoption of the IRWM does not prohibit or affect in any way the Alameda County Waste Management Authority's planning efforts separate from the IRWM Plan; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Bay Area IRWM Plan Update, a comprehensive nonbinding plan that analyzes and prioritizes water supply, wastewater and recycled water, stormwater and flood protection, watershed management, habitat protection and restoration needs and projects in the nine county Bay Area region, is hereby adopted.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

I certify that under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2014-____.

GARY WOLFF, PE, PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR