

## **Integrated Regional Water Management, California Style: How is it Working?**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In California, the Integrated Regional Water Management planning process is a local water management approach preferred by the Governor, the State Department of Water Resources, and State Water Resources Control Board. It is aimed at securing long-term water supply reliability within California by recognizing the inter-connectivity of water supplies and the environment and then developing projects yielding multiple benefits for water supplies, water quality, natural resources, and the environment. The process has been driven by the “carrot versus the stick” approach: by providing funding under legislation and bond funding, such as the Groundwater Management Act, and several Bonds for clean water and water supply reliability, local agencies have been encouraged to develop groundwater management plans, tools, and to develop multi-benefit projects and integrated regional approaches to managing water supply demands and providing future water supply reliability on a regional basis.