



How Native American Tribes Can Engage in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

What is Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)?

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a voluntary, locally driven, collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a defined geographic region known as an IRWM region. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries and coordinates the involvement of multiple agencies, stakeholders, Native American Tribes (Tribes), individuals, and groups.

What is an IRWM Plan?

An IRWM Plan is a comprehensive plan for an IRWM Region. The IRWM Planning Act encourages local agencies, Tribes and stakeholders to work cooperatively to manage their water supplies and to seek mutual solutions to water management issues.

What is the IRWM Grant Program?

The IRWM grant program provides funding to incentivize formation and development of IRWM regions and plans as well as the implementation of those plans through projects. IRWM funding seeks to reward multi-benefit, collaborative water management planning, programs, projects, and actions to help reduce conflicts between water management needs, such as water supply and flood management, and environmental concerns. The IRWM Grant Program has received funding through Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and Proposition 1.

How can Tribes participate in IRWM grant funding?

To apply for Proposition 1 grant opportunities, project proponents must coordinate through their established IRWM Regional Water Management Group. Through collaboration and participation in their local IRWM group, Tribes can access grant funding as a local project proponent. Additionally, in Proposition 1, Tribes can be the grantee on behalf of an IRWM region. In past funding solicitations, Tribes have had success in multiple IRWM regions.

How can Tribes participate in a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)?

Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) are responsible for the development and implementation of the IRWM Plan. A RWMG consists of three or more local agencies, at least two of which have statutory authority over water supply or water management, as well as those persons who may be necessary for the development and implementation of an IRWM Plan. Tribes can and do participate in IRWM region governance.

Funding opportunities:

Currently, grant applications are being reviewed for Proposition 1 Round 1 Implementation funding, and final awards are anticipated to be announced in mid 2020. Tribes can get involved in their IRWM group in anticipation of Proposition 1 Round 2 Implementation funding, for which a Proposal Solicitation Package is anticipated to be developed in 2021. For current information on Prop 1 funding, please visit: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Proposition-1>

Questions: For more information or questions about IRWM please visit: <https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs>, call (916) 651-9613, or email DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov.