

Dear South Sierra Region Stakeholder:

In 2005, the State of California initiated an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. This program is intended to promote integrated regional water management to ensure sustainable water uses, reliable water supplies, better water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, protection of agriculture, and a strong economy. The State is encouraging regions to produce an IRWM Plans to enhance regional planning efforts. Regions which complete these plans become eligible for IRWM Implementation Grant funding which can assist stakeholders with regional and local water-related issues.

The Southern Sierra region initiated an Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort (SSIRWMP) in May, 2008. The first 18 months of the effort focused on soliciting stakeholder involvement, developing an MOU among the participants, determining the exact boundaries of the region, and building collaborative relationships with neighboring regions. The IRWM participants list includes a compliment of local land use agencies, water resources agencies, federal and state agencies non-governmental organizations, community groups, and residents. The South Sierra Regional Water Management Group seeks to build a voluntary, collaborative effort that will generate better watershed management and collaborative projects, and the SSIRWMP Plan, when developed, will be non-binding and non-regulatory.

The State Department of Water Resources officially approved the Southern Sierra region (See attached map of the regional boundaries), emphasizing the value of the collaborative approach. In the next few months, the State will solicit applications for \$500,000 IRWM Planning grants. As an approved region, the SSIRWMP is eligible to apply for these grants to assist stakeholders with regional and local water-related issues. The SSIRWMP Planning Committee is interested in best use of the grant funds to further integrated resource management within the region. The group is also looking ahead to implementation funding, and trying to gather a list of projects that could benefit the region.

Although this is stakeholder representation on the SSIRWMP Planning Committee, we feel that it is important to reach out to other residents, staff, officials, and other individuals who have an interest in the Southern Sierra region. The Planning Committee developed a short survey to gather stakeholder ideas for improving management and implementing projects throughout the region. Please take a few minutes and share your ideas!

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact:

Bobby Kamansky

Project Manager

738-0211, or 427 S. Garden Street

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Instructions for returning the survey are on the first page. PLEASE RETURN THE SURVEY BY JANUARY 12, 2010. You are also welcome to attend the regular SSIRWMP Planning Committee

meetings. If you so indicate, we will put you on the SSIRWMP contact list for future notifications.

Thank you for your time and attention!

Bobby Kamansky  
Project Manager Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
On behalf of the Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group

(signature)