

**DRAFT Climate Change Vulnerabilities Prioritization**

Kern IRWMP Objectives	Climate Change Vulnerabilities	Prioritization (High, Medium, Low)
<b>Increase Water Supply</b>		
Through cooperation and collaboration with other regions restore water supplies to levels that will mitigate for water lost from the region and eliminate overdraft	Water Supply	H
Pursue and implement cost effective water use efficiency programs	Water Demand	M
Increase water storage capacity in the region by increasing recharge acreage and expanding groundwater banking programs before all prime recharge land has been developed	Water Supply, Sea Level Rise	H
Integrate management of water banking facilities to maximize conjunctive use over the planning horizon	Water Supply	H
Increase/augment water supplies to meet region demands (e.g., M&I, agricultural, environmental) by 2050.	Water Supply, Sea Level Rise	H
<b>Improve Operational Efficiency</b>		
Increase transfers and exchanges flexibility over the planning horizon	Water Supply	H
Create tools to re-regulate water supplies within the region, including storage, storm flows, and operational flows over the planning horizon	Water Supply	H/M
Increase distribution efficiencies and reduce energy usage over the planning horizon	Water Demand	M
Increase the use of alternate energy sources (e.g., solar)	Hydropower (?)	M
Replace aging infrastructure to reduce system water losses, improve operational efficiencies, and reduce service interruptions	Water Supply, Flooding	M
Increase the use of recycled water for direct reuse within the Kern Region	Water Supply, Water Quality	H/M
Optimize local management of water resources to improve water supply reliability over the planning horizon	Water Supply	H
Increase pool of qualified candidates to operate water and wastewater systems	Water Quality	M
<b>Improve Water Quality</b>		
Monitor and/or manage headwaters/areas of origin, natural streams, and recharge areas to prevent or mitigate contamination	Ecosystem and Habitat, Water Quality	L
Identify and preserve prime recharge areas in the Kern fan area and other areas	Water Supply	H
Improve water quality for DACs and the watershed over the planning horizon	Water Quality	H
Continue to provide drinking water that meets or exceeds water quality standards; and support efforts to attain appropriate standards throughout the planning horizon	Water Quality	H
Maximize the use of lesser quality water for appropriate uses (landscaping, certain ag crops, "aesthetic" projects) throughout the planning horizon	Water Quality	M
Coordinate and enhance aquatic pest control efforts from this point forward	Ecosystem and Habitat	M
<b>Promote Land Use Planning and Resource Stewardship</b>		
Promote stewardship of the Kern River by applying appropriate measures in various reaches of the river from this point forward	Ecosystem and Habitat	M
Encourage the removal of non-native invasive plant species that affect water quality, reliability, and operations	Ecosystem and Habitat	M
Identify and promote the regeneration and restoration of native riparian habitat	Ecosystem and Habitat	M/L
Coordinate agricultural and urban water suppliers to more effectively address land use planning issues from this point forward	Ecosystem and Habitat, Water Demand	M
Improve the linkage between land use planning and water supply in the region throughout the planning horizon	Ecosystem and Habitat, Water Supply	M
Increase educational opportunities to improve public awareness of water supply, conservation, and water quality issues throughout the planning horizon	Water Supply, Water Demand, Water Quality	H
Improve and coordinate integrated land use planning to support stewardship of environmental resources, such as the Kern River and Kern Fan, and integrate with habitat conservation plans and other ongoing planning efforts from this point forward	Ecosystem and Habitat, Water Supply	M/L
Preserve and improve ecosystem/watershed health throughout the planning horizon	Ecosystem and Habitat	M
<b>Improve Regional Flood Management</b>		
Improve regional flood management by addressing preparedness, response, and post flood actions throughout the planning horizon	Flooding	M
Reduce the effects of poor quality runoff throughout the planning horizon	Flooding	M
Identify and promote innovative flood management projects to protect vulnerable areas	Flooding	H
Plan new developments to minimize flood impacts from this point forward	Ecosystem and Habitat, Flooding	M