

Tulare Lake Basin Portion of Kern County IRWMP Draft Objectives

Increase Water Supply Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Through cooperation and collaboration with other regions restore water supplies to levels that will mitigate for water lost from the region and eliminate overdraft (<i>qty: 400,000 – 1MAF</i>) ▪ Pursue and implement cost effective water use efficiency programs (<i>qty: conserve 30,000 AF by 2030</i>) ▪ Increase water storage capacity in the region by increasing recharge acreage and expanding groundwater banking programs (<i>qty: 8,000 recharge acres</i>) ▪ Integrate management of water banking facilities to maximize conjunctive use ▪ Increase/augment water supplies to meet region demands (e.g., municipal and industrial, agricultural, environmental) by 2050.
<i>Issues/Strategies/Project Ideas</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Integrate agricultural and urban water suppliers use of resources b) Improve understanding of surface and groundwater resources in the region c) Establish projections of existing and future supplies and demands for projected new growth d) Encourage implementation of multi-benefit projects (goal for the IRWMP itself as compared to an objective that the IRWMP seeks to achieve) e) Increase the number of water systems served by surface water within the region f) Balance a surface water and groundwater program where applicable to have multiple sources, increase reliability, and increase interconnections g) Maximize the use of local or “native” water in the region. h) Take advantage of missed opportunities to increase supplies by capturing excess water in the wet years for recharge and for water extraction during dry years. i) Purchase efficiency on-farm and transfer savings to use.
Improve Operational Efficiency Objectives

- Increase transfers and exchange flexibility
- Create tools to re-regulate water supplies within the region, including storage, stormflows, and operational flows
- Increase distribution efficiencies and reduce energy usage
- Increase the use of alternate energy sources (e.g. solar)
(qty: 33 % of energy provided by alternative sources to the region by 2020)
- Replace aging infrastructure to reduce system water losses, improve operational efficiencies, and reduce service interruptions
(qty: less than 10% loss in urban systems; replace 10% of all systems)
- Increase the use of recycled water for direct reuse within the Kern Region *(qty: 20% of produced wastewater annually)*
- Optimize local management of water resources to improve water supply reliability Increase pool of qualified candidates to operate water and wastewater systems
(qty: 20% increase in employees trained by 2020; reduction in water/wastewater job vacancies)

Issues/Strategies/Project Ideas

- a) Expand interconnectivity of water systems
- b) Regional coordination of energy efficiency programs and new alternative energy sources
- c) Reduce rate of increase of water supply costs
- d) Develop a regional training program to meet future water and wastewater system operator needs

Improve Water Quality Objectives

- Monitor and/or manage headwaters/areas of origin, natural streams, and recharge areas to prevent or mitigate contamination *(qty: \$10 million for planning and projects by 2020)*
- Identify and preserve prime recharge areas in the Kern fan area and other areas
(qty: 8,000 acres by 20XX)
- Improve water quality for disadvantaged communities and the watershed
- Continue to provide drinking water that meets or exceeds water quality standards; and support efforts to attain appropriate standards
- Maximize the use of lesser quality water for appropriate uses (landscaping, certain ag crops, “aesthetic” projects)
- Coordinate and enhance aquatic pest control efforts

Issues/Strategies/Project Ideas

- a) Improve post-fire watershed restoration
- b) Improve wastewater treatment – upgrade to maximize use in deficient areas
- c) Improve water quality monitoring and data sharing within the region

Promote Land Use Planning and Resource Stewardship Objectives

- Promote stewardship of the Kern River by applying appropriate measures in various reaches of the river
- Encourage the removal of non-native invasive plant species that affect water quality, reliability, and operations (*qty: no more than 5% of plant matter in waterways will be non-native*)
- Identify and promote the regeneration and restoration of native riparian habitat (*qty: 460 acres of restored/regenerated riparian habitat*)
- Coordinate agricultural and urban water suppliers to more effectively address land use planning issues
- Improve the linkage between land use planning and water supply in the region
- Increase educational opportunities to improve public awareness of water supply, conservation, and water quality issues
- 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
- Preserve and improve ecosystem/watershed health

Issues/Strategies/Project Ideas

- a) Improve post-fire watershed restoration
- b) Support protections for cultural resources (as specified in SB 18)
- c) Restore water levels in Kern River Channel through town

Improve Regional Flood Management Objectives

- Improve regional flood management by addressing preparedness, response, and post flood actions
- Reduce the effects of poor quality runoff
- Identify and promote innovative flood management projects to protect vulnerable areas (*qty: reduce flood flows by an average of 2% per year through 2020*)
- Plan new developments to minimize flood impacts

Issues/Strategies/Project Ideas

- a) Private landowners and diversion of flood flows onto neighboring lands
- b) Stormwater programs-basins, connectivity