



# Staff Report

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Neysa King, Environmental Resources Administrator

**DATE:** September 22, 2021

**SUBJECT: CABY Integrated Regional Planning Update (Consent)**

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## ***ADMINISTRATION***

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution No. 2021-33 (Supporting the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba Watersheds Integrated Regional Water Management Plan).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Board's action of adopting the above-referenced resolution will allow NID to become a Stakeholder Group member of the CABY Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Integrated Regional Water Management is a voluntary, collaborative effort to plan and implement water management solutions on a regional scale. State lawmakers created the IRWM Planning Act in 2002 to encourage local entities to improve water quality and water supply reliability to meet the state's overall agricultural, domestic, industrial, and environmental water needs. (For amended language: CA Water Code § 10540 (2019)).

The Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) group is an innovative, stakeholder-driven collaboration among local government, Tribes, water agencies, watershed groups, and interested partners in the foothills region of California. NID has been directly involved with the planning, governance, financial and programmatic activities of CABY for over 10 years as both a stakeholder member and a member of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) of CABY.

The RWMG is the "working body" of CABY and has a number of responsibilities, including, but not limited to: leading in the development of IRWMP modification and update process; developing and updating the CABY Project List; and acting as the decision-making body, among others. Members of the RWMG participate by

means of a written agreement. Currently, there are eight RWMG member positions loosely identified as four governmental agencies and four non-governmental organizations.

CABY Stakeholders are a diversified set of participants that include multiple water agencies, municipalities, and many other public agencies, numerous nonprofit organizations, Tribal groups, and disadvantaged communities (DACs) that have formally adopted the most current CABY IRWMP and have interests in water management across the CABY geographic region. Stakeholders act as an advising body of the IRWMP, generate IRWM content, identify IRWM Projects, and attend CABY meetings as necessary.

Highlights of the CABY IRWM region includes:

- The CABY IRWM comprises 4 major watersheds: Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba River watersheds. 4,351 square mile area and the importance of the region cannot be overstated.
- The western slope of the Sierra Nevada range, from the mountain crest to the Central Valley. A significant portion of the freshwater resources for the state of California originate from these headwaters' watersheds.
- When last determined, there were 43 member organizations and agencies designated as CABY stakeholder member organizations.

An ultimate goal of coordinated regional water management is to develop Projects of Mutual Benefit. CABY has received significant grants to complete regional planning and implementation of priority projects from 2010-2020. Over the course of CABY's history, NID has received nearly \$4M in funding for multiple District projects, while the CABY stakeholders throughout the region as a whole have received over \$16M in funding.

CABY IRWM Grants	NID Projects	Amount
2013 \$5.2M	Water Efficiency	\$1.2M
	Combie Hg and Sed. Abatement	\$550K
2014 \$6.2M	Rock Crk. Intertie	\$1.7M
2015 \$5.2M	Meade Canal	\$422K
<i>CABY Region Total \$16.6M</i>	<i>NID Total</i>	<i>\$3.9M</i>

The 2016 CABY IRWM Plan Update process has been completed. The updated CABY IRWM Plan was approved by the Department of Water Resources on Aug. 13, 2021. The next step is for CABY stakeholders to adopt the Plan by a Resolution of Support.

- **September-November 2021:** Anticipated IRWM Plan adoption by NID and other Stakeholders through a Resolution of Support
- **Fall 2021:** RWMG reviews project list to select highest priority project suite for Prop 1 funding (\$1M)

The recently updated CABY IRWM Plan can be found on the CABY website: <http://cabyregion.org/mdocs-posts/2021-caby-plan-update/>.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

NID has absorbed CABY IRWMP planning and support activities in staff time.

Attachment: (1)

- Resolution No. 2021-33 (Supporting the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP))



**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-33**  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**Supporting the  
Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY)  
Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)**

**WHEREAS**, population growth and development in the State of California will continue to pressure water resources, and balancing the needs of urban, agricultural, environmental and recreational water supplies will be a challenge for all involved in water management; and

**WHEREAS**, the CABY Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region consists of four (4) watersheds including the Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba Rivers and twelve (12) sub- watersheds within the north central Sierra Nevada defined by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) through their "Regional Acceptance Process"; and

**WHEREAS**, the CABY Stakeholder Group is composed of a diverse group of public agencies, water providers, agriculture, business, residential water users, community, recreation, and environmental organizations and tribal interests who have jointly developed a CABY Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and have formally endorsed the CABY IRWMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the CABY Stakeholder Group chooses representatives to serve as the CABY Regional Water Management Group (RWMG); and

**WHEREAS**, the CABY RWMG has formulated a cooperative governance structure necessary to implement the IRWMP as described in the IRWMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the IRWMP serves as a voluntary planning document that identifies a broadly- supported vision, guiding principles, goals, objectives and projects to enhance the beneficial uses of water for the CABY region; and

**WHEREAS**, this collaborative planning effort is intended to formulate water management strategies for the region and prioritize projects that address watersheds and regional issues; coordinate with other IRWMPs; address local, state and federal plans' priorities; achieve multiple benefits; encompass more than one watershed; and meet short- and long-term water resource needs; and

**WHEREAS**, an integrated regional approach to water management will streamline individual efforts and increase efficiencies; the CABY IRWMP will also increase partnership, collaboration and organizational capacity; and collaborative

management will provide a forum for stakeholder input and support for projects that address the goals and objectives for the CABY region; and

**WHEREAS**, this regional planning effort will improve regional competitiveness for grant funding for projects and efforts to implement the IRWMP and achieve agency or organizational goals; and

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2018 the CABY RWMG began working on the update to the CABY IRWMP that was adopted in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, by adopting this resolution of support, this organization is eligible to participate in the Stakeholder Group and is eligible to serve on the CABY RWMG; and

**WHEREAS**, the IRWMP is not be a legally binding document, but rather a regional compact with commitments to work together as a region to implement the plan; and Whereas, though the IRWMP references many plans, and the adoption of the IRWMP does not equal an endorsement of all such plans or endorsement of all the plans that are referenced; and

**WHEREAS**, the IRWMP will be a living document, reviewed and updated over time, and signatory organizations can remain involved or terminate their involvement at any time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District that: The 2021 Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management Plan is hereby approved and adopted as a voluntary document and plan.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 22nd day of 2021, by the following vote:

<b>AYES:</b>	Directors:
<b>NOES:</b>	Directors:
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Directors:
<b>ABSTAINS:</b>	Directors:

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President of the Board of Directors

Resolution No. 2021-33  
Supporting the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional  
Water Management Plan (IRWMP)  
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**Attest:**

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Secretary to the Board of Directors