

Realizing the Full Potential of the Integrated Regional Approach

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During his 8:30 a.m. presentation on May 22, DWR Deputy Director Gary Bardini shared with the group these 5 questions that were posed to DWR by the Assembly Budget Committee's Subcommittee No. 3 on Resources and Transportation, at the May 18 hearing for the May Revise Budget proposals. Although they were intended for a specific set of budget proposals, Gary shared them with the IRWM conference attendees as being indicative of the current thinking and direction being taken by the Legislature today.

The Legislature is focused on outcomes and return on investment; they want immediate action and expedited programs to address extreme conditions (i.e., drought), yet they also want to build resiliency; they want accountability; and they want to make sure community needs and challenges are being addressed through continuous improvement of our programs.

1. For each [budget] proposal, what outcomes should the Legislature expect to see achieved?
2. How much of the funding should the Legislature expect to be awarded and/or expended in the budget year?
3. To what extent is each [budget] proposal aimed at addressing the impacts of the drought in the budget year versus implementing longer-term drought resiliency, either in case this drought extends additional years or for future droughts?
4. What process will be used for project selection? Will it be competitive? Will it be peer reviewed?
5. What lessons have departments learned about community needs and/or challenges in getting out previously-approved funding?