



# Unlocking the Door to Collaborative Success

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Maureen A. Stapleton  
General Manager

San Diego County Water Authority

Integrated Regional Water Management 2.0:  
The Next Generation

May 21, 2015



# Agenda

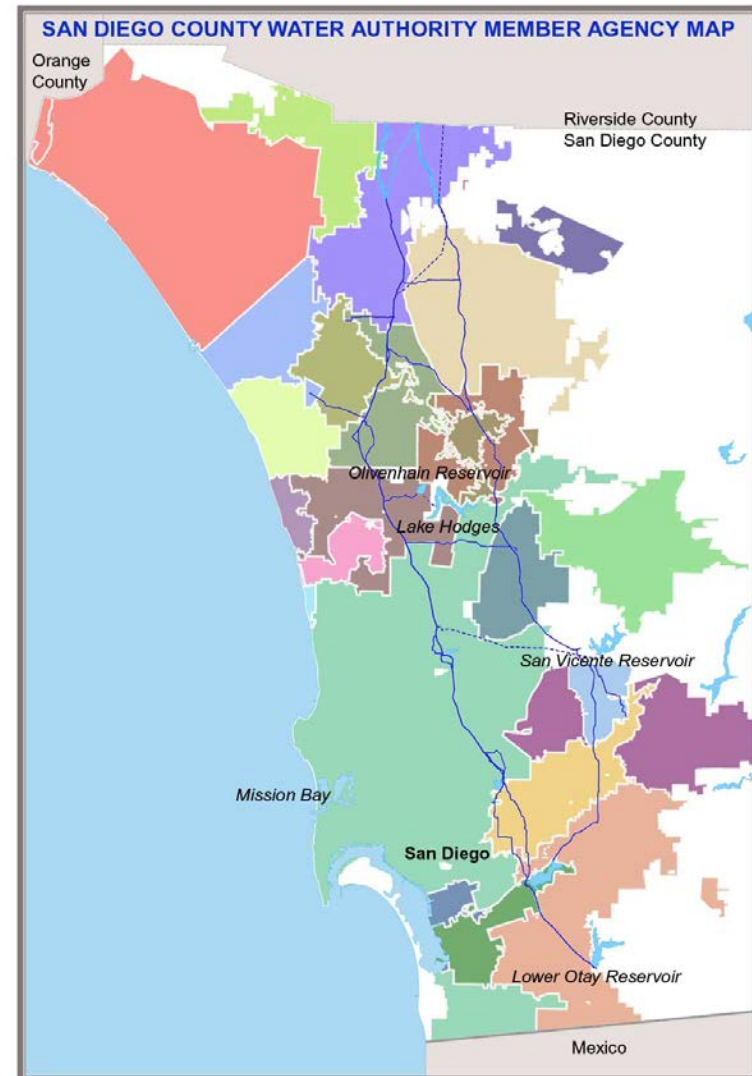
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- San Diego County Water Authority
- San Diego IRWM region
- Successful inter-regional partnership
- Productive collaboration within region
- Roadblocks in path to collaboration
  - Particular challenges for disadvantaged communities
  - Removing the roadblocks



# San Diego County Water Authority

- Wholesale water agency created by State Legislature in 1944
  - 24 member agencies
  - 36-member board of directors
  - Serves 3.1 million people and region's \$206 billion economy
- Service area
  - 950,000 acres
  - 97% of county's population





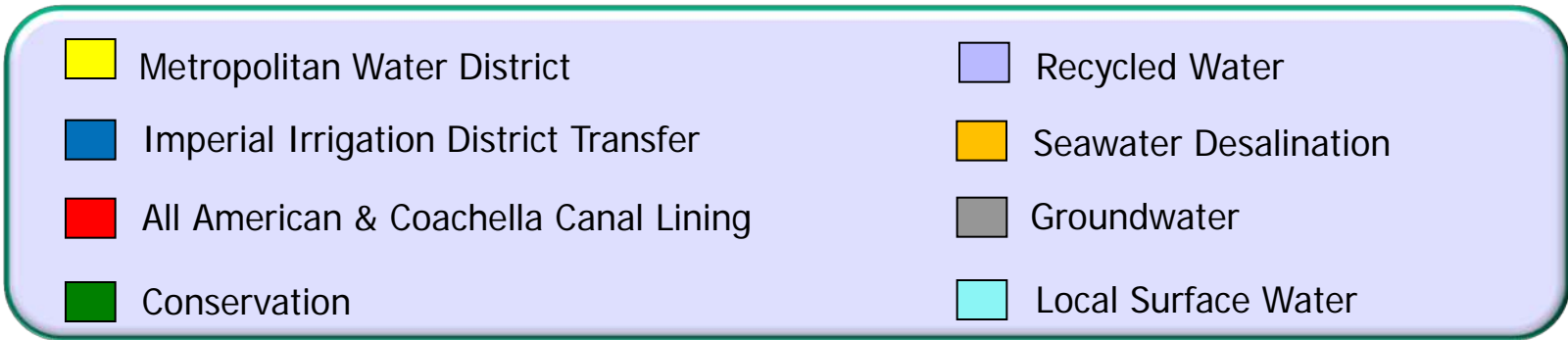
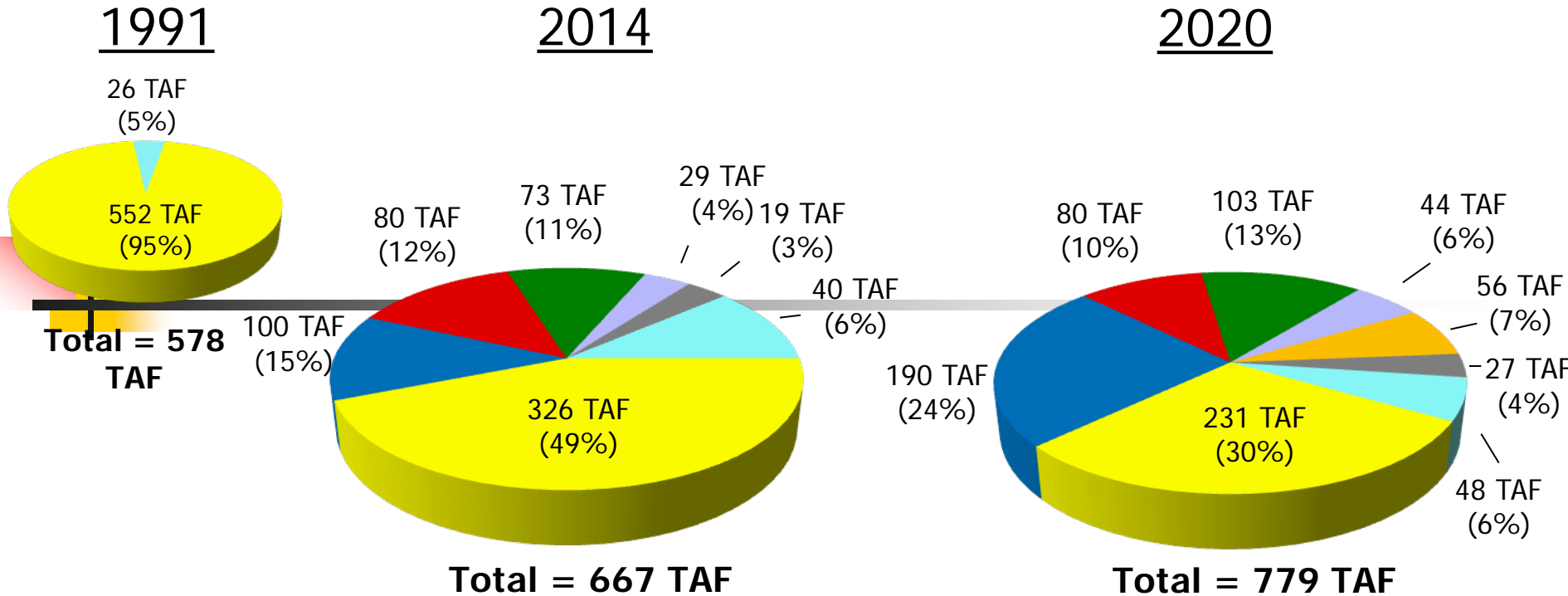
# San Diego County Water Authority



San Vicente Tunnel & Pipeline System, an essential link in Emergency Storage Project

- Imports ~ 80% of water used in San Diego County
- Builds, owns, operates and maintains regional water infrastructure
- Largest MWD member agency

# Increasing San Diego County's Water Supply Reliability through Supply Diversification







# Accomplishments

- 2007: First San Diego IRWM Plan completed
- 2013: Comprehensive Plan update completed
- 4 implementation grants worth \$58.3 million
  - Funds support 44 water management projects throughout Region
  - Projects sponsored by public agencies & non-profits
  - Projects help to achieve regional goals for conservation, recycled water, desalination, local surface water and groundwater

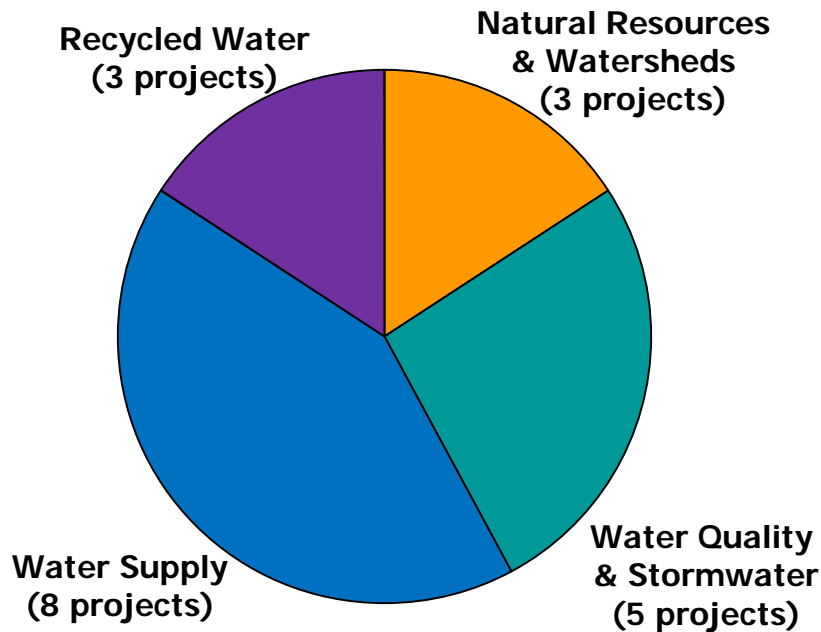




# San Diego IRWM Grant Projects

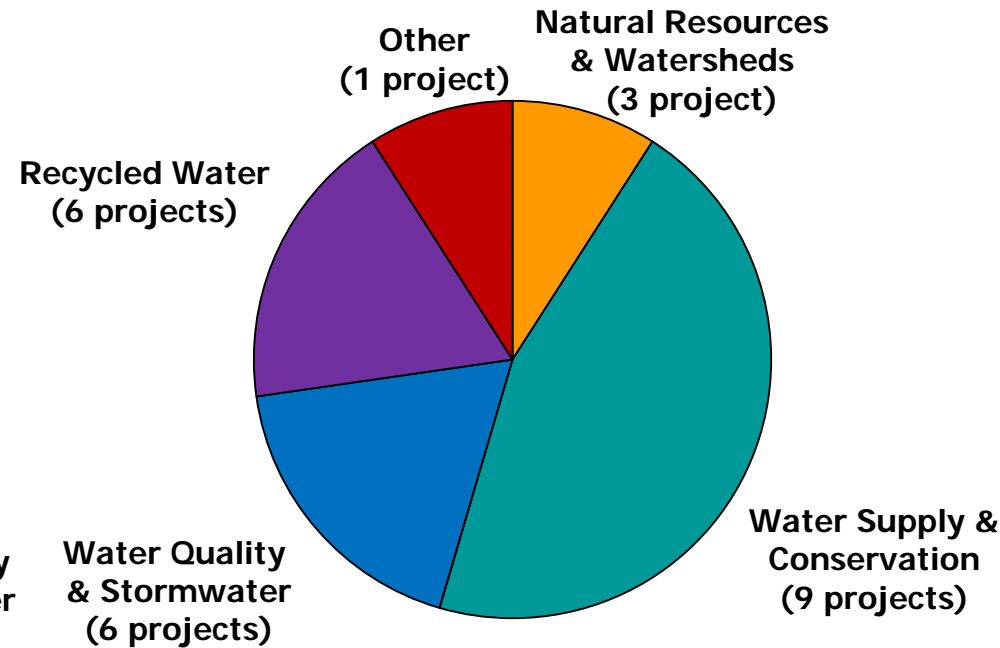
## Proposition 50

\$25 million



## Proposition 84 - 3 Rounds

\$33 million



San Diego Region also received \$1 million planning grant from Prop 84 fund to support 2013 Plan Update.





# Origins of Tri-County Agreement



*San Diego  
Funding  
Area*

- Tri-County agreement born of necessity
- Prop 84 divided state into IRWM funding areas
- San Diego Funding Area includes 3 planning regions
  - DWR: combine into 1 region
  - Regions preferred to maintain autonomy



# A Framework for Regional Cooperation

- San Diego, Upper Santa Margarita & South Orange County RWMGs approved MOU in 2009 that:
  - Divides grant funding available to funding area based on Prop 84 formula – land mass & population
  - Encourages planning across regional boundaries
- Each region retains autonomy to plan & pursue additional funding opportunities

Planning Region	\$25 M on Land	\$66 M on Population	Total
Riverside Upper Santa Margarita	16.4%	6.4%	9.1%
South Orange County	6.8%	15.2%	12.9%
San Diego County	76.9%	78.4%	78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>



# A Productive Inter-regional Partnership

- 3 RWMGs have honored agreement in every Prop 84 grant program
  - Unique in state in that regard
- One joint project to date: nutrient management in Santa Margarita River Watershed
  - Project managed by San Diego County
  - Agencies from both regions participate on project team
  - Funded in rounds 1 & 2





# Future of inter-regional collaboration

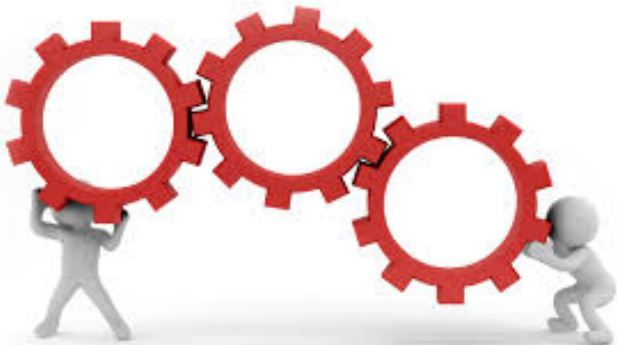
- Tri-County agreement has eliminated inter-regional conflict in grant programs
- It is a model for other funding areas
  - Many inquiries from other RWMGs about how it works
  - Not easily replicated in some parts of state
- Next step: extend to cover Prop 1 funding
- Need to develop more regional projects
  - Time is factor – who will manage such efforts?





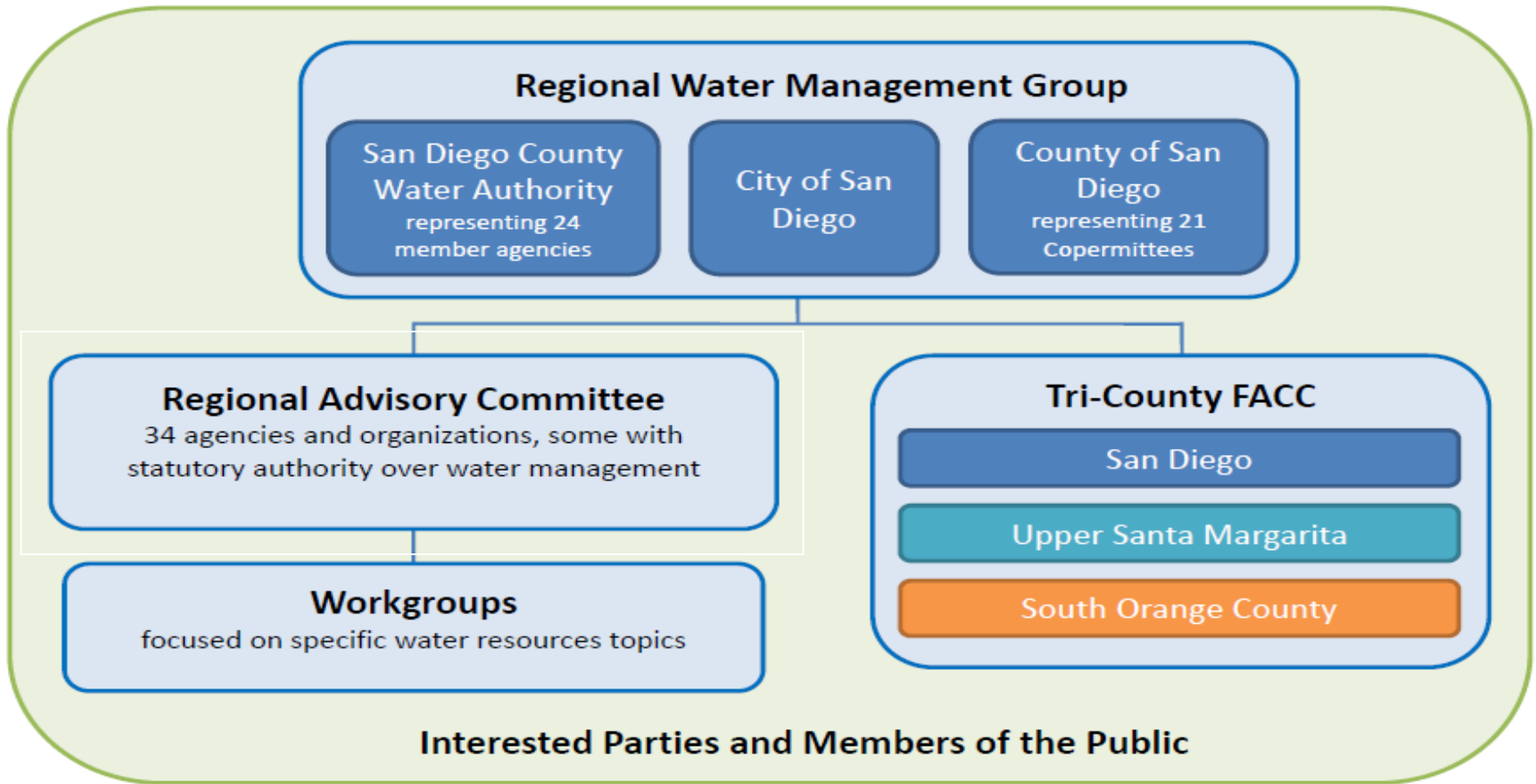
# Elements of Productive Cooperation Within San Diego Region

- Regional Advisory Committee
- Broad involvement beyond traditional “water people”
- Very inclusive process:
  - Input, policy decisions, grant applications





# IRWM governance







# Regional Advisory Committee

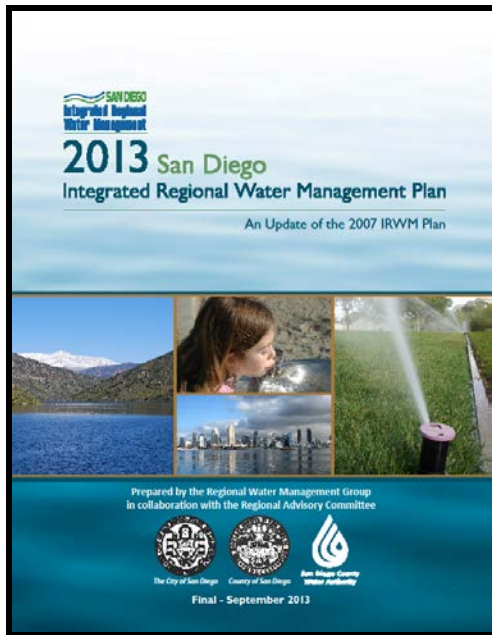
- Organized in 2006 to support development of San Diego IRWM Plan
  - RWMG sought input from wide variety of public & private stakeholders, including:
    - Water supply, water quality, stormwater, wastewater, watersheds, natural resources, disadvantaged communities, flood managers, agriculture, tribes, recreation
- 9 years & 56 meetings later, RAC plays essential role in IRWM Program







# Broad involvement, inclusive process



- 2013 San Diego Plan Update good example of inclusivity
  - 21 public meetings held to explain process and gather input
    - Six meetings: targeted at disadvantaged communities and tribes
    - Eight meetings: held in watersheds to get feedback
  - Six workgroups supported plan development
    - Membership open to RAC members and general public
    - Work products incorporated into plan



## Challenges to meaningful collaboration

- Lengthy process before initial grant agreement is signed – projects on hold until contract is in place
- Delays in reimbursement of grant invoices
- Delays in processing of contract amendments
- These problems impact DACs, tribes, other NGOs, smaller public agencies
  - Some choose to not participate in IRWM
  - Some participate, then drop out because of difficulties





# Particular challenges for DACs



- Rural & urban DACs specific target for DWR
  - \$1 billion of Prop 84 funds must go to DAC projects
- The high cost of IRWM (in time, money and resources)
  - DACs often lack capacity to develop projects
  - Applications costly & time-consuming
  - Delays in reimbursement of grant invoices





# Particular challenges for tribes

- San Diego County home to 18 federally recognized tribes and reservations
- IRWM process includes barriers that obstruct tribal participation
  - As sovereign nations, tribes reluctant to sign contracts with state or local agencies
  - DWR requires CEQA to participate in IRWM; tribes do NEPA
  - Delays in reimbursement of grant invoices



A stream flows through the Campo Reservation in San Diego County.



# Eliminating the roadblocks

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- San Diego IRWM Program places particular emphasis on ensuring NGO participation:
  - 15 of 28 RAC voting positions filled by NGO representatives
  - Specific RAC positions reserved for DACs and tribes
- 11 NGO projects funded as part of grant awards
  - 7 NGO projects aimed at disadvantaged communities
  - Partnership with Rural Communities Assistance Corporation to support rural DACs: \$2.4 million to date



# A Legislative Fix for IRWM

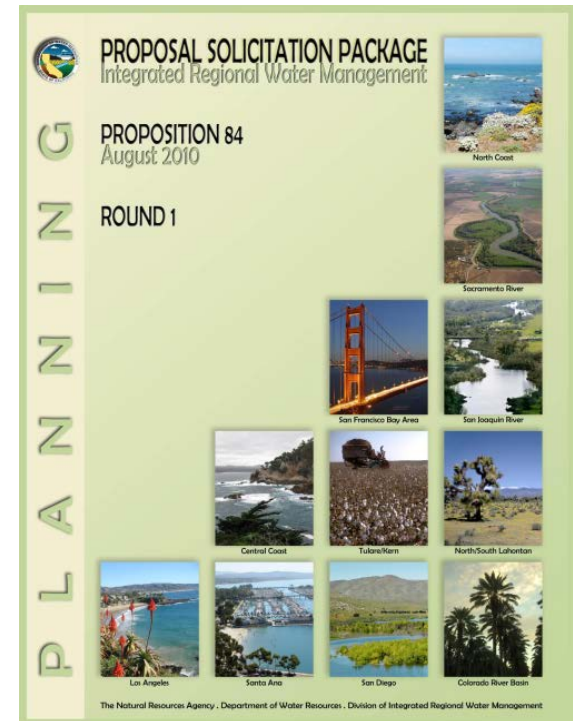
- SB 208: advance grant funding for DAC & NGO projects under \$1 million
- Sponsored by Water Authority; authored by Sen. Lara; in Senate Appropriations Suspense File
- Addresses problem of delayed invoice payments, which discourage participation by groups that most need IRWM support
- This legislation needs your support!





# Actions DWR can take to improve its IRWM processes

- Defer to local project selection preferences when awarding grant funds (per Public Resource Code)
- Simplify application process and make it less costly
  - DWR has moved in this direction in last 2 grant programs
- Set standard for approval time of project invoices & amendments
- Standardize review process for invoices & quarterly reports
- Eliminate inconsistencies in how grant applications are scored







# Conclusions



- IRWM has improved regional planning in many areas of California
- It has brought together stakeholders with disparate interests
- It suffers from growing pains
- In true IRWM spirit, we can work together to overcome those growing pains