

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

PH 1
04/10/07
RSL

Date: April 10, 2007

To: Mayor Hearn and City Council Members

From: James R. Williams, Public Works Director

Subject: **Public Hearing Regarding Preparation of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan/Groundwater Management Plan**

---

**Recommendation:**

Adopt Resolution No. 07-72, declaring intention to prepare an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan/Groundwater Management Plan for the Antelope Valley, in collaboration with the Regional Water Management Group.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Preparation of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan/Groundwater Management Plan will enable the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group to apply, and be eligible for grant funds from Propositions 50, 84, and 1E, in addition to other future state and federal grant funding programs.

**Background:**

The City of Lancaster has historically worked to promote the protection and good stewardship of the Antelope Valley's water resources. On September 26, 2006 the City Council authorized participation in the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and on January 9, 2007 the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) further identifying the City's participation in the newly formed RWMG. The City is taking an active role in developing an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) in conjunction with eleven local water and municipal services agencies, more than 45 stakeholder agencies from federal, state, county and local governments, environmental groups, disadvantaged communities, and private businesses to maximize water resources in the Antelope Valley and potentially bring millions of dollars to the region for water related infrastructure.

The IRWMP is a comprehensive plan for the conservation, use, and reuse of the water resources in the Antelope Valley. It defines a clear vision and direction for the sustainable management of water resources in the Antelope Valley Region for the next twenty plus years. The plan contains a viable action plan to provide a wide range of crucial water-related services necessary to support the well being of people living in this diverse and vibrant region. The plan identifies key water-related challenges currently being faced by the residents of the Antelope Valley along with projections of how these challenges will change between now and 2030. In response to the current and expected challenges, the IRWMP

provides a thorough inventory of possible actions to address the challenges, along with estimated costs and benefits of implementing each action. The IRWMP documents an extensive collaborative process that led to the selection of a robust combination of actions that will be implemented cooperatively by the water management agencies in the Region, and will provide a framework for regional agencies to coordinate programs and projects to address water supply needs, to protect and improve water quality, to provide flood management, and to protect the environment. The plan will also identify specific water related projects to be constructed within the Antelope Valley. Once the IRWMP is completed, the RWMG will be eligible to seek funding from various state and federal sources for construction of identified projects.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this public hearing is to accept testimony on the intention of the Regional Water Management Group to prepare a regional planning document that will serve as an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in accordance with California Water Code Division 6, Part 2.2, and a Groundwater Management Plan in accordance with California Water Code Division 6, Part 2.75.