

## **DECISION MAKING CHARTER GREATER SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT REGION**

The purpose of this charter is to outline the decision-making processes for the Greater San Joaquin Region Coordinating Committee, the Integrated Regional Water Management Group for the Region. All signatories to the Memorandum Of Understanding Of The Integrated Water Management Planning Coordinating Committee Members To Form A Regional Water Management Group will agree and adhere to this decision-making charter. Regional decision-making and management processes may be revised as the Region matures and the IRWM Plan is developed and implemented.

### **Consensus as the Fundamental Principle**

The Coordinating Committee shall base its decision-making on consensus (agreement among all active members) in all of its decision-making. Representatives are encouraged to understand and make decisions that align with the values and interests of the organization they are representing. However, Coordinating Committee members understand that unless a vote of a member is either pre-approved or ratified by the members' governing body, namely its city council or board, the effect of the member's vote does not bind that member to the decision.

### **Definition of Consensus**

The Coordinating Committee shall base its decision-making on consensus. In reaching consensus, some Coordinating Committee members may strongly endorse a particular proposal while others may accept it as "workable." Others may be only able to "live with it." Still others may choose to "stand aside" by verbally noting a disagreement, yet allowing the group to reach a consensus without them if the decision does not affect them or compromise their interests. Any of these actions still constitutes consensus.

### **Definition of Active Participation by Coordinating Committee Members**

Active participation means regular attendance at Coordinating Committee meetings; and reviewing planning and other written documents before discussions or decisions will be made. It is understood that occasionally Coordinating Committee members may need to miss a Coordinating Committee meeting. If there is a question as to whether a Coordinating Committee member should be considered "active" for purposes of decision-making, the Coordinating Committee will make that determination by communicating with the member or determining whether the stakeholder is active or not based on recent participation.

### **Stakeholder Involvement and Workgroups**

The Coordinating Committee may choose to form a Stakeholder Committee and/or Workgroups. A Stakeholder Committee could be responsible for day-to-day activities of the Plan update, including drafting chapters and providing recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. Workgroups could be formed around particular topic areas that

would provide input and recommendations to the Coordinating Committee. In these cases, all decisions will be approved by the Coordinating Committee as a whole.

**Less than 100% Consensus Decision Making**

The Coordinating Committee shall not limit itself to strict consensus if 100% agreement among all participants cannot be reached after all interests and options have been thoroughly identified, explored, discussed, and considered. Less-than-consensus decision-making shall not be undertaken lightly. If, after full exploration and discussion, the Coordinating Committee cannot come to consensus as defined above, it will use the less-than-consensus decision-making protocol as described in the below paragraph.

Any decision (not reached by consensus) must be endorsed by 75% of the total number of Coordinating Committee members present. In other words, the decision cannot be opposed by more than 25% of the total number of Coordinating Committee members present.

**Adopting the GSJC IRWM Plan**

Department of Water Resources Guidelines for IRWM Plan Adoption stipulate that the governing bodies of each Regional Water Management Group member must formally adopt the IRWM Plan. As the Regional Water Management Group for the Greater San Joaquin County IRWM Region, Coordinating Committee members agree to work in good faith towards an IRWM Plan that their respective governing Board would adopt. Should a Coordinating Committee member agency refuse to adopt the IRWMP, the reasons for refusal should be cited and attempts will be made to reconcile any differences. Should the differences remain irreconcilable, the dissenting member will be asked to withdraw from participation in the Coordinating Committee.