Imperial IRWMP
The mission of Imperial Water Forum is to preserve and enhance the economic and environmental health and well-being for the Imperial Region through the regional stewardship and comprehensive management of water resources in a practical, cost effective and responsible manner.
Imperial IRWM Governance/Membership

- **Membership:** 22 voting stakeholders
  - County of Imperial, groundwater & land use
  - Imperial Irrigation District, conveyor of untreated Colorado River water; and ag drainage system
  - Cities and unincorporated towns, treated water & land use
  - DAC, geothermal, and other economic development, new users and impact mitigation
  - Agriculture
  - Environmental
    - No tribes in the Imperial Region
Water Forum Stakeholders

- Imperial Irrigation District
- County of Imperial
- Imperial County Farm Bureau
- Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association
- IID Water Conservation Advisory Board
- City of Brawley
- City of Calexico
- City of El Centro
- City of Holtville
- City of Imperial
- City of Westmorland
- Heber Public Utility

- Niland Sanitary District
- Geothermal Energy Stakeholder Group
- Comité Cívico Del Valle Inc in Brawley
- Institute for Socioeconomic Justice
- El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
- Brawley Chamber of Commerce
- Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
- New River Improvement Project
- Sierra Club, California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee
- USFWS Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
Water Management Priorities

Non-structural

- Agreements for potential in-valley exchange of water to meet anticipated MCI demand
- Groundwater management plan that includes groundwater development
- Expand In-lieu service areas for use of recycled water
- Mitigation policy for cumulative impact of development in the region
- Protect sole-source aquifer in the Ocotillo area
Water Management Priorities

Structural Measures

- DAC infrastructure improvements
- East Mesa groundwater development
- Groundwater banking of Colorado River water for use to repay river or in years of high demand, IID
- Desalinization of groundwater and/or drain water
- IID conveyance upgrades & on-farm conservation practices to reduce spill to meet QSA water transfer requirements
- Mitigation, as needed, to deal with multiple “small” demands that impact IID drains, as needed
Accomplishments

- IID financial support for IWRMP process
- RAP fully accepted by DWR, September 2009
- IRWM Kick-off meeting, April 2010
- Stakeholder assessment & on-going facilitation by CCP
- Charter, Goals & Objectives, Fall 2010
- DWR Planning Grant ($1M), executed Feb 2011
- City of Imperial, fiscal agent for implementation grants
- IID, support on-going Water Forum activity
  - Water Forum Annual Report & Annual Meeting
Challenges

Regional Water Management

- Inability to store Colorado River water – need groundwater water storage to make full use of available supply
- Aging infrastructure, funding for maintenance of existing facilities
- Need for reliable water supply for geothermal/renewable energy projects and other economic development
- Competition for water supplies and source water
- No regional flood control district or regional master plan for drainage
Challenges

Other

- Funding & equitable distribution of increased costs
- DACs’ limited technical, management, and fiscal resources constrain their ability to participate in the IRWMP and state or federal grants programs
- Constantly changing and evolving regulatory requirements
- Disconnect between land use planning and water supply
Lessons Learned

- Cannot meet all goals & objectives in the first IRWMP
- Need to prioritize investments

**Imperial IRWMP**

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

http://imperialirwmp.org