

## **Project Number**

WRF-04-010

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## **Extending the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Process to Include Water Reuse and other Nontraditional Water Sources (NTWS)**

### **Principal Investigator:**

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### **Cash Contributors (in addition to the Bureau of Reclamation):**

State Water Resources Control Board (CA)

City of Phoenix Water Services Department

### **Objectives**

To provide guidance and examples for how water planners and managers can use the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process as an objective and balanced way to explore the relative merits of considering “nontraditional” water supply (NTWS) options alongside their suite of more typical water supply and demand-side alternatives.

### **Results/Findings**

IRP has been defined different ways in different applications, it usually incorporates the following four features:

1. Multiple resource strategies.
2. Multiple participating agencies.
3. Multiple stakeholders.
4. Multiple evaluation criteria.

Every IRP application faces a different set of circumstances. Hence, no single formula is appropriate for all applications. IRP does, however, generally include four steps:

1. Define scope
2. Identify alternatives
3. Evaluate alternative strategies
4. Select strategy

Several key issues are often encountered when integrating NTWS into the IRP process. While including NTWS does not change the conceptual underpinnings of IRP, it often requires that IRP practices be expanded to address new and different NTWS issues. Key issues discussed in this report illustrate how the IRP paradigm must grow to accommodate increasingly complicated challenges in water resource planning – including the need to expand the number of participating agencies, and the value of expanding the regional geographic scope of the IRP process.