INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The decision was made during the Master Plan to utilize interlocal agreements to oversee design, construction, development, funding and operation of systems resulting from the RIDS program. In practice, various types of interlocal agreements have been used to own, operate, and govern regional utility water supply and wastewater treatment projects. These range from the formation of a separate and distinct entity such as a utility authority to arrangements where one party is the prime sponsor with respect to financing and operations and the other regional participants are enjoined through a contractually binding bulk sales agreement or capacity entitlement and cost sharing arrangement.

The advantages of the project-by-project or subregional approach is that individual arrangements can be developed that are flexible in dealing with ownership and operating issues in a way that satisfies all of the jurisdictions involved. This type of institutional approach may ensure more active and better participation among the involved parties. In addition, it is anticipated that the project cost would be lower because there would be very little redundant administrative and operating costs. The utility representatives that are participating in developing the Master Plan strongly favor a project-by-project or subregional approach to the development of irrigation water resources.