PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposition 1E Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program

Stormwater Flood Management Grant, Round 1, 2010-2011

Applicant	City of Palm Springs	**Amount Requested**	$600,000
Proposal Title	Tahquitz Creek Levee Reconstruction	**Total Proposal Cost**	$1,200,000

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The Proposal includes the repair and reconstruction of the Tahquitz Creek levee to comply with federal standards identified in 44 CFR 65.10 to ensure failure of levee in 100-year storm does not inundate adjacent City-owned wastewater treatment plant, which would have the potential to release millions of gallons of untreated sewage into Tahquitz Creek.

PROPOSAL SCORE

Criteria	Score/ Max. Possible	Criteria	Score/ Max. Possible
Work Plan	**9/15**	Economic Analysis – Flood Damage Reduction and Water Supply Benefits	**3/12**
Budget	**2/5**		
Schedule	**5/5**	Water Quality and Other Expected Benefits	**3/12**
Monitoring, Assessment, and Performance Measures	**2/5**	Program Preferences	**2/10**
		Total Score (max. possible = 64)	**26**

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Work Plan

The criterion is less than fully addressed and documentation or rationales are incomplete or insufficient. Although an objective of the project is provided by the applicant elsewhere in the application, the goals of the project are not clearly articulated in the Work Plan. The Project purports to satisfy five objectives of the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan; however, the argument for how it addresses each goal and objective is the same: "Failure of the Tahquitz Creek levee during a 100-year storm has the potential to cause release of wastewater effluent from the City's waste water treatment plant into Tahquitz Creek, causing a significant pollution of stormwater runoff and groundwater within Tahquitz Creek." An abstract and current status of the project is presented. A map showing the location of the Creek is included. Task 3 depicts submission of quarterly, annual and final reports. Deliverables for each task are stated. Some task items in the Work Plan lack adequate details and completeness. For example, a listing of permits is identified in Tasks 6 and 7, but status is not provided. The discussion of California Environmental Quality Act compliance is limited. Two

reports are included with the Proposal to support the feasibility of the project. Many paragraphs in the Work Plan are copied directly from these two reports. The project can operate on a standalone basis.

Budget

The applicant presents a Budget where the majority of costs cannot be verified as reasonable and documentation is lacking. A project Budget summary table is included, but no narrative explanation is provided to justify the costs presented. There is an attached copy of the land purchase/easement, but the summary Budget table shows $0 for this line item. Another document (City Staff Council Report, dated September 8 2010) within this attachment shows a total of $357,100, yet it is not clear how this figure relates to what is presented in Table 6 as no costs match. There is a single project line item Budget with no breakdown to match tasks in the Work Plan.

Schedule

The Schedule is consistent and reasonable and demonstrates a readiness to begin construction or implementation no later than six months after the anticipated award date (October 1, 2011). The applicant presents a detailed and specific schedule that adequately documents the duration and timing of the project. Furthermore, the project schedule appears reasonable and corresponds to the tasks described in the Work Plan. Construction is scheduled to start November 1, 2011.

Monitoring, Assessment, and Performance Measures

The criterion is only marginally addressed and documentation is incomplete and insufficient. The applicant provides a brief discussion of Desired Outcomes and Output Indicators. Several of the Desired Outcomes and Output Indicators are claimed three times – "Prevent release of untreated wastewater into Tahquitz Creek from the city's wastewater treatment plant during a 100-year storm" – and in one case, the Desired Outcome is a repeat of the Output Indicator – "Repair and reconstruct Tahquitz Creek Levee to withstand the affects of a 100-year storm." Outcome Indicators are not adequate to evaluate the change resulting from the work and lack sufficient detail in how those indicators would be measured. The Measurement Tools and Methods for assessing the performance of the project are relying mainly on monitoring of the Tahquitz Creek Levee. The project performance measures table shows Desired Outcomes and targets of objectives in terms of unit measurements which does not answer the criterion. Finally, the applicant uses the objectives of the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan instead of the goals and objectives of the project.

Economic Analysis – Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) and Water Supply Benefits

Only low levels of FDR and Water Supply benefits can be realized through this proposal, as demonstrated by the analysis and supporting documentation. Total net present value (NPV) of costs is $1.409 million. FDR claimed benefits are $0.067 million. Repairs are being conducted to increase freeboard to comply with National Flood Insurance Program 100-year protection standards, but the applicant assumes that the probability of failure in the 100-year storm is only 1 percent. This small chance of failure without project limits the benefits obtained with project. No monetized water supply benefits are claimed. Qualitative benefits are the continued ability to deliver reclaimed water. Again, benefits are limited by the small chance that deliveries would be interrupted without the project. The applicant might find more benefits if they included larger events with less than 1 in 100 year frequency.

Economic Analysis – Water Quality and Other Expected Benefits

Only low levels of Water Quality and Other benefits can be realized through this proposal, as demonstrated by the analysis and supporting documentation. Water quality and other qualitative benefits are claimed. The benefits are primarily the reduced chance of a wastewater release into Tahquitz Creek and the ability to maintain deliveries of reclaimed water. Benefits are limited by the small chance of failure assumed without project. The applicant might find more benefits if they included larger events with less than 1 in 100 year frequency.

Program Preferences

The Proposal includes a project that implements the following Program Preference: Include Regional Projects or Programs. The proposal demonstrates a limited degree of certainty that the Program Preference claimed can be achieved, and lacks thorough documentation for the breadth and magnitude of the Program Preference to be implemented.