

## **Attachment 9 Project Preference**

### **I. Include Regional Projects or Programs**

The project includes the recharge at the Ely Basins that serve as a regional project as part of Santa Ana Watershed Project Authorities (SAWPA's) IRWM Program. Implementation of the Project includes partnerships among Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (SBCFCD). Coordination with the project partners will ensure effective project implementation. The Project will implement a flood control, groundwater recharge, and water quality enhancement project. The Project includes urban runoff capture and recharge resulting in reduced dependence on imported water. In addition to the specific project partners identified, the Project will provide benefits to the entire Chino Basin. Furthermore, the Project is included and consistent with the 2010 Adopted and 2012 Amended SAWPA IRWM Plan and was selected for funding in the IRWM program.

### **II. Integrate Water Management Programs and Projects within the South Coast Hydrologic Region, Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region**

The South Coast Hydrologic Region includes an area that encompasses portions of Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties. More specifically the Santa Ana Planning Area that included the City of Ontario and the proposed Project. The Project is also within the Regional Water Quality Control Boards Santa Ana Region. The Project is included in the Santa Ana Watershed.

Integration includes implementing the multi-benefit Project that achieve a synergistic approach to watershed management to benefit the region's natural resources and governing entities. The method for achieving full integration is through the careful implementation of multi-benefit Projects. SAWPA considered the Project as part of its IRWM Plan for its multiple benefits, multi-agency approach, regional impact and synergies or linkages to other projects. The Project is an integrated project within the Santa Ana Region. The Project will provide flood protection, capture and reuse of runoff to reduce imported water demands, and improve groundwater quality. The Ely Basins are located along the Cucamonga Creek Channel, which outlets to the Santa Ana River and Prado Dam Wetlands located in Corona, California.

The proposed Project incorporates several complementary benefits. Providing flood protection will reduce urban runoff pollution and increase the quantity of natural runoff water available for groundwater recharge. This will result in protecting the beneficial uses of Santa Ana Watershed, enhancing water supply by offsetting imported water demand, reducing energy consumption and green house gas emissions by increasing urban water capture and reuse, and improve recharge by expanding the Ely Basins.

### **III. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflict within or between regions**

The Project effectively helps resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions through a collaborative approach in addressing long-term planning of local water supplies. SAWPA has identified ten broad-based resource management strategies including: water quality improvement; flood control and storm water runoff; environment and habitat; climate change; water supply reliability; water recycling; land use; water use efficiency; parks, recreation, and open space; and environmental justice.

The Project will address conflicts through coordination with local, regional, state, and federal (Army Corps) water and land use agencies. Participation in SAWPA's IRWM Plan ensures a joint effort to continue resolving multi-level issues related to flood management, urban runoff management, natural resource preservation and land use planning. Through a collaborative process, the Project addresses these conflicts by providing flood control, enhancing local water supplies to offset imported water supplies, and enhancing water quality.

### **IV. Contribute to attainment of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives**

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Objectives include improving water quality, improving levee system integrity, improving water supply reliability, and ecosystem restoring and watershed protection. The Project will reduce the region's dependence on imported water supply by reducing replenishment water requirements and the Project will increase water supply reliability and water quality by delivering a consistent high quality water source to the Chino Basin. Therefore, the Project will contribute to attaining CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives with a high degree of certainty.

### **V. Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region**

The proposed Project doesn't directly address a critical water supply or water quality need of disadvantaged communities (DAC); however, the entire 770 acres of the projects watershed is within a DAC area. Land uses in the drainage tributary are primarily small business and industrial users. Small businesses are severely impacted by flooding in the area. The project will assist in mitigating the disproportionate burden placed on these businesses. With implementation of the City's Project, flood protection will be enhanced for the benefit of these communities. Additionally, the City, including DAC's, will benefit from the Project through the stabilization of water rates. The reduced dependence in costly import water will reduce the replenishment assessment fees passed down to the customers.

## **VI. Effectively integrate water management with land use planning**

The Project will preserve existing open space by utilizing existing flood control and aquifer recharge basin. By conveying stormwater to the basin and by recharging it, other areas that are not resource efficient land uses will be captured at the basin. The Project mitigates the land uses for approximately 956 acres by capturing and recharging urban runoff.

## **VII. Stormwater Flood Management Funding (Multiple Benefits)**

The Project will provide multiple stormwater flood management benefits including: providing a reliable water supply, promoting sustainable water solutions, ensuring high quality water for all users, providing economically effective solutions, improving regional integration and coordination, managing rainfall as a resource, and maintaining quality of life through public safety. These benefits will be realized through the Project components. The stormwater collection system will capture and divert flows, which historically flood local areas, to the Ely Basins. The increased storage at the Ely Basins will reduce and naturally treat peak runoff.

## **VIII. Address Statewide Priorities**

The Project will address, with certainty, the following statewide priorities:

- A. Drought Preparedness** - The Project will address drought preparedness through stormwater capture and recharge. Better managing rainfall as a resource will enhance water conservation and assist during drought conditions when imported supplies become limited. The Project will recharge approximately 772 acre-feet per year decreasing import water demand while increasing water supply reliability and enhancing local groundwater storage.
- B. Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently** – As mentioned above, the Project will use and reuse water more efficiently through capture and recharge of natural rainwater into the Chino Basin Aquifer; runoff that is currently lost to the Santa Ana River. Local rainfall will be captured and stored in the groundwater aquifer for use, then treatment and subsequent reuse as part of the regions recycled water supply.
- C. Climate Change Response Actions** - The Project will contribute to the climate change response actions through adaptation to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Project will modify existing water systems by expanding the storage volume of the Ely Basins to address anticipated climate change impacts such as increase severity of storm events. The Project will reduce GHG emissions through development of local water supplies. Through

conservation of local water supplies, dependence on imported water is reduced in the amount of 772 acre-feet per year. By avoiding delivery through the State Water Project (SWP) system, a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is attained. According to the California Air Resource Control Board, the energy required to deliver SWP water to Southern California is 3,519 kW/hrs per acre-foot. Using the recommended unit amount of 0.0004 kWh to tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, GHG emissions reduction of approximately 1,100 tons CO<sub>2</sub> per year for the project will be achieved.

- D. Practice Integrated Flood Management** - The Project is consistent with integrated flood management. It will improve flood protection by capturing, conveying, and recharging 772 acre-feet of urban runoff. The storm drain conveyance system is designed for a 100-year storm event and will provide flood protection to 277 acres. The City will be better prepared for emergencies with the additional local water supply.
  
- E. Protect Surface and Groundwater Quality** - The Project will protect groundwater and Santa Ana River surface water quality by capturing and recharging urban runoff. The Ely Basins will capture, retain, and treat urban runoff through natural filtration. The Santa Ana River watershed and its ecosystem will benefit from the reduced urban runoff pollution.
  
- F. Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits** – The City, as a participant in SAWPA's IRWM Plan, endeavors to participate in a regional approach toward watershed management with stakeholders, public, and DAC's alike. As mentioned previously, the Project will help provide access to safe, clean, and affordable water to residents by reducing dependence on imported water.