

Attachment 9: Program Preferences

1. INCLUDE REGIONAL PROJECTS OR PROGRAMS

The Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin is a regional project which has been added to the American River Basin IRWM Plan and vetted by IRWM stakeholders. The Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin's benefits span the jurisdictions of the City of Sacramento, unincorporated Sacramento County, and the Florin Creek Recreation and Park District. The project will provide flood protection benefits to residents in the floodplain along Florin Creek downstream of State Route 99.

Furthermore, it will help complete the South Sacramento Streams Group (SSSG) Federal Project (Federal Project), whose benefits are spread out through a larger region, and it will reduce peak outflows to downstream reaches of the Bay-Delta watershed.

Detention basins are very desirable flood protection tools because they can reduce flood peaks without increasing conveyance, which can create problems for downstream regions, or increasing stage (as levees or floodwalls can), which can create problems for upstream regions.

The project will provide water quality benefits for downstream users that will be proportionately small relative to the total watershed discharge.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Medium

2. EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT

The Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin integrates several different water management benefits. It is foremost a flood protection project which will provide 100-year flood protection for about 181 structures and 200-year protection for about 207 structures remaining in the floodplain after completion of the Federal Project. It also provides enhanced park space and recreational area, increasing the size of Florin Creek Park recreational areas by about 4.7 acres and allowing the development of a second soccer field area while replacing the facilities affected by the grading of the site to create the basin. By detaining stormwater, the project has the potential to improve water quality and increase stormwater infiltration into the ground. The project will reserve an area for groundwater recharge wells if they are desired in the future. Finally, it will enlarge an existing nature area in the basin footprint. This will create new wildlife habitat to provide ecological benefits, offer interpretive opportunities to inspire nature appreciation in park visitors, and will provide water quality benefits as water passes through the created wetland, sediments are settled out, and some stormwater infiltrates into the ground.

From a regional perspective, the integration of the IRWM Plan is achieved by a mix of projects that have multiple benefits, like the proposed project, and those that are more focused on a single benefit. Because different projects within the IRWM Plan achieve different benefits, the collection of projects taken together represents an integrated suite of regional priorities.

Projects like the proposed basin, whose greatest benefits are in flood management and recreation, help achieve a sustainable region in which other projects whose benefits may be focused in water supply or another area can be successful. Because only about 4% of the projects identified in the

2006 ARB IRWM Plan were identified as having substantial flood management benefits, the addition, funding, and successful construction of each project like the Florin Multi-Use Basin is of great importance for achieving integration of water management across the region.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: High

3. EFFECTIVELY RESOLVE SIGNIFICANT WATER-RELATED CONFLICTS

Completion of the Federal Project has been stalled, leaving many structures within the 100-year floodplain, because the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is nearing its congressionally-authorized cost ceiling for the Federal Project and cannot complete all of the originally planned improvements. The Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin reduces the scale of the Federal Project improvements necessary to provide 100-year protection, enabling the USACE to complete those improvements within its cost ceiling and close out the SSSG program. By combining the channel improvements of the Federal Project with the detention of the Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin, flood protection benefits will be achieved without relying on floodwalls or levees that could lead to higher creek stages contributing to localized flooding upstream or continuation of the improvements upstream.

Residents of the affected floodplain have been assessed since 2000 to pay the local share of the Federal Project. In recent years many members of this citizenry have expressed displeasure that they have been paying an assessment as well as flood insurance while relief from the Federal Project has not been achieved, especially while SAFCA and the State have expedited improvements in the Natomas area. Funding the Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin project will provide relief for these property owners within the Florin Creek floodplain.

During vetting of the project by the ARB IRWM Plan stakeholders, no substantial objections to the project were raised; support was expressed by two stakeholders, as shown in Attachment 1.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: High

4. CONTRIBUTE TO OBJECTIVES OF THE CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program had the following general objectives: improve water quality, increase levee integrity, improve water supply reliability, and restore ecosystems. Although the Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin is outside of the legal Delta, it would contribute to these objectives in the following ways.

4.1. Improve Water Quality

By detaining water, the project would allow sediments to settle within the detention basin, thus improving water quality downstream. Detention at the project site would also reduce peak water volumes and velocities downstream, reducing the likelihood of erosion and entrainment of new sediments.

The current park site includes a small lined pond that is prone to stagnation and poor water quality because it does not receive flushing flows. The conceptual project design would enlarge habitat areas and allow them to receive flows from Florin Creek in most winters, with excess water flushing back out to the creek as creek levels recede. This would improve water quality in the pond, and the native riparian plants would also filter inflows and improve water quality. During its residence in the basin, stormwater will have the opportunity to percolate into the soil, thus facilitating soil filtration of urban pollutants.

Although the project's impacts would be very small on the scale of the total watershed inflows into the Delta, the cumulative effects of small watershed-based projects like this one could be considerable.

Benefit Certainty: Medium; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

4.2. Increase Levee Integrity

The project is outside of the legal Delta, but it would reduce peak flows within the SSSG system, a part of which is within the Delta, and thus would help protect the integrity of levees, floodwalls, and channels.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

4.3. Improve Water Supply Reliability

Water supply is not a primary project objective; however, the project is part of the ARB IRWM Plan, which contains many supply and reliability projects. To the extent that detention of stormwater in the basin infiltrates water into the surface soils, it may over time facilitate some lateral seepage back into the Florin Creek channel. Because the water would percolate during flood periods when water is abundant in downstream systems and seep out of the soil during a prolonged period which may encompass times of low flow or drought, this could result in minor water supply benefits. The conceptual plan also identifies space where groundwater infiltration wells could be installed at a later date to support water supply.

Benefit Certainty: Low; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

4.4. Restore Ecosystems

The project would enhance Florin Creek Park with native plantings, including wetlands and riparian species along the shoreline of the perennial pond and swale, and riparian-adapted trees like valley oaks located on slopes of the detention basin. The improved habitat at the site would support urban-adapted native bird species and would also support migration and wildlife travel either up and down the Central Valley or along Florin Creek between the Delta and Central Valley.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

5. ADDRESS CRITICAL WATER SUPPLY OR WATER QUALITY NEEDS OF DACS

The project is within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC), as described in more detail later in this attachment. Notwithstanding the many benefits the project will bring to the DAC, it will not address critical water supply or water quality needs.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Local; Magnitude: No benefit

6. INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT WITH LAND USE PLANNING

Despite the many benefits of detention basins versus structural flood control measures like levees and floodwalls, they are often not pursued in existing urbanized areas because of the land area required to build them. However, the existing built-up environment needs flood control more urgently than developing areas because other options like floodplain avoidance and elevating structures are no longer possible or are economically prohibitive. Improving flood protection to contain the 100-year flood in this developed area is consistent with land use planning by both the City and County of Sacramento.

In this case, SAFCA has partnered with the Southgate Recreation and Park District to create a detention basin that enlarges and enhances an existing park, affecting only the park and adjoining vacant land. The project will, in conjunction with the Federal Project, provide 100-year flood protection to downstream structures.

The project creates a second playing field area at the park. The current soccer field space available to accommodate the number of area teams in need is not adequate. By providing the community with the fields they need, the number of players able to participate will be maximized. The current field hosts 13 teams with over 170 players ranging from under 6 (U6) to under 19 (U19). When an additional field is added, there will be the capacity to accommodate several more teams. Furthermore, the open space the fields will create when not in use will be conducive to a variety of recreational activities that could include pickup sports, free play, picnicking, social gatherings, and enjoyment of the natural environment.

The project also greatly enhances the natural areas and provides interpretive opportunities that will help park users understand the resources on the site in the context of Central Valley ecology. Because the site is in a disadvantaged, underserved community, this nature interpretation may benefit children who may never get to a distant wilderness landscape to observe ecological processes. See also the discussion in section 8.7.2 of this attachment about how this project will bring the local area closer to meeting Sacramento County park acre-per-capita targets, a land use objective.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: High

7. MULTIPLE BENEFITS

The project provides multiple benefits, as described elsewhere in this attachment and this application. It will provide 100-year flood protection for downstream structures. It also provides enhanced park space and recreational area, increasing the size of Florin Creek Park by about 40% and allowing the development of a second soccer field area while replacing all of the facilities affected by the grading of the site to create the basin. By detaining stormwater, the project has the potential to improve water quality and increase stormwater infiltration into the ground. The project will reserve an area for groundwater recharge wells if they are desired in the future. Finally, it will enhance wildlife habitat to provide ecological benefits.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: High

8. ADDRESS STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

8.1. Drought Preparedness

The project may have small drought benefits by contributing to percolation of detained water into the ground, allowing water to seep laterally back into the Florin Creek channel over time (e.g. after the peak flows are long gone) as described in Section 4.3. If a future groundwater infiltration well project is pursued in the reserved area on the site, the project could have larger benefits.

Benefit Certainty: Low; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

8.2. Use and Reuse Water

The grant program guidelines encourage projects that capture, store, treat, and use urban stormwater runoff, including small surface basins. The Florin Creek Multi-Use Basin will capture and detain stormwater runoff, providing passive treatment through residence time, percolation, and filtration by native plants. It does not use and reuse that water except to the extent it facilitates plant growth in the park landscape.

Benefit Certainty: Medium; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

8.3. Climate Change Response

A warmer climate will increase the atmosphere's ability to hold water, leading to higher precipitation events. By moderating flood peaks, the project will protect downstream developed areas that might otherwise be inundated in extreme precipitation events. In addition, the water quality and stormwater infiltration aspects of the project will be beneficial in a changing climate.

By enlarging and landscaping Florin Park, the project has the potential to sequester carbon, reducing greenhouse gasses. In addition, by improving the public amenities at the park, it will meet more local recreational needs and reduce the need for neighborhood residents to drive to more distant locations for soccer matches or habitat interpretation. Local and regional non-

vehicular access is facilitated because the park is located at the western end of the Florin Creek Trail, a 1.3 mile Class I bicycle and pedestrian trail which runs along the Florin Creek drainage corridor connecting neighborhoods on the east and west sides of Highway 99 via a tunnel under the highway.

Benefit Certainty: High (flood reduction) and Low (greenhouse gas reduction); Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional) (flood reduction) and Global (greenhouse gas reduction); Magnitude: High (flood reduction) and Low (greenhouse gas reduction)

8.4. Expand Environmental Stewardship

The project will expand environmental stewardship by enlarging the habitat area within Florin Creek Park, by using the wetlands and basin to treat or infiltrate stormwater, and by installing interpretation panels along the habitat area. The interpretive panels will be designed to inspire observation and appreciation of nature, with a goal of inspiring interest in and stewardship of the natural world.

Benefit Certainty: Medium; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

8.5. Practice Integrated Flood Management

The project practices integrated flood management by incorporating recreation, habitat, and water quality benefits into a detention basin which helps achieve 100-year flood protection for downstream structures and facilitates the completion of the Federal Project.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: High

8.6. Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

The project protects surface and groundwater quality by incorporating an expanded wetland area into the basin which will allow suspended pollutants to drop out or be taken up by native vegetation during approximately yearly flow events. In addition, during larger flood events the basin will detain and slow floodwaters and allow suspended materials to drop out over a larger area. By reducing peak flows downstream, the project will reduce downstream erosion and subsequent sedimentation.

Benefit Certainty: Medium; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low

8.7. Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

8.7.1. Increase Participation of Disadvantaged Communities

The project site and the area it serves are within a disadvantaged community (DAC), as determined by using DWR's DAC mapping tool at <http://www.arcgis.com/apps/OnePane/basicviewer/index.html?&extent={%22xmin%22:-14426509.060130995,%22ymin%22:3934268.9114416656,%22xmax%22:-12446484.279432323,%22ymax%22:5074097.877229907,%22spatialReference%22:{%22wkid%22:102100}}&appid=cbfd9dfaae0a4baaa937c3ff75e0dd42>.

More specifically, the project is within the Parkway Census Designated Place (CDP) in Sacramento County and provides recreation to residents within this area, which is within the service area of the Southgate Recreation and Park District. Based on the American Community Survey five-year estimate, in 2011 the median household income (MHI) for the past 12 months within the Parkway CDP was \$41,524, which is about 67% of the state MHI for the same period and is well below the disadvantaged community (DAC) upper threshold of 80% of MHI. The project's principal service area for recreation is this DAC, and it provides flood protection within this DAC and within non-DAC areas downstream.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Local; Magnitude: High

8.7.2. Develop Multi-Benefit Projects with Consideration of DACs

The project provides multiple benefits within the DAC, most importantly expanding Florin Creek Park. Park and recreation facilities support the health of the community by cleaning the air, cooling the neighborhood during the hot summer days and nights, and providing opportunities for physical activities and social interaction. Parks connect communities and people.

The area within a ½ mile radius of Florin Creek Park and west of the US Highway 99 barrier currently provides only 2.74 park acres per 1,000 people. This is below the park standard for this area of Sacramento County which is 5 park acres per 1,000 people. The acquisition of 2.84 acres of land as part of this project provides additional green space for this community to supplement the existing recreational opportunities. This land acquisition is ideal because it is adjacent to an existing park, trail and open space corridor and is a logical extension and addition to the existing park system to serve the existing and future infill residential development projects in this south Sacramento area.

Southgate Recreation and Park District encourages stewardship of area creeks and waterways by participating in the Urban Creek Council's Annual Creek Week program. Each year staff and residents participate in the annual creek clean-up. This project, by increasing the park size, enhancing the creek connection, expanding and improving the habitat area, and creating interpretive signs, will enhance the community's connection to the natural environment and lead to better environmental stewardship.

To the extent that some project benefits span multiple jurisdictions, the project may benefit other DACs in the region.

Benefit Certainty: High; Breadth: Local; Magnitude: High

8.7.3. Help Meet State Policies for Access to Safe, Clean, and Affordable Water

The project's benefits to water quality and supply would benefit downstream water users, although they would make up a very small portion of total flows and pollutant loads in the larger Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed.

Benefit Certainty: Medium; Breadth: Regional (multi-jurisdictional); Magnitude: Low