



Attachment 7. Program Preferences

Attachment 7. Program Preferences

Provided within this attachment is a discussion on how this Grant Proposal assists in meeting the Program Preference(s) described in Section II.F of the IRWM Grant Program 2014 Drought Guidelines. The discussion includes the following:

1. Identifies the specific Program Preference(s) and how the grant project meets the listed preference(s).
2. Discusses the level of certainty that the project will meet the preference(s) and the breadth and magnitude to which the preference(s) will be met.
3. Describes any issues related to the Human Right to Water Policy and the IRWM region's effort to address the goal of the Human Right to Water Policy.¹
4. Describes how the proposed project accomplishes this.

The discussion is limited to one page per project.

7.1 PROJECT PROGRAM PREFERENCES

7.1.1 Intertie Projects between the City of El Centro, the City of Imperial, and the Heber Public Utilities District (Intertie Project)

The Intertie Project assists in meeting three Program Preferences as follows: 1) **Include regional projects or programs** (CWC §10544); 2) **Address critical water supply or water quality needs of DACs within the region**; and 3) **Address statewide priorities as per Table 1 of 2014 IRWM Guidelines**.

The Intertie Project is a regional project listed by the IRWMP joining three standalone local water systems. This project affects a combined population of over 64,000² people of the total 165,000 people (affects 40% of population) of the Imperial Valley Region. This project will assist these communities to meet state DPH requirements, and the urgent and critical water supply need to provide safe and reliable water supplies during frequent catastrophic events, either partially or wholly, affecting the urban drinking water supplies in the Imperial IRWM Region.

Two of the three agencies are State DACs³ with limited resources to ensure their own safety in the event of water system failure or water contamination. Given the likely event of a natural or manmade disaster

¹ The Human Right to Water Policy (AB 685 (2012)/CWC § 106.3) states that every human being has the right to clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. In consideration of this Policy, DWR is making additional points available to proposals with projects that address clean, affordable, and accessible water for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (see Attachment 7).

² Based on 2010 Census, Table 5-12 of IRWM Plan, Page 5-39

³ City of El Centro and the Heber Community are DACs. The City of Imperial is approximately 90% DAC based on Census Tract Mean Household Income Data as presented in Attachment 8 .

in any given year, the vulnerabilities affecting the Human Right to Water, a statewide priority to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits, include:

1. A single source of raw water supply and conveyance from the Colorado River
2. Over 1,670 miles of open raw water canals⁴ where breakages, flooding, and chemical spills can disrupt flows; quickly affecting downstream urban, industrial and agricultural users
3. All Imperial Region urban water providers access the same single source of raw water supply using small local surface water treatment plants
4. Urban water providers have no access to a secondary source of potable supply in the event of a natural or manmade disaster (i.e., a State Department of Public Health (DPH) minimum requirement for all public water distribution systems)
5. Urban water providers having no catastrophic protection where water can be stored and made available for potable uses for up to 14 days

The proposed project addresses, in part, the 4th and 5th vulnerabilities, and is the lowest and most cost-effective solution to protect Human Rights to Water in State designated financially depressed areas of the Imperial Valley. The Intertie Project creates a critical backbone element required of all water distribution systems by the State DPH. Benefits can vary depending on the location and severity of natural disasters causing water system failures due to breakage or water quality MCL exceedances. Earthquakes pose the highest danger, with a severe earthquake occurring at an approximate frequency of one every 10 years. Flash flooding is also a common problem affecting Imperial Valley's local drinking water systems.

The urgency of this project is dire and the region is without the financial means of constructing the project. The project is ready to proceed once financial support is awarded. Regional agreements are already moving forward.

By its very nature, the project meets the established intent of the state resource management strategies and locally adopted IRWM Goals and Objectives to improve water system reliability and improve (regional and local) conveyance systems (Chapter 7 of Imperial IRWM Plan).

⁴ IRWMP, Section 14.3.2, Page 14-4