

Introduction

The following discusses how this Proposal assists in meeting the Program Preferences described in the 2014 IRWM Drought Guidelines and identifies specific Program Preferences and the projects that will meet the listed preferences. Also described in this attachment are issues related to the Human Right to Water Policy and the Mojave IRWM Region’s effort to address the goal of the Human Right to Water Policy. The projects that assist in meeting the Human Right to Water goals describe how they accomplish this. Projects in this Proposal are numbered as follows:

1. Mojave Region Commercial, Industrial and Institutional (CII) Turf Removal Program
2. Hi-Desert Capital Water Main Replacement Program
3. Hesperia Reclaimed Water Distribution System Project

The Mojave IRWM Region and the project proponents are committed to the Human Right to Water Policy. The Mojave IRWM Region, in collaboration with the Region’s stakeholders and Regional Water Management Group, identified objectives specifically relating to improving regional water use efficiency by implementing conservation actions, addressing the State policy goal of reducing reliance on the Delta by meeting water demands with alternative sources of supply during times when SWP supplies are reduced or unavailable due to droughts, and finally, increase the use of recycled water in the Region while maintaining compliance with the Mojave Basin Area Judgment. As defined in its IRWM Plan, the Region is already considering the human right to water because it uses the following human rights principles:

1. Governs by non-discrimination and equality
2. Includes meaningful public participation
3. Requires accountability of project proponents

The Mojave IRWM Region has been specifically addressing the goal of the Human Right to Water by doing the following:

1. Addressing drinking water contamination
2. Improving drinking water infrastructure needed to maintain/improve water quality
3. Improving infrastructure needed to ensure adequate drinking water supply

The Region’s water is considered an important resource and its quality is of vital importance to all users. The MWA service area further embodies this Policy through its mission statement, “To manage the region's water resources for the common benefit to assure stability in the sustained use by the citizens we serve.”

All three of the proposed projects bolster the supply reliability of the Mojave Region water supplies, and therefore the Projects all address the Human Right to Water goal.

Mojave Region Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Turf Removal Program

Include Regional Projects/Programs. This Project will help improve water use efficiency across the Mojave IRWM Region. Additionally, this Project will take advantage of MWA’s strong working relationships with its water retailers as well as the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation, a collaborative group of over twenty agencies, to coordinate efforts.

Effectively Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region. This Project helps reduce water demands in the CII sector, by building on the existing Cash for Grass turf removal program, which focuses on commercial/industrial and large residential water users. This water demand management strategy is directly tied with water supply enhancement as the Project will help free up potable water for essential drinking water needs.

Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions. Efforts that involve collaboration and strong working relations among multiple entities, such as will occur with this Project, are critical in resolving water-related conflicts within and between regions. This Project will reduce water demand that will alleviate strains on regional water supplies, currently stressed from drought conditions.

Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives of CALFED. Due to the reliance of the Mojave Region on SWP water supplies, this Project can help address the first three objectives (Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply) by reducing demands on water originating from the Delta, thereby reducing stresses on the entire Delta system.

Address Critical Water Supply/Quality Needs of DACs within the Region. Over 68 percent of the Mojave Region consists of DACs. By reducing water demands, water supplies can be freed up to meet demands throughout the Region, benefitting DACs as well as non-DACs equally.

Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning. Landscape irrigation makes up the largest demand on overall supplies. This Project directly integrates water management and land use planning by facilitating CII turf removal to reduce potable demands.

Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta for Water Supplies. This Project helps address the IRWM Plan objective to reduce reliance on the Delta by enabling turf removal that can result in water savings of 1,884 af over the ten-year lifetime of this Project.

Address Statewide Priorities of:

- a. **Drought preparedness:** This Project provides drought preparedness by achieving an immediate, yet long-term, reduction in water use, which enhances supply reliability and the ability to meet demands during water shortages.
- b. **Use and reuse water more efficiently:** This Project focuses on reducing water demands of CII water users with turf landscapes, thereby increasing water use efficiency across the Mojave Region.
- c. **Climate change response actions:** This Project increases water use efficiency by reducing demands for turf irrigation. This enhanced efficiency increases supply reliability and contributes to reduced energy requirements and GHG emissions related to water imports, necessary to replenish supplies.
- d. **Expand environmental stewardship:** Reducing demands on water supplies and excess irrigation runoff can help improve regional watershed health and reduce impacts to quality and supplies of surface water systems.
- e. **Practice integrated flood management:** By enabling turf removal and reductions in irrigation needs, this Project can reduce urban runoff from excess irrigation, thereby contributing to enhanced integrated flood management.
- f. **Protect surface water and groundwater quality:** Urban runoff from irrigation water can impact water quality by transporting and concentrating pollutants. Reducing the need for irrigation by removing turf, can therefore help protect water quality.
- g. **Improve tribal water and natural resources:** There is one known Tribe within the Mojave Region that the Project could benefit tribal water and natural resources for the Tribe, which is the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians of California.
- h. **Ensure equitable distribution of benefits:** By reducing water demands, water supplies can be freed up to provide continued access to safe, clean, affordable water within the Mojave Region, for DACs as well as for non-DACs. Water demand reductions, which will occur after the completion of this Project, are essential in securing reliable water supplies to continue to meet projected water demands, especially under drought conditions.

Assuming implementation of this Project, the certainty of achieving claimed benefits is high.

Hi-Desert Capital Water Main Replacement Program

Include Regional Projects/Programs. This Project will upgrade pipeline infrastructure of the Hi-Desert Water District (HDWD) system to reduce demands by 238 afy and improve supply reliability. Due to the strong reliance on wholesale, imported water supplies to meet demands, this Project will have wide-reaching benefits by reducing stresses on SWP supplies available to the entire Region.

Effectively Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region. This Project will replace failing pipeline infrastructure to reduce system losses and water demands. As a result, this Project integrates various areas of water resource management strategies, including water demand management, supply enhancement and reliability, as well as local conveyance efficiency.

Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions. By replacing failing infrastructure, this Project will reduce water demands thereby reducing strains on local and regional water supplies, which are limited and a source of intra- and interregional conflict due to the drought.

Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives of CALFED. Due to the reliance of the Mojave Region on SWP water supplies, this Project can help address the first three objectives (Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply) by reducing demands on water originating from the Delta, thereby reducing stresses on the entire Delta system.

Address Critical Water Supply/Quality Needs of DACs within the Region. One hundred percent of the District's service area consists of DACs. By reducing water demands from leaking water pipelines, regional water supplies can be freed up to meet water demands throughout the region, benefitting the DACs as well as non-DACs equally.

Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning. This Project is part of the Mojave IRWM Plan which has involved wide participation and input from local land use planning agencies. This Project integrates water management with land use planning as it helps reduce overall water demands, which is imperative to meet future demands of growing populations.

Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta for Water Supplies. This Project helps address the IRWM Plan objective of reducing reliance on the Delta as it increases water use efficiency, thereby reducing demands on local supplies that are replenished by SWP water from the Delta.

Address Statewide Priorities of:

- a. **Drought preparedness:** This Project provides drought preparedness by achieving an immediate, yet long-term, reduction in water use, which enhances supply reliability and the ability to meet demands during water shortages.
- b. **Use and reuse water more efficiently:** This Project increases water use efficiency by upgrading failing pipeline infrastructure that is currently resulting in unnecessary system losses.
- c. **Climate change response actions:** This Project increases water use efficiency by reducing system losses, thereby reducing demands on water supplies. Resulting from the water-energy nexus, these demand reductions will in turn help reduce energy demands and related GHG emissions.
- d. **Expand environmental stewardship:** Reducing water demands can help improve regional watershed health by reducing stresses on other water resources.
- e. **Practice integrated flood management:** N/A
- f. **Protect surface water and groundwater quality:** N/A
- g. **Improve tribal water and natural resources:** There are no tribal lands within the HDWD service area, however Project benefits have the potential to equally benefit tribal water and natural resources in adjacent areas.
- h. **Ensure equitable distribution of benefits:** By reducing water demands, water supplies can be freed up to provide continued access to safe, clean, affordable water within the Mojave Region, for DACs as well as for non-disadvantaged communities. Additionally, these infrastructure improvements will allow HDWD to provide drinking water that is unimpaired by high turbidity levels, which is currently impacting provision of reliable, high quality water supplies. Also, residents of the Town of Yucca Valley will have fire flow protection after this Project is completed; something that is not provided currently.

Assuming implementation of this Project, the certainty of achieving claimed benefits is high.

Hesperia Reclaimed Water Distribution System

Include Regional Projects/Programs. This Project is a regional effort between the City of Hesperia/Hesperia Water District, Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (VWVRA) and MWA. In addition, this Project helps the Mojave Region meet one of the objectives in its IRWM Plan, which is to increase the use of recycled water in the Region while maintaining compliance with the Mojave Basin Area Judgment.

Effectively Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region. This Project integrates with the construction of the VWVRA Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) planned to be completed with construction by July, 2015 and has the potential to decrease the use of potable water by the Hesperia Water District.

Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions. This Project will offset demands on potable water supplies by 1,220 afy by providing reclaimed water for irrigational purposes. As a result, demands will be reduced on potable water supplies that are highly limited due to drought conditions.

Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives to CALFED. Due to the reliance of the Mojave Region on SWP water supplies, this Project can help address the first three objectives (Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply) by reducing demands on water originating from the Delta, thereby reducing stresses on the entire Delta system.

Address Critical Water Supply/Quality Needs of DACs within the Region. Over 68 percent of the Mojave Region consists of DACs. By enabling potable water demands to be offset with reclaimed water, supplies can be freed up to meet potable water demands throughout the Region, benefitting the DACs as well as non-DACs equally..

Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning. This Project intrinsically links land use and water supply planning, as recycled water use is tied to land use types. By expanding the supply and distribution of reclaimed water, this Project enables quality of supply to be matched to the quality required by a particular land use.

Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta for Water Supplies. This Project helps address the IRWM Plan objective to reduce reliance on the Delta by meeting water demands with alternative sources of supply, in this case reclaimed water, when SWP supplies are reduced or unavailable, such as from droughts.

Address Statewide Priorities of:

- a. Drought preparedness: This Project provides drought preparedness as it enables use of a new water supply, reclaimed water, which will be available from the newly constructed VWVRA WRP.
- b. Use and reuse water more efficiently: This Project enables distribution of reclaimed water to enhance efficient use of potable water supplies to help meet future water demands and increase water supply reliability.
- c. Climate change response actions: This Project increases efficiency of potable water use by enabling demands to be offset by local reclaimed water supplies. Local water supplies, such as reclaimed water, use comparatively less energy and therefore emit less GHG emissions than imported SWP supplies.
- d. Expand environmental stewardship: N/A
- e. Practice integrated flood management: N/A
- f. Protect surface water and groundwater quality: N/A
- g. Improve tribal water and natural resources: There are no tribal lands within the City of Hesperia/Hesperia Water District boundary.
- h. Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: By enabling distribution of reclaimed water, this Project is critical in increasing local water supply reliability and maintaining the City's ability to continue to provide safe, clean, affordable water within the service area, for DACs as well as for non-DACs. Expanding the local water supply portfolio to include additional local sources, such as reclaimed water, is essential in securing reliable water supplies to continue to meet projected water demands, especially under drought conditions.

Assuming implementation of this Project, the certainty of achieving claimed benefits is high.