



UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Attachment 6 – Program Preferences

The Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Region and the Project Proponents are committed to the Human Right to Water Policy. The Region has been specifically addressing the goal of the Human Right to Water Policy by doing the following: addressing drinking water contamination, improving drinking water infrastructure needed to maintain/improve water quality, and improving infrastructure needed to ensure adequate drinking water supply. All three Projects either enhance the water supply reliability or improve the water quality of the USCR Region and, therefore all the Projects address the Human Right to Water Policy goals. None of the projects in this proposal contribute to the meeting the Integrated Flood Management or Tribal Water Statewide Priority; thus those are not discussed further in this analysis.

CASTAIC LAKE WATER AGENCY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TURF REMOVAL PROGRAMS

PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Include Regional Projects/Programs. The Turf Removal Programs were developed out of a collaborative process of all four water purveyors in the Santa Clarita Valley. The Project will benefit the entire CLWA service area, including the service areas of the four water purveyors, in implementing the programs in order to reduce overall water demand.

Effectively Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region. The IRWM Plan benefits from participation from all land use planning entities within the USCR watershed to implement the Turf Removal Programs. Through the Programs, demand on potable supplies will decrease while the water supply reliability will increase and thereby effectively integrates water supply management throughout the Region.

Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between Regions. Current drought conditions have drastically reduced water supplies available to meet system demands across the State. As a result, the State has mandated water agencies to reduce consumption of potable supplies. These Programs will help ease this conflict by providing an opportunity to reduce consumption via removal of turf and installation of water efficient landscaping.

Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED. These Programs address the first three CALFED objectives (Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply). The programs will reduce outdoor water demand by 747 AFY, and reduce the total amount of chlorides imported into the region through conservation. The project reduces reliance on imported Delta supplies through demand management, improving supply, water quality, and ecosystem quality in the Delta.

Address Critical Water Supply/Quality Needs of DACs within the Region. There are areas within the program area which contain communities fitting the definition of a DAC, they do not comprise at least 25% of the project service area, and thus no DACs benefits are claimed. However, the Project addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by providing a reliable dry-year water supply in a non-discriminatory way to all customers in the Santa Clarita Valley.

Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning. The IRWM Plan benefits from participation from all land use planning entities within the USCR watershed. Through the Programs, the water supply reliability will increase and thereby contribute to the protection and enhancement of the watershed which is a valuable natural resource identified in regional land use planning. Coordination with the land use entities has accommodated a growing population by improving water use efficiency and enhancing local supplies.

Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta for Water Supplies. One of the goals of the IRWM Plan is to reduce potable water demand; thus reducing dependence on imported water from the Delta. These Programs aim to reduce overall potable water demands and enhance water supply reliability in an effort to not only address the severe drought conditions, but also to reduce reliance on imported Delta water supplies.

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

Drought preparedness: These Programs directly address drought preparedness by decreasing dependence on potable supplies and increasing reliability through demand management actions which will conserve 747 AFY.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: These Programs are water use efficiency programs that implement turf removal resulting in reduced demand on supplies by 747 AFY and the increased efficiency and reliability of existing supplies.

Climate change response actions: Implementation of these Programs will reduce the dependence on imported and local supplies requiring less energy to pump, treat, or move water and result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Expand environmental stewardship: These Programs help reduce demands on local and imported supplies and reduce stress on these environmental resources.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: These Programs will reduce the amount of water applied to landscapes, and therefore, reduce runoff and the associated undesirable contaminants that negatively impact receiving waters, and provide for greater assimilative capacity for chlorides at the County line.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: These Programs will enhance the reliability of existing supplies, and increase water supply for the benefit of every person within the USCR Region.

BREADTH AND MAGNITUDE OF PROGRAM PREFERENCE AND STATEWIDE PRIORITY ACHIEVED

For the applicable program preferences and statewide priorities addressed above, the certainty of achievement is high given the demonstrated success the Programs have already achieved.



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SANTA CLARA RIVER TRUNK SEWER LINE PROJECT PHASE II

PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Include Regional Projects/Programs. The purpose of the Trunk Sewer Line Project is to protect all the beneficial uses of the Santa Clara River (SCR), including those of the Santa Clarita Valley, the underlying groundwater basin, and the lower SCR. Therefore it is a regional project.

Effectively Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region. This Project integrates numerous water management strategies to increase the reliability of the Region's potable water system by protecting downstream groundwater resources, helping to ensure adequate supplies during drought years, and improves local water system reliability.

Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between Regions. While implementation of this Project will help ease the drought conflict by directly addressing the reliability of existing supplies through the protection of downstream groundwater resources, it does not directly apply to this Program Preference.

Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED. This Project *indirectly* addresses three CALFED objectives (Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply) by removing the threat of a sewer release and thereby protecting groundwater resources which can be used to offset the demand on imported water from the Delta, in turn improving ecosystem and water quality in the Delta. However, the project does not directly apply to this Program Preference.

Address Critical Water Supply/Quality Needs of DACs within the Region. There are areas within the project area which contain communities fitting the definition of a DAC but they do not comprise at least 25% of the project service area, and thus no DACs benefits are claimed. However, the community, including the DAC population will benefit through prevention of a raw sewage release. The Project addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by providing a reliable dry-year water supply in a non-discriminatory way to all customers in the USCR Region by helping prevent a raw sewage release which in turn would affect the quality and quantity of a safe and reliable supply of water.

Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning. This Project protects groundwater and surface water quality and the availability of surface and groundwater supplies and protects the SCR. Additionally, the Project will protect both the water quality of the river and the habitat of the river (by protecting 2 acres of habitat every 10 years), and eliminates the existing land use conflict between the sewer line and the floodplain.

Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta for Water Supplies. The USCR IRWM Plan aims to reduce overall water demands and enhance water supply reliability in an effort to reduce reliance on imported Delta water supplies. The Project protects downstream groundwater resources, the use of which increases during dry years, lessening the need for imported supplies from the Delta. This Project is being implemented to contribute to meeting these Plan goals.

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

Drought preparedness: This Project *indirectly* addresses drought preparedness by protecting local water supplies which reduces dependence on imported supplies during the drought, thereby increasing overall supply reliability. However, this project does not directly apply to this Statewide Priority.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: This Project does not directly apply to this Statewide Priority.

Climate change response actions: This Project does not directly apply to this Statewide Priority. However, this Project helps improve conjunctive management of groundwater and imported water by increasing reliability and access to these supplies which are adaptations to climate change.

Expand environmental stewardship: The Project protects the underlying groundwater aquifer and the SCR by removing the threat of a sewer release from the exposed trunk sewer line.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: The Project would prevent the accidental discharge of untreated sewage to the SCR and the underlying aquifer from which groundwater is extracted. The project will protect 9,125 AF of groundwater over the project's lifetime.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: This Project will enhance the reliability of existing supplies by protection of groundwater resources (912.5 AF every ten years), and increase water supply for the benefit of every person within the USCR Region.

BREADTH AND MAGNITUDE OF PROGRAM PREFERENCE AND STATEWIDE PRIORITY ACHIEVED

For the applicable program preferences and statewide priorities addressed above, the certainty of achievement is high assuming funding is made available for implementation.



UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Attachment 6 – Program Preferences

VALENCIA WATER RECLAMATION PLANT ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Include Regional Projects/Programs. The Project will reduce chloride concentrations in treated wastewater by up to 26 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in drought years, and up to 11 mg/L in non-drought years, which will help meet the chloride TMDL, established to protect salt-sensitive crops grown in the lower SCR watershed. This Project will thereby provide water quality benefits in the SCR in the USCR IRWM Region, which flows into the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) IRWM Region.

Effectively Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region. Drinking water supply, wastewater treatment and water resource protection are all interconnected with this Project. Chloride levels in drinking water, including imported SWP supplies, contribute to chloride concentrations in wastewater effluent. Implementation of Advanced Water Treatment Facilities will reduce effluent chloride concentrations, which will improve water quality in the SCR and protect underlying groundwater basins, and in turn will enhance watershed health.

Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between Regions. For over 15 years, elevated chloride levels in the SCR and their potential impacts on salt-sensitive agricultural crops grown downstream have been a source of conflict within the USCR watershed and the lower SCR watershed, where the WCVC IRWM Region is located. Implementation of this Project is critical to reduce chloride levels in the SCR, which will help to attain the chloride TMDL and resolve interregional conflict.

Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED. This Project contributes to CALFED Objective 3, to "Reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system (Water Supply)." This project will potentially make up to 2.6 MGD of highly treated recycled water available for reuse, thus offsetting an equal amount that would otherwise be used from Bay-Delta system supplies.

Address Critical Water Supply/Quality Needs of DACs within the Region. While there are areas within the SCVSD which contain communities fitting the definition of a DAC, they do not comprise at least 25% of the project service area, and thus no DACs benefits are claimed. However, the Project addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by making additional recycled water available in a non-discriminatory way to all customers in the Region.

Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta for Water Supplies. The Project will potentially make recycled water available in the USCR Region and is part of the USCR's IRWM Plan, which aims to reduce water demands and enhance local water supply reliability in an effort to reduce reliance on imported Delta water supplies during dry periods.

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

Drought preparedness: This Project helps to maintain efficient groundwater basin management by reducing chloride concentrations in the Valencia WRP effluent, thus improving the quality of surface water in the SCR that eventually recharges the local and down-gradient groundwater basins.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: This Statewide Priority is met by providing water suitable for recycling to help meet future water demands. The Project increases the potential for urban water use efficiency by making recycled water available for reuse, which in turn would improve the water supply reliability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Climate change response actions: Climate change may reduce agricultural productivity and these impacts may be exacerbated by high chloride levels. This Project will help reduce impacts on salt-sensitive crops and agricultural productivity in downstream areas by reducing chloride levels in the Valencia WRP effluent and thereby in the SCR.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: This Project is one component of salt and nutrient management planning in the USCR Region. It will reduce chloride concentrations in WRP effluent by up to 26 mg/L, thereby improving water quality in the SCR surface water and in groundwater.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: Water quality improvements will benefit the entire SCR watershed, including DACs dependent on agriculture in the lower watershed in Ventura County.

BREADTH AND MAGNITUDE OF PROGRAM PREFERENCE AND STATEWIDE PRIORITY ACHIEVED

For the applicable program preferences and statewide priorities addressed above, the certainty of achievement is high given the requirement to implement the project to meet regulatory deadlines and water quality objectives.