NORTH COAST INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

PROPOSITION 84 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROPOSAL, ROUND 1

ATTACHMENT 11: PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Integrated Regional Water Management Program
Applicant: Humboldt County

North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Grant

Attachment 11, Program Preferences

Introduction

The North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) Proposition 84, Round 1 Implementation Proposal (Proposal) and its nineteen high priority projects comprise a geographically diverse and well integrated implementation program with multiple water supply, water quality, habitat restoration and socio-economic benefits. The projects are located in all of the Watershed Management Areas (WMA) in the North Coast region and address Program Preferences stipulated by PRC §75026 (b) and CWC §10544 (*Table 11.1 NCIRWMP Program Preferences*). The projects also address high priorities of the Department of Water Resources, State Water Board, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Game for individual WMAs as well as for the entire North Coast Hydrologic Region. Priorities of many federal agencies – including EPA, NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service and NRCS are also addressed. These include priorities related to TMDL and NPS program implementation and high priority restoration activities focused on endangered salmonids, as well as projects related to water supply reliability, public health, reduction in conflict between water users, biological diversity and the promotion of environmental justice for disadvantaged communities throughout the region. Finally, a number of the projects address priorities related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including objectives outlined by the above agencies as well as the California State Coastal Conservancy, the Air Resources Board, and the California Energy Commission.

Table 11.1 NCIRWMP Program Preferences
Include regional projects or programs (CWC §10544)
Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR
Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region
Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
For eligible SWFM funding, projects which: a) are not receiving State funding for flood control or flood prevention projects pursuant to PRC §5096.824 or §75034 or b) provide multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge.
Address Statewide priorities
Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions

1. Inclusion of Regional Projects or Programs

Description

In a region of the size and diversity of the North Coast – an area not strongly connected via built infrastructure as is true in other parts of California – the nature of regional projects is unique. All of the proposed projects represented in this proposal are regionally important and have regional impacts, yet are executed at the scale of a watershed or a local community. The suite of proposed projects are part of the ongoing regional planning and implementation

program comprising the NCIRWMP. Although covering a large geographic region, the proposed projects collectively operate in an integrated fashion to address regional impacts to salmonid populations, watershed and ecosystem function, water supply, water quality and climate change. These impacts often develop in a site-specific, decentralized fashion (such as sedimentation, salmonid population declines at the ESU level and GHG emissions). Although the effects are cumulative at the regional scale and have regional impacts – the solutions to these impacts cannot be effectively addressed by one large regional project. Further, the social structures, organizations and relationships that make these projects viable cannot be centralized into one regional mega-project. Instead, the NCIRWM process provides a flexible framework for identifying and selecting projects that implement local solutions that best address regional issues of concern, while meeting statewide priorities and program preferences. The NCIRWMP framework is supported by stable and long term planning and contracting infrastructure that supports the efficient and successful implementation of these projects by knowledgeable and experienced local agencies and groups.

Certainty: The nature of the NCIRWMP planning process – including its science-based adaptive management approach, its governance and technical review process and its reliance on broad stakeholder outreach and inclusion – ensures that high quality, relevant regional projects and programs will be included. The NCIRWMP staff, Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and Policy Review Panel (PRP) have performed extensive research regarding agency, stakeholder, ecosystem and community needs and priorities in the region. This information has been derived from exhaustive review of general plans, watershed plans, technical assessments, academic papers, agency policy documents and interviews with agency, NGO, RCD, tribal staff, elected officials and stakeholders. The NCIRWMP staff, TPRC and PRP then review and discuss these data and use them to support the development of regional program and project priorities. Only projects and programs of regional significance are prioritized by the Policy Review Panel.

Magnitude and Breadth: Implementation of the proposed projects will have regional breadth and ever-increasing magnitude as the NCIRWMP continues to implement local projects that contribute towards attainment of regional priorities and benefits. The specific projects in this proposal provide: the development of a sustainable forestry model, water supply reliability, attainment of water quality standards, salmonid habitat and riparian enhancement and restoration, and agricultural enhancement. These projects will act synergistically with each other and with past and future NCIRWMP projects to span the entire region and have lasting, positive effects on its ecological and human communities.

2. Effectively Integrate Water Management Programs and Projects within a Hydrologic Region Identified in the California Water Plan

Description

As with the above Program Preference, this NCIRWMP Proposal meets this Program Preference on two levels – both individual projects and the Proposal as a whole effectively integrate water management programs or projects within the North Coast Hydrologic region, which is recognized in the California Water Plan.

All of the he proposed projects integrate water management programs and projects (*Table 11.2*). The Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management Project builds on over a decade of watershed planning by local, state, and federal agencies to engage agricultural and rural residential landowners in implementing best management practices to restore ecosystem services and protect habitat while ensuring that the area's agricultural traditions are preserved. This project builds on the Salmon Creek Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan, which addresses water supply issues. This project takes further steps to ensure a reliable water supply throughout the watershed while concurrently restoring hydrologic function to creeks and restoring riparian corridors. The Mendocino Jumpstart Integrated Water Plan is an innovative project that implements Mendocino County's new General Plan by utilizing a watershed approach to sustainable development, environmental restoration, and water and energy efficiency. The Mattole Integrated Watershed Management Initiative builds on ongoing efforts in the Mattole River watershed to

restore salmonid populations while ensuring a reliable water supply for the watershed's economically disadvantaged residents. The Mendocino Headwaters Integrated Water Quality Enhancement Project will improve water quality in Mendocino County's upper watersheds through sediment reduction, invasive species removal, native riparian plant restoration, and increased access to BMPs and educational resources for non-English language speakers. It will improve water quality in Mendocino County's upper watersheds through sediment reduction, invasive species removal, native riparian plant restoration, and increased access to BMPs and educational resources for non-English language speakers. These projects represent ongoing sub-regional efforts that integrate sub-projects to effectively contribute towards local, sub-regional, and regional goals.

In addition to the individual projects described above, the NCIRWMP proposal effectively integrates the nineteen prioritized projects. Though geographically separate, these projects collectively operate in an integrated fashion to address cumulative impacts to salmonid populations, water supply reliability, and water quality. These impacts often develop in a decentralized fashion (i.e., sediment originates in many places in these large watersheds and from a diversity of land uses) and so cannot effectively be addressed by one centralized project. Further, the social structures, organizations, and relationships that make these projects viable cannot be centralized into one mega-project. Instead, the NCIRWM process provides a flexible framework for identifying and selecting those projects that best meet Program Preferences and Stateside Priorities, and then provides the infrastructure for supporting the efficient and successful implementation of these projects by knowledgeable and experienced local agencies and groups.

Certainty: Upon implementation, it is certain that the individual projects described above and the suite of projects put forth in the application will effectively integrate water management programs and projects in a region approved by the SWRCB and DWR. There are multiple reasons the NCIRWM Proposal is certain to achieve effective integration. These include:

1. Project proponents and the leadership for the NCIRWMP have long-term relationships with the diversity of relevant stakeholders who are critical to the planning, funding, implementation and success of the high priority projects in this Proposal. These include state and federal agencies such as the DWR, SWRCB, CDFG, California Coastal Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries, Natural Resources Conservation Service, EPA, and others. Additional stakeholder partners include landowners, elected officials, and citizen groups. This web of long-term collaborative relationships is critical to effective project implementation.

2. The NCIRWM Proposal and process relies on the best available science to plan and prioritize projects. The NCIRWM Phase II Plan identifies all of the relevant watershed plans, technical documents and agency guidance for the Region. Project proponents have developed substantial libraries of technical and scientific data in support of project planning and design and have been working collaboratively with agency scientists from DWR, SWRCB, CDFG, and NOAA Fisheries. Scientific and technical background that supports the Proposal and project rationale is included in Attachment 3, Work Plan. Finally, the NCIRWMP Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) is comprised of scientists with a long history of research, planning and implementation experience in the North Coast. This committee evaluates the degree to which projects address Program Preferences and the likelihood that they will provide the intended results. The TPRC recommends priority to the Policy Review Panel based on technical and scientific merit and makes suggested revisions to enhance the project's responsiveness to statewide preferences and priorities. The regional and project-specific emphasis on scientifically and technically sound planning and implementation creates certainty that the NCIRWMP will address water supply and quality impairments and impacts to sensitive habitats.

3. Although the relationships, decision-making structures and science-based plans are in place, funding is a major obstacle to attainment of statewide goals and priorities. The North Coast is ready and is in a very good position to deliver high quality implementation projects that address Program Preferences, yet lacks the

ratepayer base or other financial options to fund these projects from within the region. State grant funds would **remove the uncertainty** of project implementation in this disadvantaged region.

Magnitude and Breadth: The implementation of the suite of proposed projects will have region-wide and long-lasting beneficial effects for the North Coast region. This large magnitude and expansive breadth results from the following:

1. The NCIRWMP Proposal addresses all of the program preferences in an integrated fashion – including water supply reliability, eliminating or reducing pollution to sensitive and impaired habitats, attainment of water quality standards, and safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities. The NCIRWMP Proposal achieves this by fully integrating the goals and objectives of key state agencies, including the SWRCB's TMDL and NPS programs, elements of DWR's California Water Plan including the repair of failing water infrastructure, and CDFG's Coho Recovery Strategy.

2. The three species of salmonids that inhabit the North Coast hydrologic region (steelhead trout, coho and Chinook salmon) are federally listed under Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are the targets of California Department of Fish and Game species recovery plans, as well as substantial State funding and resources. Because these fish are anadromous – spending a substantial part of their lives in the ocean – the status of their populations has far reaching impacts throughout the region, the state and the world. Restoration of viable populations of salmonids to the North Coast region – through a collective program of sediment reduction, passage barrier removal, in-stream flow augmentation, habitat improvement, and NPS/TMDL implementation – will have significant positive impacts on ecosystem health and biodiversity, local, regional and state economies, cultural uses for tribal groups and conflict reduction related to in-stream flows and watershed land use.

3. Water quality and water supply in the North Coast hydrologic region impacts the local population as well as residents from throughout California and the nation. The North Coast is an increasingly popular tourist destination, with millions of visitors per year engaging in water and natural resource related recreation. When disadvantaged communities such as Blue Lake, Fieldbrook, and Happy Camp cannot repair their water infrastructure due to lack of funding, the resultant water supply reliability and water quality impacts threaten the public health of the relatively small local population as well as a large number of visitors from outside the region. Additionally, the impacts to the local economy are substantial – in terms of loss of visitors and impacts to the emerging tourism industry.

3. Address Critical Water Supply or Water Quality Needs of Disadvantaged Communities within the Region

Description

As part of the NCIRWMP long-term planning and science-based project evaluation and prioritization process, the NCIRWMP prioritized projects that addressed public health issues in disadvantaged communities. While nearly all of the prioritized projects benefit disadvantaged communities, seven address serious issues related to drinking water supply and water quality in disadvantaged communities (*Table 11.2, NCIRWMP, Program Preferences by Project*). Because healthy watersheds provide the basis for safe drinking water quality for much of the North Coast Region (while at the same time maintaining other critical beneficial uses of water such as salmonid population viability), the NCIRWMP places an emphasis on the integration between watershed-based and jurisdictionally based planning and project implementation. These projects address both water quality and water supply. The implementation of these projects is based on sound technical and scientific data, feasibility has been evaluated and preliminary or final plans are in place. The projects will contribute towards resolving issues related to safe drinking water and water quality

issues in the disadvantaged communities of Guerneville, Monte Rio, Rio Nido, Cazadero, Blue Lake, Fieldbrook, and Glendale, Happy Camp, Fort Bragg, Willow Creek, Valley Ford, and Bodega.

The Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management Project will benefit the communities of Valley Ford and Bodega through strong support of the local agricultural economy, which is the foundation of both communities. The project will provide water relief, demonstrate sound practices, allow water districts to provide affordable services, and increase the security of the water supply. The Lower Russian River Water Quality Improvement Project (Project # 292), through its *Russian River Pathogen Pollution Prevention Program*, will work with disadvantaged communities to implement targeted community outreach, a river sampling program, voluntary subsidized septic system evaluations, and a demonstration project for septic system repair in an area of the Russian River that is often beset by pathogen related beach closures and water consumption safety issues. The Indian Creek Sewer Pipeline Crossing will upgrade an existing sewer pipeline in the Happy Camp that is in imminent danger of failure. Pipeline failure would release raw sewage into a tributary of the Klamath River, leave approximately 855 local residents without wastewater service, lead to potential Administrative Civil Liability Action taken by the NCRWQCB, damage the fisheries and aquatic habitat in Indian Creek, impact the Native American subsistence fishing and basket material gathering, and pose public health threats to residents and recreationists. The Water Treatment System Upgrade will provide drinking water quality improvements and reliable water supply to Happy Camp, which will soon be out of compliance with requirements to be adopted by the SWRCB. The Waterfall Gulch Transmission Main will benefit the approximately 2,800 service connections of the citizens of the City of Fort Bragg, by improving water system reliability by eliminating possibility of breaks caused by aging pipes, maintaining critical water supply and avoiding Stage Water Emergencies, and improving the quality of drinking water. The HBMWD-Blue Lake Fieldbrook Pipeline Support Retrofit will secure a critical water supply to the communities of Fieldbrook and Blue Lake by assuring a reliable water supply and addressing distribution deficiencies. The Highway 96 Stormceptor will provide a clean, reliable, and safe water supply for the Willow Creek community by removing an environmental and health risk posed by the existing stormwater drainage system.

Certainty: The NCIRWMP framework and process has built-in mechanisms to ensure that safe drinking water projects from disadvantaged communities are identified, planned and implemented, including outreach and technical assistance support, workshops to educate about state, local and federal funding opportunities (with a focus on the IRWM program), a website to disseminate large amounts of complex information to a diverse and dispersed regional population, technical and engineering support to project proponents from disadvantaged communities, one-on-one assistance with applications, and the formation of a regional sub-group comprised of small water supply and wastewater treatment facility operators. The NCIRWM process ensures that all stakeholders are invited to attend meetings and are included as collaborators, and that additional resources are provided to enable them to access funding and technical expertise. It is the intent of the Regional Water Management Group (the seven county consortium leading the North Coast IRWMP effort) that this broad support for disadvantaged communities will act as a catalyst for expansion of safe drinking water supplies in the region. Lack of funding is the most significant obstacle to implementation of safe drinking water projects, and the major factor creating uncertainty in addressing this Program Preference.

Magnitude and Breadth: In this NCIRWMP Proposal, water supply reliability and drinking water quality is fully integrated with other preferences related to water quality standards (TMDL and NPS implementation), conservation and enhancement of sensitive habitat areas (high priority salmonid recovery actions supported by CDFG and NOAA Fisheries) and environmental justice (providing clean drinking water in disadvantaged communities). As outlined in Program Preference 2, this program preference – both as a stand-alone issue and integrated with the other program preferences – has far reaching impacts in the region and the state. Implementation of these critical public health projects in disadvantaged communities has the added benefit of positively impacting the local economy – thereby increasing the likelihood of ongoing system improvements that are less reliant on government funding.

4. Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning

Description

Projects within this Proposal effectively integrate water management and land use planning in a variety of ways – some explicit and some in a less direct fashion. For example, the Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management Project builds on over a decade of watershed planning that incorporates agricultural land use planning on an individual property basis with water management goals including increasing summer flows, improving water quality, and increasing water supply reliability. The program supports multiple Sonoma County general plan objectives. The Mendocino Jumpstart Integrated Water Plan integrates land use planning on the agency level with flood protection, water supply, and water conservation. The Jumpstart project is designed to move Mendocino County forward in implementing its new General Plan, which involves county participation in the "sustainable communities" process and addresses changes to the entire County Code. All projects implement local and regional land use planning priorities, whether these project elements are related to local general plan or regional planning objectives for watershed protection and enhancement, fisheries restoration, clean reliable drinking water supplies, climate change mitigation and adaptation. The NCIRWMP planning process has already developed model general plan language for Humboldt and Siskiyou counties that integrates water management and land use planning, and can be adopted for use by other counties. The projects in the NCIRWMP are well aligned with the priorities outlined in SB 375, which links land use planning with various elements that are critical to sustainable communities.

Certainty: Because the NCIRWMP leadership and planning process to date has prioritized the integration of water management and land use planning, the projects that are included in this proposal reflect this objective and the planning and implementation process is certain to continue to reflect this integration.

Magnitude and Breadth: Because the NCIRWMP has pioneered the integration of water management and land use planning via the development of model general plan templates, and because the NCIRWMP Policy Review Panel has prioritized this integration and uses it as a screen for selecting projects, there is a very high likelihood that this integrated approach will have broad applicability and impact throughout the region and beyond.

5. Address Statewide Priorities

Each prioritized project contained in this Proposal addresses multiple Statewide Priorities (*Table 11.3, NCIRWMP, Phase III Statewide Priorities by Project*). Each category of Statewide Priorities is met by numerous projects within this Proposal; these are briefly described below.

Drought Preparedness

Several projects meet this Priority through promotion of water conservation, improvement of agricultural irrigation efficiencies, and long-term water use reduction. The Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management Project will implement water system upgrades, install water catchment tanks, and promote water conservation practices. The Russian River *Arundo donax* Removal and Riparian Enhancement Program will achieve long-term water use reduction through the removal of the invasive *Arundo*, which utilizes much more water than native vegetation. Likewise, the Sustainable Forests, Clean Water & Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Project will increase average streamflow through select native biomass removal, which increases watershed hydrologic flow in addition to reducing risk of catastrophic forest fire and enhancing forest health. By providing up-to-the-minute weather information, The Real-Time Weather Data for Irrigation Water Management Project will allow irrigators to more efficiently utilize water resources, resulting in water, energy, and monetary savings.

Efficient Use and Reuse of Water

The Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management Project will implement water system upgrades, install water catchment tanks, and promote water conservation in agricultural and municipal water use efficiency measures. The

Real-Time Weather Data for Irrigation Water Management project improves irrigation efficiencies through provision of real-time, local weather data. The Copeland Creek Watershed Project, as the first phase of a multi-phase stormwater detention, recharge and habitat restoration project, will capture and treat urban stormwater runoff through enhancement and restoration of riparian habitat along 16,000 linear feet of Copeland Creek. The Ackerman Creek Habitat Restoration, Copeland Creek Watershed, and Mattole Integrated Watershed Management Initiative projects incorporate and implement low impact development techniques using riparian plantings and wetlands creation while the Highway 96 Stormceptor project utilizes diversion of potentially polluted stormwater flow into a natural basin. The Mendocino Jumpstart project will implement demonstration sites to provide the focus for outreach, education, and active promotion of LID, rainwater harvesting, greywater use, water conservation, and greenhouse gas reduction throughout Mendocino County.

Climate Change Response Actions

Many of the projects put forth in this Proposal implement Climate Change Response Actions through Adaptation, GHG Reduction, sequestration (avoided conversion of forest habitats, biochar soil sequestration, afforestration via habitat restoration) and Energy Consumption Reduction actions. This is achieved through projects that implement water efficiency measures in both agricultural and urban settings, incorporate water management system modifications (installation of rainwater catchment tanks), and re-establish riparian function and enhance upper watershed plant communities through riparian restoration, re-creation of ponds and wetlands, removal of invasive plant species, and select thinning of oak woodlands. Several projects will result in GHG Reduction through reduced energy consumption; through implementation of measures to reduce water consumption, these projects also reduce the associated energy consumption. Additionally, several projects directly improve water system energy efficiency. Many projects that have climate change mitigation benefits also have climate change adaptation benefits – an example being habitat restoration/sustainable forest management making stream systems and associated plant and animal communities more resilient, while also helping human communities to adapt by protecting water supplies and attenuating the expected volatility of flood regimes.

Expand Environmental Stewardship

Each project in this Proposal acts to expand environmental stewardship; most projects take actions that sustain water and flood management ecosystems and result in watershed improvement, floodplain improvement, improvements to instream function. Projects that remove invasive plants and/or plant native riparian plants improve watershed, instream, and floodplain function through nutrient sequestration, provision of woody debris and nutrients, and provision of recharge areas. The sediment reduction projects provide environmental benefits through improved water quality and salmonid habitat, and slope stabilization efforts. Through selective removal of shrubby undergrowth, the Sustainable Forests, Clean Water & Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Project will restore oak forest to pre-fire suppression structure, which will improve forest health, hydrologic function and groundwater recharge potential. Additionally, the Sustainable Forests, Clean Water & Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Project will indirectly expand environmental stewardship through the enhancement of the restoration economy in forests throughout the North Coast region. The Nissa-kah Creek Fish Passage projects will improve access to salmonid habitat for all adult and juveniles steelhead trout. Several of the projects (e.g. Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management, Mendocino Jumpstart, Lower Russian River Water Quality Improvement Project) also have a strong educational component, increasing both the magnitude and breadth of those projects' environmental stewardship impacts.

Practice Integrated Flood Management

By providing a collection basin for stormwater, the Highway 96 Stormceptor project will yield improved flood protection by diminishing the potential of backwater flooding; the Mendocino Jumpstart Program will also use on-site infiltration and storage to improve flood management, while other projects provide improved flood protection and enhanced floodplain ecosystems through riparian revegetation and instream enhancement projects. Three of the

projects include LID techniques to slow or capture stormwater to facilitate surface water recharge through restoration and enhancement of natural environmental features including riparian vegetation and channel stabilization – these are the Ackerman Creek Habitat Restoration, the Mendocino Jumpstart Integrated Water Plan, and the Copeland Creek Watershed Detention/Recharge, Habitat Restoration, and Steelhead Refugia Project.

Protect Surface and Groundwater Quality

Many of the projects, through previously mentioned environmental and other benefits, such as riparian revegetation, instream restoration, slope stabilization, and sediment reduction, act to protect and restore surface water quality. The Jumpstart Project safeguards public and environmental health slowing stormwater and utilizing LID techniques to reduce irrigation needs, while the Highway 96 Stormceptor will remove a potential source of contamination from a municipal water supply intake. The Del Norte Agricultural Enhancement Program will engage dairies in the sensitive Smith River and Lake Earl watersheds in nutrient management planning to reduce pathogen and nutrient loading to surface and ground waters.

Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources

Ten of the projects put forth in this Proposal benefit tribal lands, restore or enhance the cultural value of wild lands, or provide water quality or supply benefits to Native American communities. Three of the project proponents are Native American Tribal Groups. With the recent inclusion of three tribal members on the Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee, the NCIRWMP planning process now has a governance structure that more comprehensively considers tribal water and natural resources issues in its planning and implementation priorities.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Fourteen of the proposed projects are entirely and three are partially located within DACs. These projects were designed to meet the water supply and quality needs of the Disadvantaged Communities that they serve – from ensuring a reliable water supply (e.g. Waterfall Gulch Transmission Main, HBMWD-Blue Lake Fieldbrook Pipeline Support Retrofit) to improving impaired waterways (Lower Russian River Water Quality Improvement Project) and aging drinking water supply infrastructure (e.g. Happy Camp Water Treatment System Upgrade, Waterfall Gulch Transmission Main). Collectively, these projects ensure equitable distribution of benefits through the development of multi-benefit projects that have considered affected DACs and vulnerable populations, address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DACS, and address critical water supply or quality needs of California Native American Tribes. Please see Section 3, above, and Attachment 12, Disadvantaged Community Assistance for more information about how projects in this Proposal will benefit DACs.

Certainty: The suite of projects put forth in this application are highly certain to meet the Statewide Priorities identified in *Table 11.3, NCIRWMP, Phase III Statewide Priorities* due to the existing long-term collaborative relationships and NCIRWMP reliance on sound scientific data as explained in Section 2, above. Projects and programs in the North Coast are very strongly aligned with the above listed priorities, and ongoing iterative planning for the implementation of projects that address these priorities has been underway for many years.

Magnitude and Breadth: The overall magnitude and breadth of the projects' ability to meet Statewide Priorities is substantial, as these projects were selected based on the TPRC and PRP's rigorous evaluation of those projects most likely to achieve the statewide priorities listed above. Because of their ability to serve as examples of multiple-objective integrated projects that address pressing environmental concerns, the impacts of these projects will be far-reaching and felt throughout the North Coast region as described in Section 2, above.

6. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions

The nature of the NCIRWMP planning and implementation process – representing over five years of active collaboration and dialogue among seven socio-politically diverse north coast counties, multiple tribal governments

and numerous stakeholders – ensures that water related conflicts within the region are addressed proactively and through methods that involve joint planning and problem solving as opposed to litigation. Many of the projects in this proposal proactively respond to identified problems that, if unchecked, would likely develop into conflicts within the region. High quality planning and a commitment to regional collaboration and communication has resulted in the avoidance and resolution of many water related conflicts in the region and is expected to continue doing to into the future.

Table 11.2 NCIRWMP Program Preferences by Project

ID #	Project Name	Inclusion of regional projects or programs	Effectively integrate water management programs and projects in approved region	Address critical water supply or water quality needs of DACs within the region	Effectively integrate water management with land use planning	Address Statewide priorities
402	Ackerman Creek Habitat Restoration					•
345	Bodega Bay HU Water Resources Management Project	•	•	•	•	•
292	Lower Russian River Water Quality Improvement Project	•		•		•
364	Mendocino Jumpstart Integrated Water Plan		•		•	•
374/6	Nissa-kah Creek Fish Passage Removal					•
393	Russian River *Arundo donax* Removal and Riparian Enhancement Program					•
396	Copeland Creek Watershed Detention/Recharge, Habitat Restoration, and Steelhead Refugia Project					•
289	Camp Creek Habitat Protection - Road Decommissioning Implementation Project					•
311	Indian Creek Sewer Pipeline Crossing			•		•
306	Water Treatment System Upgrade			•		•
408	Del Norte Agricultural Enhancement Program					•
352	Gualala River Sediment Reduction Program					•
444	Mattole Integrated Watershed Management Initiative		•			•
358	Mendocino Headwaters Integrated Water Quality Enhancement Project		•			•
355	Real-Time Weather Data for Irrigation Water Management					•
441	Waterfall Gulch Transmission Main			•		•
362	HBMWD-Blue Lake Fieldbrook Pipeline Support Retrofit			•		•
405	Sustainable Forests, Clean Water & Carbon Sequestration Demonstration Project	•				•
357	Highway 96 Stormceptor			•		•

Table 11.3 NCIRWMP Statewide Priorities

Project ID#	Statewide Priorities: Drought Preparedness					Efficient Use and Reuse of Water			Climate Change Response Actions										Expand Environmental Stewardship				Practice Integrated Flood Management					Protect Surface and Groundwater Quality		Improve Tribal Water and Natural	Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits			
									Adaptation				GHG Reduction		Reduction of Energy Consumption																			
	Promote water conservation, conjunctive use, reuse and recyclying	Improve landscape and ag irrigation efficiencies	Achieve long-term water use reduction	Efficient groundwater basin management	Establish system interties	Increase urban and ag water use efficiency measures	Capture, store, treat, and use urban stormwater runoff	Incorporate and implement low impact development design features, techniques, and practices to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff	Advance and expand conjunctive management	Use and reuse water more efficiently	Water management system modifications to address anticipated climate change impacts	Establish migration corridors, re-establish river-floodplain hydrologic continuity, reintroduce anadromous fish, and enhance and protect upper watershed forests and meadows	Reduce energy consumption	Use cleaner energy sources to move and treat water	Water use efficiency	Water Recycling	Water System Energy Efficiency	Reuse Runoff	Watershed improvement	Floodplain improvement	Instream function improvement	Sustaining water and flood management ecosystems	Better emergency preparedness and response	Improved flood protection	More sustainable flood and water management systems	Enhanced floodplain ecosystems	LID techniques that store and infiltrate runoff while protecting groundwater	Protect and restore surface and groundwater quality to safeguard public and environmental health and secure water supplies for beneficial uses	Salt/nutrient management planning as a component of an IRWM Plan	Development of Tribal Consultation, collaboration, and access to funding for water programs and projects	Increase the participation of small and DACs in the IRWM process	Develop multi-benefit projects considering affected disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations	Projects that address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DACS	Address critical water supply or quality needs of California Native American Tribes
402								•				•							•	•	•	•				•	•			•	•	•		
345	•		•			•				•	•	•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•				•		•		•	•	•		
292												•							•	•	•	•									•	•	•	
364						•		•		•	•	•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
374/376												•							•											•				
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358												•							•	•	•	•								•	•			
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362																			•	•	•	•									•	•	•	
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357								•		•			•		•		•		•	•	•	•		•				•		•	•		•	•