



## A9. Program Preferences

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### Program Preferences Met by Proposal

This attachment demonstrates that this Proposal contains significant, dedicated, and well-defined projects that meet multiple Program Preferences of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Proposition 84 (Prop 84) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Guidelines. Seven out of eight of the Program Preferences are met by the projects included in this Proposal. All four projects meet more than one Program Preference. This attachment details the specific information, including Program Preferences met by each of the projects (Table 9-1); projects that meet Statewide Priorities (Table 9-2); disadvantaged community (DAC) projects that meet critical water supply or quality needs (Table 9-3); existing data and studies that demonstrate the certainty that projects will meet Program Preferences (Table 9-4), and the breadth and magnitude to which the Program Preferences will be met (Table 9-5).

The projects that address these preferences and priorities include the following:

- *Project 1:* Recycled Water Enhancement Project, City of Santa Barbara – Replaces the existing failing tertiary filtration system at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), allowing the City of Santa Barbara to restore and improve recycled water service. The existing system has reached the end of its useful life and is not currently operating. Benefits of Project 1 include increasing recycled water use to displace the use of State Water Project (SWP) water and groundwater use, improving water quality, increasing groundwater, increasing regional supply reliability, enhanced wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability, reduced wastewater discharge to the ocean, reduced energy use and avoided greenhouse gas emissions, promotion of recycled water use through school education and tours, and gains toward meeting City of Santa Barbara’s 20x2020 conservation goal.
- *Project 2:* Twitchell Reservoir Sediment Management and Groundwater Recharge Project, Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District (SMVWCD) – Increases groundwater recharge and supplies and protects natural habitat located downstream by strategically removing accumulated sediment in Twitchell Reservoir. Groundwater recharge to the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin benefits two DACs – the Cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe.
- *Project 3:* Recycled Water Expansion and Golf Course Retrofit Project, Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) – Replaces the use of groundwater with recycled water to irrigate the fairways on a public golf course. Benefits include expanding the use of recycled water, reducing the use of potable groundwater, and adding greatly needed discharge capacity for the WWTP.
- *Project 4:* Secondary Treatment Reliability Project, City of Guadalupe – Improves operational reliability and treatment performance of the WWTP in this DAC and moves the WWTP closer to its goal of full tertiary treatment.

The Proposal addresses multiple Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities, including regional projects, integrated projects, resolution of water-related conflicts, contribution to CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives, DAC water supply needs, integration with land-use planning, drought preparedness, using and reusing water more efficiently, climate change response actions, expanded environmental stewardship, protection of surface and groundwater quality, equitable distribution of benefits (see Tables 9-1 and 9-2).

**TABLE 9-1** Program Preferences Met by Projects in Proposal

| Project | Program Preferences       |  |   |   |   |   |                              |
|---------|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|
|         | Include Regional Projects | Integrate Projects within Hydrological Subregion | Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts | Contribute to Attainment of One or More CALFED Objectives | Address Critical Water Supply or Quality Needs of DAC | Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning | Address Statewide Priorities |
| 1       | ✓                         | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓                            |
| 2       | ✓                         | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓                            |
| 3       | ✓                         | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓                            |
| 4       | ✓                         | ✓  | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓   | ✓                            |

**TABLE 9-2** Projects That Meet Statewide Priorities

| Project | Statewide Priorities |                                      |                                 |                                  |                                      |   |   |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
|         | Drought Preparation  | Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently | Climate Change Response Actions | Expand Environmental Stewardship | Practice Integrated Flood Management | Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality | Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits |
| 1       | ✓                    | ✓                                    | ✓                               | ✓                                | ✓                                    | ✓   | ✓   |
| 2       | ✓                    | ✓                                    | ✓                               | ✓                                | ✓                                    | ✓   | ✓   |
| 3       | ✓                    | ✓                                    | ✓                               | ✓                                | ✓                                    | ✓   | ✓   |
| 4       | ✓                    | ✓                                    | ✓                               | ✓                                | ✓                                    | ✓   | ✓   |

Several projects meet a critical water supply or water quality need of a DAC in the region. Table 9-3 lists the projects and how they assist in meeting critical water supply and water quality needs.

**TABLE 9-3** DAC Projects That Meet Critical Water Supply or Quality Need

| DAC Project |  | Meeting Critical Water Supply or Quality Need   |
|-------------|--|---|
| <b>2</b>    | Twitchell Reservoir Sediment Management and Groundwater Recharge Project, SMVWCD | The Cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe, both DACs, rely heavily on groundwater from the basin. SMVWCD and the City of Santa Maria are partners in this Project. The basin has been the subject of a long-running conflict over now adjudicated water rights. With a tenuous peace in place, reduced supplies of groundwater would certainly lead to renewed conflict water rights. In order to fully replenish the groundwater basin, sediment must be cleared from the reservoir or recharge operations just downstream from the Twitchell Reservoir will be less successful. |
| <b>4</b>    | Secondary Treatment Reliability Project, City of Guadalupe                       | Guadalupe has limited imported SWP water and groundwater supply. The development of infrastructure to reliably deliver and treat water is essential to enabling the City to meet water supply and water quality needs, which can only be realized upon completion of Project 4. This project will allow Guadalupe to then take the next steps toward producing recycled water, which will increase local water supply reliability and lessen the demand on the basin and imported SWP water.  |

## Certainty that Proposal will Meet Program Preferences

There are several factors that give assurance that the projects in the Proposal will meet the Program Preferences. All projects were developed over many years and have undergone multiple levels of internal agency or city review and scrutiny. These high-priority projects were also vetted during the Prop 84 Round 2 project selection process, giving the Cooperating Partners and the IRWM Regional Water Management Group over 8 months to evaluate and select the best of the best. The County of Santa Barbara, as the lead agency for updating of the IRWM Plan 2013, dedicated countless hours to the selection process to assure that each project could be successfully integrated and executed for the benefit of the entire region.

During this project selection process, each project underwent a high level of scrutiny. The projects were selected based on criteria designed to assure that the projects met Prop 84 Guidelines, achieved regional IRWM Plan 2013 Objectives and helped resolve key regional issues. The details of the project selection process follow.

### Project Selection Process

The criteria used to evaluate each project included:

- *Technical Feasibility* – A feasibility study and other technical evaluations, engineer’s cost estimate, budget, and schedule was required.
- *Ready-to-Go* – A review of whether the project would be ready for implementation by October 2013, including an approved work plan, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process close to completion, complete, or near-complete design, and no foreseeable barriers to completion of permitting.
- *Matching Funds* – Matching funds from sponsoring agencies or cities were required with the exception of DACs.
- *Quantifiable Benefits* – Benefits were measured and quantified by an M.Cubed economist to assure that they could be achieved. Benefits included reducing water demand, increasing water supplies, improving water supply reliability, improving water quality, providing specific benefits to DACs, integration between multiple agencies, combating climate change, improving resource stewardship, and flood management.
- *Multiple Objectives, Targets, and Benefits* – Projects were evaluated to ensure that they addressed multiple regional IRWM objectives, moved the region to achieving IRWM Plan 2013 targets, and provided multiple objectives.

All projects in this Proposal are technically feasible, likely to achieve stated objectives and targets, ready for implementation, have local match funding in place, and provide benefits that will be achieved. All projects have performance measures to quantify and verify project performance. A monitoring system or approach has been established for each project. Finally, each project will collect and analyze data that will be used to monitor performance in meeting goals and objectives of the IRWM Plan.

## Existing Data and Studies

Technical feasibility is a particularly important criterion providing certainty that the projects will meet Program Preferences. Table 9-4 sites existing data and studies that provide assurance that the projects are technically sound and highly likely to be implemented. Please refer to Appendices 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4 for additional information on the studies cited below.

**TABLE 9-4** Existing Data and Studies Demonstrating Certainty that Projects will meet Program Preferences

| Project |  | Existing Data and Studies Demonstrating Certainty that Projects will meet Program Preferences  |
|---------|--|--|
| 1       | Recycled Water Enhancement Project, City of Santa Barbara                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Intensity of Santa Barbara’s Water System, Lena Moffitt and Mike Mosley, Santa Barbara Public Works, May 2008.</li> <li>• City of Santa Barbara, Water Supply Planning Study, Final, Carollo Engineers, August 2009.</li> <li>• City of Santa Barbara 2011 Long-Term Water Supply Plan, June 14, 2011.</li> <li>• El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant Tertiary Filtration Facility, Engineering Assessment and Preliminary Design Services, Tertiary Filtration Facility Preliminary Design Report, City of Santa Barbara, CDM Smith, February 19, 2013.</li> <li>• South Coast Recycled Water Development Plan, Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan 2013, Draft, March 2013.</li> </ul>                                       |
| 2       | Twitchell Reservoir Sediment Management and Groundwater Recharge Project, SMVWCD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twitchell Project Manual, Twitchell Management Authority &amp; MNS Engineers, Inc. July 22, 2010.</li> <li>• 2011 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition; Santa Maria Valley Management Area, Luhdorff and Scalmanini. April 2012.</li> <li>• Twitchell Intake Structure Dredging Project, Project Description for Sediment Removal in front of Intake Structure, Urban Planning Concepts, Inc., January 2013.</li> <li>• Twitchell Reservoir Dredging Project Initial Study, Urban Planning Concepts, Inc. January 15, 2013.</li> <li>• Final Mitigated Negative Declaration, Twitchell Reservoir Dredging Project, Urban Planning Concepts, Inc. February 28, 2013.</li> </ul> |
| 3       | Recycled Water Expansion and Golf Course Retrofit Project, LCS D                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycled Water System Analysis, Rancho Maria Golf Course, Penfield &amp; Smith, November 2009.</li> <li>• Laguna County Sanitation District Recycled Water Agronomic Investigation, CH2MHILL, February 10, 2009.</li> <li>• Rancho Maria Golf Course Soil Test Results and Plant Survey, CH2MHILL, February 2010.</li> <li>• Rancho Maria Golf Course Soil Sampling and Analysis Plan, CH2MHILL, May 3, 2010.</li> <li>• Rancho Maria Golf Course Adaptive Management Plant, CH2MHILL, May 3, 2010.</li> </ul>  |
| 4       | Secondary  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical Memorandum 1 – Conceptual Design, Dudek Engineering, May 2010.</li> </ul>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Treatment Reliability Project, City of Guadalupe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical Memorandum 2 – Basis of Design, Dudek Engineering, September 2010.</li></ul> |
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## **Breadth and Magnitude to Which Program Preferences Will be Met**

The breadth and magnitude to which the Program Preferences will be met can be gauged by the degree to which the projects meet the IRWM Plan objectives. The IRWM Plan articulated nine objectives that will be used to organize the breadth and magnitude to which Program Preferences will be met, demonstrated by the quantitative and qualitative information provided in Table 9-5.

The objectives of the Santa Barbara County Region IRWM Plan 2013 are as follows:

- Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies
- Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies
- Practice balanced natural resource stewardship
- Protect and improve water quality
- Improve flood management
- Improve emergency preparedness
- Maintain and enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability
- Address climate change issues
- Ensure equitable distribution of benefits.

**TABLE 9-5** Breadth and Magnitude to Which IRWM Objectives are Achieved

| Project |  Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies |  Protect, manage, and increase ground-water supplies |  Practice balanced natural resource stewardship |  Protect and improve water quality                      |  Improve flood management |  Improve emergency preparedness |  Enhance water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency and reliability |  Address climate change issues |  Ensure equitable distribution of benefits |
|---------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 1       | Recycles 700 AFY. Achieves IRWM, UWMP goals. Facilitates eventual production of 1,400 AFY by 2035.                              | Recycled water used instead of groundwater supplies.  |  | Micro-filtration technology allows the City to reliably meet Title 22 standards for turbidity (<0.5 NTU for microfiltration technology). |  |  | Replace existing failing tertiary treatment facilities with microfiltration technology   | Produces 800 AFY recycled water. Achieves 20x2020 & UWMP goals  |   |
| 2       | Recharges 32,000 acre-feet of ground-water annually   | Recharges 32,000 acre-feet of ground-water annually   | Prevents sediment accumulation in hundreds of acres of sensitive habitat downstream of Reservoir                                 | Enables replenishment of the Santa Maria Valley Groundwater Basin with natural rainwater from the Twitchell Reservoir                    | Maintains flood control operational flexibility of Twitchell Reservoir                                       | Maintains flood control operational flexibility of Twitchell Reservoir   | Removes sediment blocking output structure   |   | Serves disadvantaged communities that utilize groundwater throughout the Santa Maria Valley                                   |
| 3       | Provides annual average 500,000 gpd of discharge capacity   | Annual average of 500,000 gpd discharge capacity offsetting ground-water extraction   |  |  |  |  | Expands recycled water infrastructure increasing discharge capacity  |   |   |
| 4       | Enables development of infrastructure   |   |  | Project results in consistent attainment of compliance with  |  |  | Enhances operational reliability of WWTP and   | Reduces energy use by 90 kWh/day  | Project will directly benefit the entire City of  |

**TABLE 9-5** Breadth and Magnitude to Which IRWM Objectives are Achieved

|  |  |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |                           |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---------------------------|
|  | to distribute recycled water (150 AFY) |  |  | the as stated in the WWTP's Waste Discharge Requirements as ordered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board |  |  | reduces operational costs. Reduces energy consumption by 90 kWh/day |  | Guadalupe, which is a DAC |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|---------------------------|