



UPPER SANTA CLARA RIVER

Integrated Regional Water Management

ATTACHMENT 6 – PROGRAM PREFERENCES

The Round 1 Planning Grant application discussed how the Upper Santa Clara IRWMP group intended to update the IRWMP and described how the IRWMP update will address the Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities in Proposition 84. The IRWMP update is currently underway as is progress towards meeting these Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities. Further, the development of the Recycled Water Master Plan Update (RWMP Update) and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document, and the Update of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan (SCV WUE SP) proposed as part of this Round 2 Planning Grant will help to further address some of the specific Program Preferences and Statewide Priorities in much more detail, as summarized in the following table and discussed further below.

Program Preferences	Update Recycled Water Master Plan and CEQA Document	SCV Water Use Efficiency Strategic Plan Update
INCLUDE REGIONAL PROJECTS/PROGRAMS	♦	♦
INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT WITHIN HYDROLOGIC REGION	♦	♦
EFFECTIVELY RESOLVE SIGNIFICANT WATER-RELATED CONFLICTS	♦	♦
CONTRIBUTE TO ATTAINMENT OF CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM	♦	♦
ADDRESS CRITICAL WATER SUPPLY/QUALITY NEEDS OF A DAC	♦	♦
INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT WITH LAND USE PLANNING	♦	♦
FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE MULTIPLE BENEFITS		
ADDRESS STATEWIDE PRIORITIES OF:		
A. DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS	♦	♦
B. USE AND REUSE WATER MORE EFFICIENTLY	♦	♦
C. CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE ACTIONS	♦	♦
D. EXPAND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP	♦	♦
E. PRACTICE INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT		
F. PROTECT SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY	♦	♦
G. IMPROVE TRIBAL WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES		
H. ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS	♦	♦
I. INTEGRATE STORM WATER RESOURCE PLAN REQUIREMENTS	♦	♦



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Program Preferences

Include Regional Projects or Programs

The SCV WUE SP was developed out of a collaborative process of all the public water systems in the Valley (Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA), Valencia Water Company, Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, and Los Angeles Waterworks District 36) as well as other stakeholders. Currently four of the demand management projects within the SCV WUE SP are being implemented with funding to be received from Proposition 84 Round 1 implementation funds. Update of the SCV WUE SP will affect the entire CLWA service area, including the service areas of the four retailers. The SCV WUE SP will be used to develop a conservation strategy determining the amount of conservation that is required to meet the SBx7-7 (20x2020) demand goals. This will be intertwined with a strategy of efficient recycled water use, as a combination of recycled water and conservation can be used to help the region in meeting its future 20x2020 goals. Therefore, the update of CLWA's RWMP and the update of the SCV WUE SP are perfectly timed together. The update of the RWMP includes the regional implementation project the Southern End Recycled Water System Project (Phase 2C) also currently being funded by Round 1 implementation funds, and will also help to identify those future locations of the remaining phases of the build out of the RWMP.

Integrate Water Management within Hydrologic Region

Updating of the RWMP and the SCV WUE SP together maximize the interconnection between conservation and projecting of recycled water use that is anticipated within the Valley, and help to identify what recycled water projects and conservation strategies in combination will be the most effective within CLWA's and the retailer service areas. Updating of these documents in the context of the IRWMP will allow for a combination of those projects and strategies to achieve multiple goals within a coordinated implementation effort.

Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts

Various users of the Santa Clara River have been in dispute over acceptable levels of chloride salt in the river as well as acceptable methods to manage and reduce chloride levels. In the Upper Santa Clara River, the river gains chlorides through the discharge of treated wastewater and the use of self-regenerating water softeners (now banned in the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District [SCVSD] service area). Affected downstream users include farmers growing strawberries, avocados, and nursery crops. Therein exists the conflict, a need to provide water and sanitary services to the upper watershed at a reasonable cost and a need to provide low-salt water to downstream agricultural users. Drought increases the salt in the water supplies for the upper watershed resulting in elevated chloride levels in treated water discharged to the river.



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CLWA provides recycled water to the Santa Clarita Valley as the water wholesaler. In the current RWMP, CLWA projects an increasing need for recycled water that will reach 17,400 acre-feet per year by 2030. To meet the project objective of accommodating recycled water reuse opportunities, the SCVSD would make recycled water available in quantities needed to support CLWA's RWMP. Using recycled water reduces the use of potable water and eases concerns of a water shortage during drought. Use of recycled water would use the expected growth in treated effluent as its source of supply. Therefore, updating of the RWMP will inform the capital program decisions facing the SCVSD in this effort.

Contribute to Attainment of CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The four CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives can be summarized as follows:

1. Ecosystem Quality
2. Water Supply
3. Water Quality
4. Levee System Integrity

The Upper Santa Clara IRWMP region partially receives State Water Project water delivered through the Delta; actions within the Region could contribute to the success of CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives. The IRWMP Stakeholders made reduction in potable water demand one of the regional objectives. The current target for that objective is a "ten percent overall reduction in projected urban water demand throughout the Region by 2030 through implementation of water conservation measures". Any reduction in water demand would reduce demand on imported water and contribute to the attainment of CALFED objectives.

Additionally, SBx7-7 has been enacted, mandating that urban water suppliers reduce statewide water use (in gallons per capita per day) by 20 percent by 2020. Methods of complying with SBx7-7 include enhanced water conservation, water use efficiency, and use of recycled water. Updating of the RWMP and the SCV WUE SP together maximize the interconnection between conservation and projecting of recycled water use that is anticipated within the Valley, and help to identify what recycled water projects and conservation strategies in combination will be most effective within CLWA's and the retailer service areas. Updating of these documents in the context of the IRWMP will allow for a combination of those projects and strategies to achieve multiple goals within a single implementation effort, and therefore would contribute to the attainment of CALFED objectives.



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Address Water Supply and Water Quality Needs of Disadvantaged Communities

During development of the IRWMP, no communities that met the strict State definition of a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) were identified. However, in the spirit of providing “a safe, clean, affordable, and sufficient water supply to meet the needs of California residents, farms, and businesses”, an outreach effort directed at DAC members was developed and a DAC Outreach Subcommittee to the Regional Water Management Group was formed. The DAC Outreach subcommittee contacted DAC members through opinion surveys in areas where economically disadvantaged people were likely to seek services. These surveys did not identify any water quality or supply issues unique to DACs.

With the recent completion of the County of Los Angeles’s One Valley One Vision (OVOV) land use planning document, the OVOV update of the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, and the 2010 Census data, there is a wealth of new information available to assist in identifying existing and potential new stakeholders, including DAC’s, tribal communities, and environmental justice communities. These types of outreach efforts are continual efforts as part of the USCR IRWMP and will be throughout the IRWMP Update. It is hoped that the 2010 Census will make it easier to identify and coordinate with DACs and to identify and address potential water quality or water supply issues of these communities.

Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning

Updating of the SCV WUE SP and RWMP are a direct response to the need to accommodate anticipated population growth, in times when imported supplies may be less viable and there is a need to reduce demand (20x2020). Two projects currently being implemented (and which received Implementation Grant Round 1 funds), are projects from within the SCV WUE SP and the RWMP. The four WUE programs within the SCV WUE SP are designed to help CLWA and the water retailers meet their 20x2020 requirements under SBx7-7. Santa Clarita Valley Large Landscape Audit & Incentive Program will target the City of Santa Clarita Landscape Maintenance Districts, Los Angeles County Parks and Homeowner’s Associations. Santa Clarita Valley CII Audit & Customized Incentive Program will target major non-residential users including amusement parks, colleges and universities, hotels, hospitals and other customers identified by the retail water agencies. Residential SCV Landscape Contractor Certification and Weather-Based Irrigation controller (WBIC) Program would target all landscape contractors and maintenance companies in the Santa Clarita Valley. Recycled water from the Santa Clarita Valley Southern End Recycled Water Project implementation project will be used for landscape associated with parks, schools as well as private development. Installation of WBICs complements the recycled water program to reduce potable demand of landscapes or stretch recycled supplies further.

Updating of the SCV WUE SP and RWMP will also inform the next update of the Urban Water Management Plan (2015), and require coordination with local planning agencies and with the Los Angeles County and City of Santa Clarita’s One Valley One Vision document General Plan Updates.



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For Flood Management – Projects That Provide Multiple Benefits

This application is not seeking Proposition 1E funding and therefore this Program Preference is not applicable.

Statewide Priorities

Drought Preparedness

Three of the five objectives within the IRWMP relate to drought preparedness:

- Reduce Water Demand *by* implementing technological, legislative and behavioral changes that will reduce use demands for water.
- Improve Operational Efficiency *by* maximizing water system operational flexibility and efficiency, including energy efficiency.
- Increase Water Supply *by* understanding future regional demands and obtain necessary water supply sources.

One way to lessen the severity of a drought's effect on Santa Clarita Valley is to prepare in advance by: (a) diversifying the various sources of supply, (b) developing a “drought-proof” supply, (c) identifying the types of water uses in the Region, and (d) reducing demand from non-essential uses.

Updating the RWMP and SCV WUE SP directly contribute to the attainment of these objectives by reducing potable demands, by developing a conservation strategy that uses both recycled water and conservation in order to meet future 20x2020 demand goals. Additionally, data gathered as part of the two updates will provide a picture of various water uses in the Santa Clarita Valley. This data will help target water demand reductions under all conditions, but could be vital in reducing non-essential uses in the event of a drought.

Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

SBx7-7 mandates that urban water suppliers reduce statewide water use (in gallons per capita per day) by 20 percent by 2020. Methods of complying with SBx7-7 include enhanced water conservation, water use efficiency, and recycled water use. The SCV WUE SP will be used to develop a conservation strategy determining the amount of conservation that is required to meet the SBx7-7 demand goals. This will be intertwined with a strategy of efficient recycled water use, as a combination of recycled water and conservation can be used to help the region in meeting its future 20x2020 goals. Therefore, the update of the CLWA's RWMP is perfectly timed for an update with the SCV WUE SP. The update of the IRWMP plan will provide a forum for the Region as a whole to address water use efficiency and recycled water use.



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Climate Change Response Actions

The projects proposed in this proposal address adaptation to climate change. Implementation of this proposal would diversify the supply sources available in the Region, promote water use efficiency, and result in increased water recycling. Importantly, the new recycled water supply source will require less energy and result in fewer greenhouse gas emissions than a like amount of imported water. Energy savings (and greenhouse gas emission reductions) are also enhanced by reduced water demands. The conservation programs that will be developed within the update of the SCV WUE SP will reduce not only water demand, but wastewater treatment demands as well.

Expand Environmental Stewardship

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the update of the RWMP will evaluate all of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that implementation of recycled water projects within the Santa Clarita Valley would have on the environment. Further, both projects promote stewardship through conservation of resources, and protection of water quality.

Practice Integrated Flood Management

The SCVSD provides wastewater management services for the City of Santa Clarita and adjacent unincorporated areas. The SCVSD collects wastewater from households and businesses within its service area and treats the wastewater at its Saugus and Valencia Water Reclamation Plants. Most of the treated wastewater is not currently reused and is discharged to the Santa Clara River. The RWMP Update will seek out additional ways put more wastewater from the region to beneficial use and to make it feasible to deliver recycled water to more end users in the future. This will change the flows into the Santa Clarita River which may have an impact on flooding downstream. This will be influenced by the RWMP Update and discussed as part of the SCVSD's EIR for their project.

Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

All projects associated with this proposal protect surface and groundwater quality.

Programs within the SCV WUE SP target outdoor water application, including large landscape audits, installation of WBICs, and specialized training for landscape contractors and maintenance companies. These programs will limit application of excessive water and, therefore, undesirable salts and nutrients to the landscape. These programs will reduce runoff and improve the quality of any receiving waters. In addition, water use information from the audits and landscape programs will allow the Region to better manage the salts and nutrients through reductions of water use, and greater accounting of where salts and nutrients are applied in the watershed.

Updating of the RWMP will help to develop and implement recycled water projects that both secure water supplies for beneficial uses while guarding groundwater quality. The projects will need to be implemented in concert with the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan currently in development for



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the basin. The Salt and Nutrient Management Plan allows the region to most effectively use recycled water without degrading the local groundwater supply.

Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources

The Santa Clarita Valley is within the historic range of the Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, though there are no designated tribal lands within the watershed. The IRWMP has solicited the input and participation from a broad Stakeholder group, including a specific solicitation to the Tataviam. Unfortunately, no tribal representatives have participated to date. The IRWMP Stakeholders will continue to solicit tribal participation.

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

As described earlier, the IRWMP has not identified communities that met the State definition for a DAC. Additional outreach directed at economically disadvantaged areas and populations did not find any water quality or supply issues unique to DACs. Likewise, outreach to California Native American Tribes did not identify any critical unique water supply or water quality needs. However, this proposal contains regional project and programs that benefit a large geographic area. The projects and programs of this proposal do not adversely affect one particular group but rather equitably distribute benefits to a broad geographic area and all residents and water users of that area.

Integrate Stormwater Resource Plan Requirements

Achieving increased water use efficiency outdoors means less water running off landscaped areas into the streets, storm drains, and ultimately into the Santa Clara River. The SCV WUE SP combines education efforts and efficient technologies to ensure that more of our valuable water are delivered to appropriate landscaping and less of it pollutes our communities as urban runoff. Capturing, storing, treating and using urban stormwater runoff (such as percolation to usable aquifers, domestic stormwater capture systems, or the creation of catch basins), and the incorporation and implementation of low impact development are methods could add flexibility to the areas overall water supplies and provide increased efficiency.