

8 ATTACHMENT 6 - PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Summarize how the work to be completed will result in an IRWM Plan that addresses the IRWM Program Preferences. Discuss how the work will result in an IRWM Plan that meets each individual program preference claimed. The IRWM Program Preferences can be found in the Guidelines Section II.F and Section IV of this PSP.

In considering which program preference will be addressed through implementation of the revised IRWM Plan, applicants should consider work plan tasks included in this grant application as well as other work tasks planned and funded with other resources. If the program preference will be met with funding obtained from outside sources (that is, it is not detailed in the scope of work to be performed under this grant) additional detail discussing the specifics of the work to be performed and how it will result in accomplishing the program preference being addressed must be included in Attachment 6. If the existing IRWM Plan already accommodates one or more program preferences, indicate which ones and describe how the current IRWM Plan addresses each program preference.

In describing how a preference is met, applicants should highlight portions of the IRWM Plan or revised IRWM Plan that, when implemented, will meet the preference. For example, if one of the IRWM Plan's objectives is to prepare the region for a multi-year drought, the applicant should highlight that IRWM Plan objective and any projects that have been identified in a IRWM Plan's priority list of projects that will help achieve the objective.

The following is a discussion on how the updated IRWMP will satisfy the California Program Preferences as listed in the Planning Grant Proposal Solicitation Package and described in Proposition 84 and 1E Integrated Regional Water Management Guidelines (August 2010). The updated IRWMP will satisfy all 15 Program Preferences. Tables 5-3 and 8-1 show where each Program Preference will be addressed in the updated IRWMP.

Include Regional Projects and Programs - The RWMG recognizes the value of regional projects and the current IRWM Plan includes a strong focus on regional projects and programs. There are several methods by which regional projects have been incorporated into the IRWM Plan. Regional projects are encouraged in the project selection criteria in the IRWM Plan, and through the project submittal and selection process projects are made known to many different parties so that cooperative efforts and consolidation of projects can be pursued. Regional analyses are regularly produced to help water managers what is occurring in the Region's water balance. This effort helps regional entities understand regional priorities and collectively focus on solutions to the most serious issues facing the IRWM Group.

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In the current IRWM Plan, the Introduction to Plan (Chapter 2) addresses how existing and proposed regional projects are going to be involved in the Plan. Also, specific regional programs that pertain to water quality and flood control planning are discussed in Chapters 6 & 7, respectively. In Chapter 8 projects and programs are discussed that will help alleviate key issues for the KRB. Water Resources Programs are be evaluated in Chapters 9 & 10. Chapters 12 & 14 review how the projects and programs are implemented and put to forth a quantifiable method for evaluating plan performance.

Table 8-1: Locations of Program Preferences in Updated IRWMP

No.	Program Preference/Statewide Priorities	Ch. 1 - Intro. to Group	Ch. 2 Intro. to Plan	Ch. 3 - Description of Study Area	Ch. 4 - Water/Wastewater Mgt.	Ch. 5 - Responsible Entities	Ch. 6 - Water Quality	Ch. 7 - Flood Control Planning	Ch. 8 - Key Issues	Ch. 9 - WR Mgt. Opportunities	Ch. 10 - WR Mgt. Framework	Ch. 11 - Stakeholder Inv.	Ch. 12 - Plan Implementation	Ch. 13 - Compliance w/ State	Ch. 14 - Plan Performance	Ch. 15 - Climate Change
1	Regional Projects/Programs		•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•
2	Defined Hydrologic Region	•	•	•				•	•							
3	Resolve Water Conflicts		•		•	•	•		•		•			•	•	•
4	Bay-Delta Program Objectives		•		•	•			•		•		•			
4a	Water Quality				•		•			•			•		•	
4b	Levee Integrity			•		•		•					•			
4c	Water Supply Reliability		•	•	•	•				•			•		•	•
4d	Ecosystem Restoration	•	•	•	•							•	•		•	
5	Disadvantaged Communities	•	•			•	•		•	•		•		•	•	
6	Integrate Water/Land Use Planning	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
7	Flood Control Funding		•			•		•	•			•	•	•	•	
8	Drought Preparedness			•	•		•						•		•	•
9	Water Efficiency				•	•			•	•			•			
10	Climate Change Response			•	•		•					•	•		•	•
11	Environmental Stewardship	•		•									•			
12	Integrated Flood Management	•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	
13	Protect Water Quality		•				•		•	•			•		•	
14	Improve Tribal Resources			•					•			•	•	•		
15	Equitable Distribution of Benefits	•	•						•		•	•	•	•	•	

Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic boundary identified in the California Water Plan, RWQCB region, or DWR - The current IRWM Group is comprised of special districts, municipalities, agencies, and local governments that lie within the KRB Watershed. Chapter 3, Description of the Study Area, goes into detail about the IRWM

Plan area that makes up this IRWM Group. Currently Chapters 7 & 8 (Flood Control Planning & Key Issues, Plan Objectives, Regional Priorities and Water Management Strategies) go into some detail about the hydrologic region as it relates to flood control and other key issues.

Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions - The IRWM update will help to resolve water-related conflicts within the Region. The recent water supply reductions in the KRB Region will be analyzed and planning efforts will target solutions and goals to make the remaining water supply more reliable. Groundwater pumping in adjacent regions will be involved in the proposed planning effort as well.

Chapters 1 & 2 (Introduction to Group and Introduction to Plan) will introduce water supply conflicts that are in need of being planned for amongst the stakeholders. Chapter 8 (Key Issues, Plan Objectives, Regional Priorities and Water Management Strategies) will describe in detail the different key issues to be resolved with the IRWMP. Chapters 4 (History of Water and Wastewater Management), 5 (Responsible Entities, Major Infrastructure and Water Supplies) and 13 (Compliance with Statewide Priorities, Benefits and Impacts from IRWMP Implementation) will discuss conflicts as they relate to state and local entities and water management.

Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program - The four CALFED Bay-Delta objectives include: Water Quality, Levee Integrity, Water Supply Reliability, and Ecosystem Restoration. One of the goals of this IRWMP is to increase water supply reliability in the region. By strategically planning for the reductions in surface water supplies to the members of this IRWM Group, this will increase local water supply reliability and reduce demand on water from other regions such as the Bay-Delta. This would help minimize the stress on the Delta resources.

Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region – The majority of Tulare County and the KRB Region qualifies for Disadvantaged Community status. Many rural communities depend on groundwater for their community water supplies and strategic Regional planning to increase groundwater reliability will benefit the water supplies of these communities. The updated IRWM Plan will include a more focused effort to engage and support disadvantaged communities (DACs) as a new governance structure for the Region is developed.

Effectively integrate water management with land use planning - Effectively integrating water management with land use planning is a key goal for the entire effort and thus is discussed consistently throughout the current plan. Multiple chapters in the current plan relate projects,

programs, planning, and/or issues to integrated water management and land use planning. Chapters 12 & 14 go into more detail on how these alternatives are implemented and their performance.

Integrate Stormwater Resource Plan requirements into the IRWMP - The RWMG supports the Stormwater Resource Plan Act as described in Water Code Section 10560-10564. This act views stormwater as a resource rather than a nuisance. The current IRWM Plan Chapter 7 is devoted to flood control and corresponds with this program preference. Other chapters such as Chapters 5 and 11 discuss how the group and stakeholders will handle funding opportunities and requirements.

Drought Preparedness - Drought preparedness will be a key component of the updated IRWMP. Most new water projects in the area will focus on capturing wet year water and increasing the reliability of groundwater resources so they are available during droughts. This will remain a focus of the RWMG for the foreseeable future. Several drought preparedness strategies will be addressed in the following chapters: 1) Chapter 3 will discuss how drought is pertinent to the study area and the impacts that come with drought, 2) Chapter 4 discusses the managing water and wastewater which has direct connects with drought conditions, 3) Chapter 6 discusses water quality and how it would be impacted during a drought, 4) Chapter 12 discusses projects and programs to be implemented as part of this updated IRWMP that will promote drought preparedness. The proposed planning effort will evaluate how decreased surface water supplies will increase the need for groundwater recharge and groundwater banking efforts in order to avoid destabilizing local groundwater reliability.

Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently - The efficient use of water is important the KRB since they have a finite water supply. The region uses mainly agricultural water, and maintaining high efficiency is critical given that the aquifer underlying the Valley region has been declining for decades. The Region also pursues reuse projects and there is currently one underway between Tulare ID and the City of Visalia. This topic is discussed in the following IRWM Plan chapters: 1) Management of water in Chapters 4 & 9, 2) Chapter 5 will discuss the entities involved with implementing practices that promote water efficiency in the area, 3) Chapter 8 discuss issues that have arisen regarding water use efficiency, and 4) Chapter 12 elaborates on the implementation of methods to increase water reuse and efficiency.

Climate Change Response Actions - Climate change is an emerging issue. The RWMG recognizes the need to gain a better understanding of its potential impacts and how the region can adapt to potential changes in climate. This is especially important since the KRB water

supplies, and much of the natural groundwater recharge, originate in the mountainous terrain to the east. The updated IRWMP will discuss climate change impacts in specifically in Chapters 3, 4 and 15 as it regards to the study area and water management practices. The evaluation of reduced water supplies will involve the analysis of water supply projections that include reduction components for climate change. If this published information (on the impact to surface water reductions) has not previously been available for consideration then it will be included in the IRWM Plan Update.

Expand Environmental Stewardship - Environmental stewardship is important for the RWMG because much of the area includes wildland watersheds that are the ultimate source of most of the area's surface and groundwater. Chapter 3 discusses in detail the environmentally sensitive areas that require stewardship. Also, part of the existing management plans that make up the regional water management framework is Kaweah Delta WCD's Habitat Conservation Plan that targets the restoration of the Valley Oak Savannah Forrest within the Region through projects developed to conserve and restore this critical local habitat.

Practice Integrated Flood Management - Integrated Flood Management (IFM) involves a shift from the traditional, fragmented, localized approach of flood management and encourages a regional approach across an entire river basin. The RWMG will further promote this practice in the updated IRWMP. An entire chapter in the existing IRWM Plan is devoted to flood control (Chapter 7) and several other chapters discuss water management. Throughout these chapters management practices developed to regionally control flooding are promoted. Some of the practices to be promoted include: water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of erosion and sedimentation in streams, and groundwater recharge.

Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality - Protecting both surface and groundwater quality is a principal goal for the RWMG since they have finite water supplies. The RWMG plans to address potential threats to water quality, public health, environmental health, and agricultural productivity by developing safeguards and protective mechanisms. Along with being discussed in many chapters, Chapter 6 specifically discusses water quality issues and alternatives. The proposed planning effort will research the CV-SALTS, ILRP and Basin Plan Amendment efforts and plan for how the IRWM Group and Plan will interact with these state mandated water quality permitting programs within the Region. It is hoped that this effort to plan for interaction with the state mandated programs will benefit local groundwater and surface water quality.

Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources - The updated IRWM PLAN will include effort to engage local tribes in the RWMG. The recognized Indian Tribal Reservations in the area include: Choinumni, Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon, Mono, Tubatulabl, Tulare River Indian Tribe, Wukchumni, Wuksache, and Yokut,

Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits - The current IRWM Plan includes several measures to help ensure the equitable distribution of benefits throughout the area. These measures include encouraging participation of DACs, Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), tribal communities, and other stakeholders that have not previously participated in the regular IRWM Group meetings and in the development of the current IRWM Plan. Also, another measure is providing encouragement for any entity within the Region to submit a project for consideration to be submitted for implementation grant funding. In the 1st round of implementation grant funding Tulare County submitted a water quality project on behalf of regional disadvantaged communities and this project received broad support from other RWMG members. This topic is addressed in several chapters that relate to the group. These chapters include Chapter 1,2, and 11.