

October 15, 2015

Hi Craig,

We spoke a few weeks ago, and I had a mini vacation and forgot to send you answers to the scoping questions for IRWM Prop 1 funding. The answers below are only for the questions we thought applied to Regional San. Hope you find the answers useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Take care,

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DWR will give special considerations to projects that use innovative technology. What constitutes or defines a technology or practice as innovative?

Sometimes the technology is not what is innovative, but the use of that technology is innovative. For example, reverse osmosis technology, which has existed for many years, can be applied in a new way and be used to extract water supplies from ocean water or wastewater. We encourage DWR to focus on innovative uses and practices that yield beneficial results, as opposed to just focusing on how recently a technology was developed. Also the scale of a new technology should be considered, is it at the pilot level, implementation at a small scale, implementation at a large scale, etc.

For planning grants, should DWR prioritize funding for new plans first, then provide funding for updates to plans? What should the maximum grant amount be?

New plans and updated plans should both be able to apply for funding. The maximum grant should be based on a review of how much it cost to develop existing IRWM plans.

If an applicant has not completed Prop 84 planning grant agreements, should they be eligible to receive Prop 1 IRWM planning funding?

Yes, otherwise you are limiting planning grants to those that have already received a grant, and preventing new applicants from participating in the program.

What is a reasonable performance period for completion of funded activities?

That would depend on the project. If the intent is to understand the effectiveness of the project through evaluation of performance measures, depending on the project, some will need years to establish that their benefits are actually occurring. Other projects may know quickly after construction if the project was performing as it should. Perhaps the best way for describing a performance period is to establish a not to exceed timeframe, probably somewhere between 5-10 yrs.

How should DWR request proposals for funding areas with: one region? multiple regions? cooperative agreements between regions?

If a project is located in multiple regions then the project proponents should be able to apply for funding from each region the project resides in.

How should Prop 1 directives be reflected in the guidelines and solicitation processes?

We suggest clearly outlining the Prop 1 criteria that will be used to evaluate IRWM applications, so that applicants know all the criteria that their projects will be judged by. We also suggest developing criteria

where multi benefit projects are awarded one point for each benefit they provide, so that multi benefit projects with the highest number of benefits receive more points than multi benefit projects with fewer benefits. This would help ensure that projects with multiple benefits are prioritized above projects with more limited or narrowly focused benefits.

Are there advantages or disadvantages for one solicitation versus two rounds? (i.e. \$367M in one solicitation versus \$180M each in two solicitations) Two rounds of solicitation will most likely produce more projects. If a project is close to being able to apply, but not quite ready, they may miss the one solicitation and not have any opportunity to apply for IRWM funds. A second round would enable more applicants to apply, thereby expanding the pool of projects that could receive funding.

Are there any “lessons learned” recommendations from the Prop 84 IRWM experience?

It would be helpful if there was some guidance in the guidelines about what amount of funding in various regions should go to what type of projects. In some regions the funding goes substantially to a few types of projects (water meters, restoration, etc.) and then other project types cannot compete for funding.

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