

## **IRWM Project Development and Prioritization**

In ranking IRWM grant applications, the Department of Water Resources is required to give preference to “regional projects or programs,” meaning projects or programs identified in an IRWM plan that accomplish any of the following:

- a. Reduce water demand through agricultural and urban water use efficiency.
- b. Increase water supplies for any beneficial use through the use of any of the following, or other, means:
  1. Groundwater storage and conjunctive water management.
  2. Desalination.
  3. Precipitation enhancement.
  4. Water recycling.
  5. Regional and local surface storage.
  6. Water-use efficiency.
  7. Stormwater management.
- c. Improve operational efficiency and water supply reliability, including conveyance facilities, system reoperation, and water transfers.
- d. Improve water quality, including drinking water treatment and distribution, groundwater and aquifer remediation, matching water quality to water use, wastewater treatment, water pollution prevention, and management of urban and agricultural runoff.
- e. Improve resource stewardship, including agricultural lands stewardship, ecosystem restoration, flood plain management, recharge area protection, urban land use management, groundwater management, water-dependent recreation, fishery restoration, including fish passage improvement, and watershed management.
- f. Improve flood management through structural and nonstructural means, or by any other means.

Under Prop. 84, projects must provide multiple benefits, including one or more of the following:

1. Water supply reliability, water conservation and water use efficiency.
2. Storm water capture, storage, clean-up, treatment, and management.
3. Removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands.
4. Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring.
5. Groundwater recharge and management projects.
6. Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting, and other treatment technologies and conveyance of reclaimed water for distribution to users.
7. Water banking, exchange, reclamation and improvement of water quality.
8. Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood management programs.
9. Watershed protection and management.
10. Drinking water treatment and distribution.
11. Ecosystem and fisheries restoration and protection.

Under Prop. 84, the Department of Water Resources must give preference to:

1. Proposals that effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board region or subdivision or other region or sub-region specifically identified by the department.
2. Proposals that effectively integrate water management with land use planning.
3. Proposals that effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions.
4. Proposals that contribute to the attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.
5. Proposals that address statewide priorities.
6. Proposals that address critical water supply or water quality needs for disadvantaged communities within the region.

## IRWM Plan Requirements

Water Code § 10540(c) - All IRWM plans must address:

1. Protection and improvement of water supply reliability, including identification of feasible agricultural and urban water use efficiency strategies.
2. Identification and consideration of the drinking water quality of communities within the area of the plan.
3. Protection and improvement of water quality within the area of the plan, consistent with the relevant basin plan.
4. Identification of any significant threats to groundwater resources from overdrafting.
5. Protection, restoration, and improvement of stewardship of aquatic, riparian, and watershed resources within the region.
6. Protection of groundwater resources from contamination.
7. Identification and consideration of the water-related needs of disadvantaged communities in the area within the boundaries of the plan.

Water Code 10541(e) - Grant guidelines shall require IRWM plans to address:

1. Consideration of all of the resource management strategies identified in the California Water Plan, as updated by department Bulletin No. 160-2005 and future updates. (**see next page**)
2. Consideration of objectives in the appropriate basin plan or plans and strategies to meet applicable water quality standards.
3. Description of the major water-related objectives and conflicts within a region.
4. Measurable regional objectives and criteria for developing regional project priorities.
5. An integrated, collaborative, multibenefit approach to selection and design of projects and programs.
6. Identification and consideration of the water-related needs of disadvantaged communities in the area within the boundaries of the plan.
7. Performance measures and monitoring to demonstrate progress toward meeting regional objectives.
8. A plan for implementation and financing of identified projects and programs.
9. Consideration of greenhouse gas emissions of identified programs and projects.
10. Evaluation of the adaptability to climate change of water management systems in the region.
11. Documentation of data and technical analyses used in the development of the plan.
12. A process to disseminate data and information related to the development and implementation of the plan.
13. A process to coordinate water management projects and activities of participating local agencies and local stakeholders to avoid conflicts and take advantage of efficiencies.
14. Any other matters identified by the Department of Water Resources.

**California Water Plan - Resource Management Strategies**  
***Bulletin 160-2009***

A full description of each strategy is available at:

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2009/index.cfm>

1. Reduce Water Demand
  - a. Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
  - b. Urban Water Use Efficiency
2. Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers
  - a. Conveyance – Delta
  - b. Conveyance -- Regional / Local
  - c. System Reoperation
  - d. Water Transfers
3. Increase Water Supply
  - a. Conjunctive Management & Groundwater
  - b. Desalination
  - c. Precipitation Enhancement
  - d. Recycled Municipal Water
  - e. Surface Storage – CALFED
  - f. Surface Storage – Regional / Local
4. Improve Water Quality
  - a. Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution
  - b. Groundwater Remediation / Aquifer Remediation
  - c. Matching Water Quality to Use
  - d. Pollution Prevention
  - e. Salt and Salinity Management
  - f. Urban Runoff Management
5. Practice Resources Stewardship
  - a. Agricultural Lands Stewardship
  - b. Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, and Water Pricing)
  - c. Ecosystem Restoration
  - d. Forest Management
  - e. Land Use Planning and Management
  - f. Recharge Area Protection
  - g. Water-Dependent Recreation
  - h. Watershed Management
6. Improve Flood Management
  - a. Flood Risk Management
7. Other Strategies
  - a. Crop Idling for Water Transfers
  - b. Dewvaporation or Atmospheric Pressure Desalination
  - c. Fog Collection
  - d. Irrigated Land Retirement
  - e. Rainfed Agriculture
  - f. Waterbag Transport/Storage Technology