

Section G

Project Solicitation, Selection, and Prioritization

Section G – Project Solicitation, Selection, and Prioritization

G.1 Introduction

This section documents the project review process and contains the following components taken from the 2016 DWR Guidelines (State Guidelines):

1. Procedures for submitting a project to the RWMG
2. Procedures for review of projects considered for inclusion into the IRWM Plan.
3. Climate change considerations
4. Procedures for displaying the list(s) of approved projects

Evaluation of projects/programs in the context of IRWM planning differs from the evaluation of a project by itself. Projects are selected for incorporation into the Final Project List based on their ability to meet IRWMP goals and objectives, compatibility with State Resource Management Strategies, and readiness to proceed. The steps taken to create the Final Project List are broken into 3 phases. These phases are explained in the following sections and summarized below.

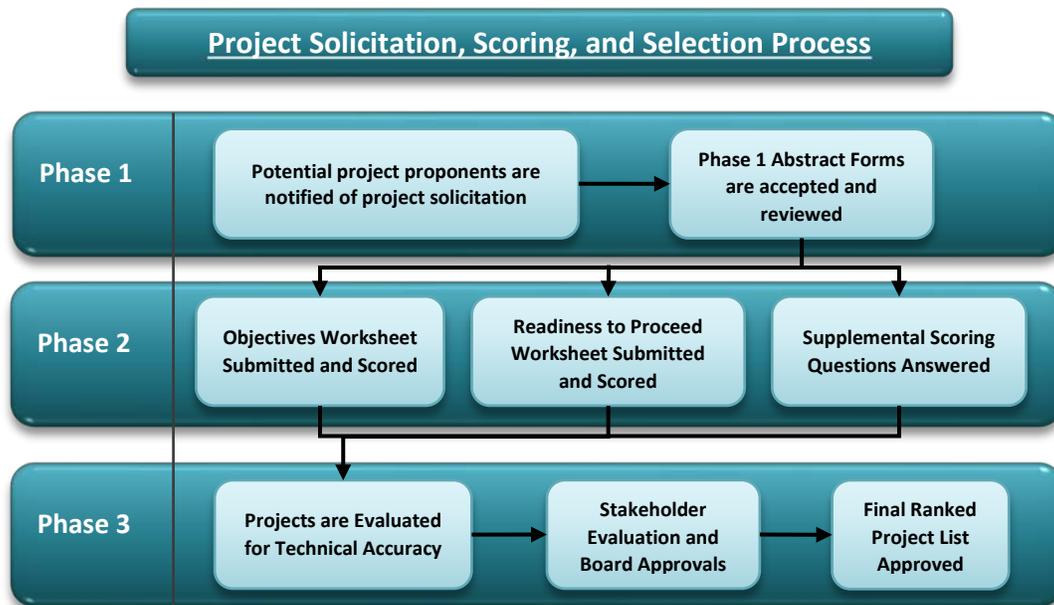


Figure G-1. Project Solicitation, Scoring, and Selection Process

G.2 Phase 1: Project Solicitation and Acceptance of Abstract Forms

The solicitation of projects is sought from potential participating parties within the IRWMP area on a periodic basis prior to the announcement of any funding opportunity. Project solicitation entails sending out a notice of intent to update the IRWM project list and informing potential project proponents that Phase 1 Abstract forms will be accepted.

Phase 1 Abstract forms (See Appendix H) are intended to solicit sponsors for all relevant projects and programs currently being considered throughout the Tule River Basin IRWMP region. Abstract forms collect a wide variety of information on the projects/programs and provide a pass or fail screening to capture only the projects/programs that meet the following conditions:

Condition 1: The project/program must be relevant to Integrated Regional Water Management. (Must satisfy one or more of the questions below)

1. Is it regional? Does the abstract describe the project/program's purpose and benefit to the region?
2. Is it sponsored or developed by multiple agencies? Does the abstract provide evidence of the project having multiple-agency support or funding?
3. Does the project/program provide cumulative benefit? Does the abstract describe reciprocal benefit with other projects or programs, and/or does the project result in meeting multiple objectives of the IRWMP?
4. Does the project/program support a critical water supply or water quality need within a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) boundary?

Condition 2: The project/program must meet at least one of the IRWM Objectives (See Section E – Goals and Objectives)

Condition 3: The project/program must be related to a resource management strategy selected for use in the IRWM Plan.

The proponents of projects and programs that pass this screening process are contacted and asked to complete the second phase of the solicitation process.

G.3 Phase 2: Project/Program Evaluation and Scoring

Projects and programs that pass Phase 1 screening continue to Phase 2. In Phase 2, project proponents submit an Objectives Worksheet, which is used to assess the project/program's alignment with IRWMP Goals and Objectives, and a Readiness to Proceed (RTP) Questionnaire, which is used to gauge how far along the project/program is in the planning process. At this level, scoring is based on how many IRWMP objectives the project/program satisfies and how likely the project/program is to be implemented in the near future.

G.3.1 Objectives Worksheet

The Objectives Worksheet (See Appendix H) is used to assess the number of IRWMP objectives the project/program satisfies and how well the project/program corresponds with IRWM Goals and Objectives. In order to give each IRWM Objective equal weight in this scoring process, each Objective is given a total score of 6.25 points.

Table G-1. Objectives Worksheet Scoring

Goal	Objectives	Points	
Maintain or improve the health of ecosystems within the region.	Conserve, Enhance and Regenerate Riparian Habitats	6.25	18.75
	Conserve and Restore Native Species and Related Habitats	6.25	
	Protect Water Resources that are critical to Native American Tribal Communities	6.25	
Protection of life, structure, equipment, and property from flooding.	Evaluate and Modify Water Diversion and Conveyance Infrastructure	6.25	12.50
	Protect and Improve Water Resources through Land Use Practices	6.25	
Reduction of contamination of surface and groundwater resources	Meet Applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan Objectives	6.25	25
	Management of Recreational Activities to Minimize Impacts on Water Resources	6.25	
	Promote City, Community and Regional Storm Water Management Plans	6.25	
	Evaluate and promote strategies to reduce arsenic, nitrate, and perchlorate contamination to levels below maximum contaminant level	6.25	
Expand regional response to climate change through mitigation and adaption strategies	Increase Monitoring and Promote Research Programs to Better Understand the Effects of Climate Change on Ecosystems in the Region	6.25	18.75
	Plan for Potential Regional Impacts of Climate Change on Water Quantity and Quality	6.25	
	Identify and Promote Strategies for Hydroelectric Generation Facilities	6.25	
Work toward achievement of sustainable balanced surface and groundwater supplies.	Protect and improve water resources through land use practices.	6.25	25
	Optimize efficient use, conservation, and recycling of water resources.	6.25	
	Increase knowledge regarding groundwater related conditions and establish groundwater management practices.	6.25	
	Reduce impacts and optimize benefits from assisting in other drought-related areas with basin-to-basin transfers of water	6.25	
Total Objective Points Possible		100	

G.3.2 Readiness to Proceed (RTP) Questionnaire

As the name suggests, the RTP Questionnaire (located in Appendix H) is intended to evaluate a project/program’s readiness to proceed and gauge how far along the project/program is in the planning process. The RTP is based on five questions that each have a maximum score of five points. These questions and respective scoring are shown below in Table G-2.

Table G-2. RTP Questionnaire Scoring

RTP Factor	Question Considered	Scoring	Points
Timeliness	How soon can the project/program be implemented without additional funding or new agreements?	<1 year	5
		1-3 years	3
		3-6 years	1
		>6 years	0
Technical Feasibility	Does technical documentation exist to evaluate the technical feasibility of the project?	Project has detailed documentation, including feasibility studies and completed engineering designs.	5
		Project is partially documented and has reconnaissance and/or feasibility studies but incomplete or partial designs.	3
		The project is not well documented, no feasibility studies have been completed and the project has not been designed.	0
Environmental Compliance	Does the project/program have the necessary environmental documentation?	Environmental documentation is complete.	5
		Some studies are completed and a clear plan to complete environmental documentation exists.	3
		No environmental studies have been completed and environmental compliance documents have not been started.	0
Permitting	Does the project have required permits or plans to obtain them?	All required permits are obtained or in the process of being obtained.	5
		Permit requirements are known and there is a plan and schedule in place to obtain them.	3
		Permit requirements are not known.	0
Funding	Is funding for the project secured?	Financial plan and commitments are well defined and include resource commitments to maintenance and operations	5
		Financial plan is under development and/or awaiting rate payer and/or funding agency approval. No defined resource commitments to maintenance and operations exist.	3
		Financial plans and commitments have not been established for project implementation or for maintenance and operations.	0
Total RTP Points Possible			25

G.3.3 Supplemental Scoring

The last step in project/program scoring involves the response to the following questions. These factors are weighted heavily as they are important components of the 2016 IRWM Guidelines.

1. Does the project/program contribute to climate change adaption? This may include the following:
(If yes, 5 points)
 - The project address climate change vulnerabilities as identified in Section O – Climate Change.
 - The project addresses changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality and variability of runoff and recharge.

2. Does the project/program contribute to reducing GHG emissions? This may include the following:
(If yes, 5 points)
 - Implementation of the project/program results in the reduction of GHG emissions as compared to project alternatives.
 - The project/program will help the IRWM region reduce GHG emissions over the 20-year planning horizon.
 - The project/program will reduce energy consumption.

Objective, RTP, and Supplemental points are combined to give each project/program a total score and develop a preliminary ranked project list. The top scoring projects and programs then continue to phase 3 of the project solicitation process. Direction from the RWMG will help to guide the number of projects/programs that will move onto Phase 3.

G.4 Phase 3: Final Evaluation, Notification, and Selection of IRWM Projects

Once Projects/programs are scored and ranked in Phase 2, projects/programs are evaluated for technical accuracy and the project list is released for public comment. Once the public comment period has ended and stakeholders have reviewed the project list, the RWMG approves a Final Project List and it is incorporated into the IRWMP.

G.5 Updating the Project List

As part of plan implementation, the project list will be updated on an annual basis (or more often as needed) to keep the list of included projects current, comprehensive, and responsive to current conditions. The project solicitation and scoring process described above will be used to update the Full Project List. Updates to the Full Project List will be published as an interim change and will not require re-adoption of the plan. Future IRWM implementation grant opportunities will be offered to the best suited projects/programs.

G.6 Procedures for Displaying List of Approved Projects

A complete list of approved projects will be displayed on the Tule River Basin IRWMP website. This list will be updated annually or more frequently by the DCTRA in response to the annual evaluation of newly proposed projects. The complete list of approved projects, as well as other information related to IRWM Planning in the Tule River Basin, can be found on the following website:

<http://www.tuleirwmp.com>

G.7 2018 Tule River Basin IRWM Project List

Submitting Agency	Project Name	Project Description Summary	Category
Alpaugh CSD - Allensworth Water Project	Consolidate Alpaugh and Allensworth Water Systems	Connect Alpaugh and Allensworth Water Supply systems via new pipeline	Water Quality (DAC)
Alpaugh GSA	GSP Development	Prepare initial GSP technical data and report	SGMA
Angiola Water District	White River Flood Control Reservoir Project Phase 2	Construct a 1,200-acre flood control basin comprised of cells, half mile wide by half mile long by eight feet deep, to be used for retention, detention and recharge. This reservoir will be used to prevent flooding of developed farm land and the inhabited areas of two disadvantaged communities, Alpaugh and Allensworth.	Climate Change, Drought, SGMA
Angiola Water District & Deer Creek Storm Water District	White River Flood Control Reservoir Project	Construct a half mile wide by two-mile-long by eight feet deep flood control reservoir to be used for retention, detention and recharge. This reservoir will be used to prevent flooding of developed farm land and the inhabited areas of two disadvantaged communities, Alpaugh and Allensworth.	Climate Change, Drought, SGMA
Campbell Moreland Ditch Company	Convert Open channel Ditch to Pipeline	Replace ½ mile section of open channel with a pipeline to prevent channel losses and increase efficiency of surface water deliveries to growers.	Recharge, Drought, Water Supply
City of Porterville	Groundwater Recharge Program	Increase groundwater recharge basin capacity around the City of Porterville	Water Quality, Drought, SGMA, Recharge
City of Porterville	Tertiary Treatment Facility and Distribution System	Treat the wastewater from the Wastewater Treatment Plan to tertiary requirements and return the water in a “purple pipe” system to City parks and landscape areas.	Water Quality, Drought, SGMA, Recharge
City of Porterville	Drainage Reservoir No. 28 connection to Campbell Moreland Ditch	Extend the Campbell Moreland Ditch approximately 1/2 mile to COP Drainage Reservoir No. 28.	Water Quality, Drought, SGMA, Recharge

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Submitting Agency	Project Name	Project Description Summary	Category
City of Porterville	Stormwater Recharge Basin Upgrades	Upgrade City Stormwater distribution system and recharge basins	Drought, SGMA, Recharge
Eastern Tule Subbasin GSA JPA	GSP Development	Prepare initial GSP technical data and report	SGMA
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	Riparian Lands Distribution System	Install a pipeline distribution system to serve lands within the Riparian areas of the Tule River surface water to prevent major channel losses and allow water to be delivered during normal and dry years.	Recharge, Drought, SGMA
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	SCADA system expansion / upgrades	Update and expand the existing SCADA system within the irrigation district to help facilitate more efficient operations.	Water Supply, Climate Change
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	GSP Development	Prepare initial GSP technical data and report	SGMA
Pioneer Water Company	Existing Pipeline replacement	Replace existing sections of the Pioneer Water Company pipeline that leaks and is broken	Drought, Water Supply
Pixley Irrigation District	Northwest Distribution System Expansion	Expand the pipeline distribution system in the northwest region of the Pixley Irrigation District to prevent major channel losses and allow for efficient delivery of water	Drought, Recharge, water supply
Pixley Irrigation District	SCADA system expansion / upgrades	Update and expand the existing SCADA system within the irrigation district to help facilitate more efficient operations.	Water Supply, Climate Change
Pixley Irrigation District	GSP Development	Prepare initial GSP technical data and report	SGMA
Tea Pot Dome Water District	Meter Upgrade / Replacement Program	Upgrade / Replace water meters to more accurately measure water consumption within the district.	SGMA, Water Demand
Tea Pot Dome Water District	Efficiency Improvements	Install Variable frequency drives at 3 pumping stations to increase energy efficiency.	Water Supply, Climate Change
Tea Pot Dome Water District	Supplemental Solar Power Program	Implement solar projects to supply power to pumping plant sites.	Climate Change
Tea Pot Dome Water District	SCADA system expansion / upgrade.	Expand and upgrade existing SCADA system to better manage water distribution and treatment equipment.	Water Supply, Recharge
Tri-County Water Authority	GSP Development	Prepare initial GSP technical data and report	SGMA

Submitting Agency	Project Name	Project Description Summary	Category
Tri-County Water Authority	Flow Meter Installation Incentive Project	Utilize grant funding to incentivize and encourage agricultural and domestic well operators to install flow meters which will enhance groundwater resource management and to improve groundwater extraction data collection which will be used by Tri-County Water Authority, a SGMA Groundwater Sustainability Agency, in the development and implementation of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan.	SGMA, Water Supply
Tri-County Water Authority & Angiola Water District	Infiltration Well and Direct Recharge Pilot Program	Develop an infiltration well and recharge test system pilot protocol and study the feasibility of groundwater recharge in the southwest area of the Tule sub-basin.	Recharge, Drought
Terra Bella Irrigation District & Saucelito Irrigation District	Expand DCTRA Sinking Basins	Expand the current DCTRA sinking basins	Recharge, Drought
Porterville Irrigation District	Pump Distribution System on Poplar	Develop a pumped distribution system from Friant Kern Canal east	Water Supply, SGMA, Drought
Vandalia Water District	Stormwater Runoff Basin Upgrades	Upgrade the stormwater basins to capture runoff and prevent erosion	Recharge
Tule River Basin IRWM	Stormwater Management Plan	Develop a Tule River Basin-wide Stormwater Management Plan	Recharge, SGMA, Drought