



Project Solicitation, Identification and Prioritization

Projects in an IRWMP are actions designed to implement the Plan and achieve the Plan objectives. The IRWM Plan documents the project review process and demonstrates that the process meets DWR's standards.

The process to be used for soliciting, submitting, reviewing, and selecting projects includes four components:

1. Procedure for identifying and soliciting projects
2. Procedure for submitting a project to the IRWM Plan
3. Procedure for review of projects to implement the IRWM Plan
4. Procedure for communicating the list(s) of selected projects

The Regional Water Management Group designates a project implementation workgroup who is responsible for reviewing projects and project lists and recommending them for approval by the Regional Water Management Group.

Stakeholders may provide input during the submittal, review and selection process to develop the project list. By participating in public meetings or workgroups, submitting comments to the facilitator or other designee, the stakeholders and public may contribute to and comment on the process and products of the implementation program.

Identifying and Soliciting Projects

The Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group identified projects through collaborative, regional public meetings. Public meetings since 2008 and a public survey in 2009 created the current project list.

The RWMG formally and informally solicits projects during application stages (when funding sources have been identified preparations are underway for a grant application), but stakeholders are encouraged to submit projects and project ideas at any time. Formal

solicitations will be in the form of official emails, posting flyers in public places, public presentations to town halls and board meetings. Informal solicitations are communications such individual emails and phone calls.

Submitting a Project for Inclusion in the IRWM Plan

The Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group's approach is to collaborate with the stakeholders in the SSIRWMP Region to identify potential projects, plans, and policies that may be included in the IRWMP. Project proponents provide the necessary information for the review process and funding applications and are required to adopt the IRWMP in order to sponsor projects. Project identification requires proponents to address the review criteria, and to complete Project Description Form. This application will include project information regarding:

- Sponsor
- Relationship to SSIRWMP
- Purpose and Need
- Partnerships
- Integration and Multiple Benefits
- Scope of Work (i.e., schedule, tasks, and deliverables)
- Technical Analysis and Data Management
- Financing
- Relevance to State-wide priorities

The RWMG designates appropriate deadlines for each additional funding source application. The RWMG seeks to assist all project proponents, especially disadvantaged communities (DACs), in developing project ideas and concepts. Disadvantaged communities may apply for planning funding to address potential projects so that the plans and designs will take these concepts and ideas to fully developed implementation projects.

Review of Projects Considered for Inclusion into the IRWM Plan

The review process must include multiple factors and should be designed to select based on more than readiness to proceed. At a minimum, the factors listed below must be included to qualify for DWR funding:

1. *How the project contributes to the IRWM Plan objectives*
2. *How the project is related to resource management strategies*
3. *Technical feasibility of the project*
4. *Specific DAC water issues benefits*
5. *Specific benefits to critical water issues for Native American tribal communities*
6. *Environmental Justice Considerations*
7. *Project Costs and Financing*

8. *Economic Feasibility*
9. *Project Status*
10. *Strategic considerations for IRWM Plan implementation*
11. *Contribution of the project in adapting to the effects of climate change*
12. *Contribution of the project in reducing GHG emissions as compared to project alternatives*

These factors are included in the SSIRWMP project ranking matrix which tallies the scores for all criteria.

Procedure for Communicating the List of Selected Projects

The IRWM Plan will contain the product of the project selection process, the project list(s). The project lists will be extensive and change over time. The plan will contain a link to the website URL where the active project list will be housed.

The SSIRWMP projects can be grouped according to the type of project including: best management practices, studies, plans, demonstration projects, disadvantaged community and tribal projects, and restoration and other projects. There are three tiers of projects: The first-tier projects are ready or nearly ready to implement because there are existing project proponents and the project descriptions have been developed. Second-tier projects have a project proponent but are not ready to implement and have very little detail in the project descriptions. Third-tier projects are project ideas and concepts that may not have a project proponent and the details of the projects have not been identified. Project ideas and concepts require considerable work to bring to implementation readiness.

Projects Submitted for Funding in 2013

The Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group submitted the Tier 1 projects for funding to the Department of Water Resources Implementation Grant Program in 2013. Three projects were selected to be submitted including the Long Meadow Project, the Mill Flat Creek Watershed Improvement Project, and the Springville Water Treatment Improvement Project Study (see table).

Tier 1 Projects Submitted for DWR Funding – March, 2013

TIER 1 PROJECTS			
Project Category	Project Title	Project Proponent	Project Description
Studies			
Complete	Big Meadows Project	Sequoia National Forest	The Big Meadows Project on Sequoia National Forest documented water table rises and flood attenuation, retention of cold-water environments, positive avifauna and arthropod responses to restoration.
	Forest Service Data Synthesis	Forest Service	Synthesize existing Forest Service data for the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests on small stream discharge to better estimate water yield from un-gauged streams. This synthesis would enable better estimates of current water yields from headwater streams in the southern Sierra Nevada. This would be very low or no cost and might be able to be added to one of the proposals already in progress.
Disadvantaged Community Projects			
	Treated Effluent Discharge to the Tule River Study	Springville Public Utility District	This project is composed of two phases. The first phase is a study to ready the project, including CEQA biological and hydrological studies and project development and integration. The second phase of the project is comprised of finalizing the designs and implementing the project. Phase I costs: approximately \$300,000 Phase II costs: approximately \$3.2 million
Restoration and Other Projects			
	Mill Flat Creek Watershed Restoration	Sequoia National Forest	Implement proposed Watershed Improvement Needs Inventory (WINI) projects that have been identified within the Mill Creek watershed, including replacement of culverts to allow for aquatic organism passage and the recommended closure, (decommissioning) of several user created and maintains level 1 and 2 roads. Cost: approximately \$65,000

	<p>Long Meadow Restoration Project</p>	<p>Sequoia National Forest</p>	<p>The proposed project would restore the lower 1000 feet of Long Meadow. Long Meadow is roughly 45 acres in size all of this meadow is currently at risk. The focus of this restoration would be to stabilize the headcut at the base of Long Meadow. Monitoring on this meadow indicates that the headcut is eroding approximately 128 cubic feet a year. The headcut ranges from 6 feet to 14 feet high and is approximately 70 feet wide. Instillation of grade control in the form of step-pool structures would serve to reduce stream velocity and upstream meadow erosion.</p> <p>Cost: \$300,000</p>
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