

Coachella Valley IRWM Program Project Selection Process Meeting – Prop 1, Round 2

June 21, 2022
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Building Training Room
75515 Hovley Ln E
Palm Desert, CA 92211

OR

Conference Call
1 (323) 484-5815
Conference ID: 120 596 087#

DRAFT NOTES

Attendance

Andrew Lee, Cathedral City	Rey Trejo, IWA	Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido
Katarina Waszak, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Michelle Tse, IWA	Yaneth Andrade, Pueblo Unido
Castulo Estrada, CWA	Nataly Garcia, Leadership Council	Ron Buchwald, VSD
Ivory Reyburn, CVWD	Omar Gastelum, Leadership Council	Katie Evans, W&C
Dan Ruiz, CVWD	Steve Ledbetter, TKE/MSWD	Arthella Vallarta, W&C
Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, CVWD	Marion Champion, MSWD	
Ashley Metzger, DWA	Mike Nusser, MSWD	

Welcome and Introductions

- Ms. Katie Evans, Woodard & Curran, welcomed attendees to the meeting, and all attendees introduced themselves and their affiliated agencies or organizations.
- The purpose of the meeting is to review Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program's local project selection process for Proposition 1, Round 2, discuss the list of submitted projects, and finalize the project list.

IRWM Overview

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) defines IRWM as a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives.

- IRWM is important because it fosters collaboration between agencies, supports effective water management, enables stakeholder participation, and positions the Region for funding.
- The Coachella Valley IRWM Program is led by the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG). The CVRWMG is a collaborative effort led by five water purveyors and one wastewater agency of Coachella Valley to implement the IRWM Plan to address the water resources needs of the Region. The Coachella Valley IRWM and Stormwater Resource Plan was updated in 2018.
- The Coachella Valley IRWM Region is in central Riverside County within the Colorado River Funding Area as defined by DWR. The boundary is chiefly the same boundary as the Whitewater River watershed.
- The Colorado River Funding Area is shared by Coachella Valley, Mojave, San Geronio, Imperial, and Anza Borrego IRWM regions. Imperial and Anza Borrego IRWM regions did not update their IRWM plan, and thus, are not eligible for Proposition 1, Round 2 funding.
- Coachella Valley, Mojave, and San Geronio have agreed to a funding split for Round 2. Coachella Valley is allocated \$4,112,755 million, Mojave is allocated \$2,512,755, and San Geronio is allocated \$1,912,755.
- The funding split is important because it saves application costs and streamlines the application for the Region, meaning that less justification is needed. DWR will also not score projects competitively and waives proposal scoring.

Proposition 1, Round 2

- Eligible applicants and project types have not changed since Proposition 1, Round 1. All submitted projects for Round 2 have been pre-screened for eligibility.
- DWR requires a 50% funding match, but there are partial or full disadvantaged community (DAC) waivers available.
- Funding match costs are eligible after January 2015, and reimbursements are eligible after the final award date. The CVRWMG prefers the earliest application, which is August 19, 2022. The CVRWMG is anticipating a winter 2022 award date.
- The final Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) and Guidelines was released on May 17, 2022. The final PSP extended the deadline for project completion to December 2027. All other updates were clarifications for DWR's grant application.
 - All eligible proposals must respond to climate change and contribute to regional self-reliance. All projects must result in public benefits that address the most critical statewide needs, be consistent with Statewide Priorities, and have an expected useful life of at least 15 years if applicable.
- The key requirements for Proposition 1, Round 2 are that projects must be complete by December 31, 2027, claimed project benefits must be quantified, projects must be included in the IRWM Plan, and a self-certification form.
- The CVRWMG recommends local project sponsors complete projects by June 2027 to leave enough time for project administration.

Local Selection Process

- Coachella Valley IRWM Program's project selection began on February 9, 2022, when project scoring process was presented to the Planning Partners.
- Projects were submitting during the Call for Projects, which opened from February 9, 2022, to May 20, 2022.
- Projects were numerically scored and ranked and then reviewed by the CVRWMG. The projects will then be discussed with the Planning Partners, which is the focus of today's meeting. Once the project list is finalized, the Grant Team will prepare the grant application and submit to DWR. Additionally, there is an optional meeting with DWR. IRWM regions have the opportunity to meet with DWR to get feedback on their selected projects.
- To be eligible, projects must meet at least one IRWM Plan objective, which can be found in Chapter 6 of the IRWM Plan.

Local Project Scoring

- There are three fundamental components of the local project scoring criteria: 1) Principles of IRWM planning, 2) Priorities of the Coachella Valley Region, and 3) Project Feasibility.
- The scoring is based on responses that were submitted during the Call for Projects, which is available through the OPTI database.
- The scoring process is in accordance with IRWM Guidelines which are IRWM Plan Objectives, Project Feasibility, and Specific Benefits to DAC Water Issues.
- Scoring was completed by an independent third party. Each submitted project was assigned a score for each criterion. There is a maximum score of 200 points and the criteria are weighted. Historically, projects are sorted into tiers where the top 50th percentile of projects are in Tier 1. However, this was not possible this round because only six projects were submitted.

Project Selection

- A total of six projects were submitted during the Call for Projects. The total grant requests were approximately \$7,258,291 with only \$4,112,755 available for the Region.
- Workshop participants were all provided a packet of information on each project. Each project sponsor summarized their project then answered questions from the group.
- Project 1: Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project
 - This project is sponsored by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD).
 - The project requests \$1,200,000 million. It will construct two new 1-million-gallon aboveground welded tanks and demolish the existing 100,000 gallon aboveground bolted steel tanks.
 - The project will restore and improve water infrastructure to ensure reliable, safe and sustainable domestic water supply and fire flow protection to CVWD's customers within the Sky Valley Domestic Water Production Zone/Indio Hills Pressure Zone.
- Project 2: Regional Grass Replacement Project & Study
 - This project was submitted by Desert Water Agency (DWA), but it is a regional project.

- The project requests \$1,150,000 million. It will provide turf rebates throughout the CVRWMG's service area and develop a decision support tool to examine water savings of Coachella Valley's conservation programs.
- Project 3: Groundwater Quality Protection Project – Area D-3
 - This project is sponsored by Mission Springs Water District (MSWD).
 - The project requests \$1,060,000 million. It will construct 4,900 linear feet of 8-inch VCP sewer mainline, 3,500 linear feet of 4-inch VCP sewer laterals, 14 four-foot diameter manholes, 20,000 square feet of pavement/trench repair.
- Project 4: Coachella Water Authority (CWA) Groundwater Well Project
 - This project is sponsored by CWA.
 - The project requests \$2,755,291 million. It will construct a groundwater well to provide additional potable supply to CWA's system and provide 2,500 acre-feet of year of water supply.
- Project 5: Polanco Septic Rehabilitation Project
 - This project is sponsored by Pueblo Unido CDC.
 - The project requests \$537,000 thousand. It will install 16 septic systems to four Polanco Mobile Home Parks, protecting groundwater quality by reducing approximately 4 tons/year of total suspended solids, bacteria, and other wastewater contaminants.
- Project 6: Sunrise Park Recycled Water Connection
 - This project is sponsored by DWA.
 - The project requests \$520,000 thousand. It will construct a booster station, 4,000 linear feet of 8-inch purple pipe and onsite connection retrofits for 11 services. The project will improve water quality and reduce costs for local taxpayers.
- Most projects received full points on Addressing State Priority, Linked to Other Projects, Involves More Than One Partner, Optimize Water Supply Reliability, Protects or Improves Water Quality, Maximizes Stakeholder Involvement in Water Resource Management, and Identified in Existing Plan.
- Projects lost points on Integrates Multiple Resource Management Strategies, Manages Flood Risk, and Optimize Conjunctive Use of Surface and Groundwater Supplies.
- Project scores are one aspect of the selection process. For example, the Planning Partners do not have to fully fund the highest scoring project. Other aspects can be considered such as geographical distribution of projects.
- The detailed project scores are available in the meeting materials. Project scores are the following:
 - Project 1: Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project: 12.4
 - Project 2: Regional Grass Replacement Project & Study: 12.4
 - Project 3: Groundwater Quality Protection Project – Area D-3: 14
 - Project 4: Coachella Water Authority (CWA) Groundwater Well Project: 11.8
 - Project 5: Polanco Septic Rehabilitation Project: 11.8
 - Project 6: Sunrise Park Recycled Water Connection:14

Discussion and Selection

- The purpose of the discussion is to determine the best projects for the Regions. Considerations could include:
 - Disbursements of funds across Coachella Valley
 - Disbursements of funds across regional priorities
 - Disbursements of funds across types of project sponsors
 - Timeliness
 - Projects that compliment or conflict with other projects
 - Likelihood of projects to secure other funding
 - Other considerations as determined by the group
- Only eligible organizations (non-governmental agencies, public agencies, or municipalities) are allowed to vote, and only one vote per organization is allowed.
- Attendees participated in an anonymous straw poll. The straw polls asked attendees to rank the projects. The results are the following:
 - Project 3: Groundwater Quality Protection Project – Area D-3 and Project 5: Polanco Septic Rehabilitation Project tied for top priority.
 - Project 2: Regional Grass Replacement Project & Study and Project 1: Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project tied for second priority.
 - Project 4: CWA Groundwater Well Project placed priority.
 - Project 6: Sunrise Park Recycled Water Connection placed fourth.
- An anonymous attendee suggested to partially fund all projects which became the basis for discussion. The group then worked with a spreadsheet, live editing, to determine funding allocations. All agencies and organizations agreed to partially fund the projects.
- The CVRWGMG agencies have expressed interests in re-allocating some funds from Project 2: Regional Grass Replacement Project & Study to their other projects. Calculations for this re-allocation is still in progress.
- The tentative agreement follows:
 - Grant Administration (CVWD has agreed to be the regional grantee): \$25,000
 - Project 1: Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project: \$850,000
 - Project 2: Regional Grass Replacement Project & Study: \$825,000
 - Project 3: Groundwater Quality Protection Project – Area D-3: \$875,000
 - Project 4: Coachella Water Authority (CWA) Groundwater Well Project: \$750,000
 - Project 5: Polanco Septic Rehabilitation Project: \$300,000
 - Project 6: Sunrise Park Recycled Water Connection: \$500,000
- Each eligible participant/participating agency was individually asked to agree to this tentative agreement. There were no objections.

Public Comments

- None.

Summary and Next Steps

- Woodard & Curran team will provide allocartation proposal for Regional Grass Replacement Project & Study for approval via email.
- Project sponsors will be sent a data request. The Grant Team will begin drafting the grant application to submit for DWR by August 19, 2022.
- Regular CVRWMG Meetings are held every second Wednesday of every month.