

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal Program Preferences

Attachment 6 consists of the following items:

- ✓ **Program Preferences.** This attachment contains information regarding how this *Coachella Valley IRWM 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* meet the preferences described in Section II.F of the 2015 IRWM Guidelines. This attachment also describes how the Proposal assists in addressing the Human Right to Water Policy (§CWC 106.3).

Table of Contents:

Program Preferences	1
Project-Level Evaluation of Consistency with Program Preferences	2
Project 1: MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program	2
Project 2: Regional Turf Reduction Program.....	3
Project 3: Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program	4
Project 4: DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction Project	4
Project 5: Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Program	5
Project 6: Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project.....	6



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Program Preferences

The Program Preferences described in Section II.F of the 2015 IRWM Guidelines are those set forth in PRC §75026.(b) and CWC §10544. **Table 6-1** below shows the Program Preferences that will be addressed by each of the projects within this Proposal, and demonstrates the magnitude and breadth to which each Program Preference will be addressed.

Table 6-1: Projects and Program Preferences

Projects	1: Regional Projects	2: Integrate Water Management	3: Resolve Water-Related Conflicts	4: CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives	5: Benefits DACs	6: Land Use Planning	7: IRWM Plan to Reduce Delta Reliance	8: Statewide Priorities	9: Human Right to Water
MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Turf Reduction Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Degree of Certainty Preferences Will Be Addressed	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
Magnitude and Breadth to Which Preference will be Addressed	Region	Region	Region	Region	Region	Region	Region	Region	Region

This Proposal will either directly or indirectly address seven of the eight Statewide Priorities established by DWR. **Table 6-2** demonstrates the Statewide priorities addressed by each of the projects included in this Proposal. As part of the project prioritization and ranking process, each project submitted to the Coachella Valley IRWM Project Database for consideration in this Proposal was evaluated for its consistency with Statewide Priorities. As such, based on the level of analysis for each project, it is **fully certain** that each of these projects and the Proposal will achieve the Statewide Priorities at a regional level.

Table 6-2: Projects and Programs with Statewide Priorities

Projects	Drought Preparedness	Reuse Water More Efficiently	Climate Change Response Actions	Expand Environmental Stewardship	Practice Integrated Flood Management	Protect Surface/ Groundwater Quality	Improve Tribal Water/Natural Resources	Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits
MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program	●	●	●	○		●		●
Regional Turf Reduction Program	●	●	●	●		●	○	●
Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program	●	●	●	○		●	○	●
DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction Project	●	●	●	○		●	○	●
Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project	○	●	●	○		●	●	●
Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project	○	●	●	○		●		●

○ indirectly related; ● directly related



Project-Level Evaluation of Consistency with Program Preferences

As explained in Attachment 1, all six projects included within this Proposal are included in and are consistent with the 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan. As shown in the project mapping in Attachment 2, all six projects are included within the Coachella Valley IRWM Region (Region), which was specifically approved by DWR as part of the Region Acceptance Process (RAP) that was submitted in April 2009. Given that the projects are all included within the Region, the projects are all located within a hydrologic region specifically identified by DWR; further details about how the projects involve regional integration are provided below.

The Plan Review Process of the 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan (Plan), which was completed by DWR in July 2014, found the Plan to be consistent with the IRWM Planning Act and all IRWM Plan Standards contained in the 2012 IRWM Program Guidelines, including requisite information about how the Plan would reduce future dependence on Bay-Delta supplies. Because all projects in this Proposal are part of the Plan (see **Appendix 1-3** in Attachment 1), they are part of an IRWM Plan that helps the Region reduce reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for water supply. Specific information about how the projects help address Bay-Delta related issues is provided below for each project.

The Coachella Valley IRWM Region faces many issues related to the Human Right to Water Policy. As documented extensively through the *Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Outreach Program* (DAC Outreach Program), which was an outreach program funded through a separate grant from DWR, accessibility to safe, clean, and affordable water that is adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes is a substantial concern of DACs in the Region. The DAC Outreach Program included a survey of local DACs in an effort to define potential projects that could be implemented to resolve critical water quality or water supply concerns of the Region's DACs. Through this survey, residents consistently raised four concerns:

- Safe and reliable water supply
- Adequate wastewater infrastructure
- Flood issues
- Maintaining water affordability

Within the eastern Coachella Valley, the majority of which is not included within the service areas of the Region's municipal water supply agencies, many DACs do not have access to municipal water or wastewater services. These DACs often rely upon onsite drinking water systems that are not permitted or up to code, and therefore may be subject to breaks, leaks, and other malfunctions. Despite being aware of water quality issues in their onsite supplies, many DACs also reported drinking from these water sources, indicating that there are not many other available drinking water options. Due to the importance and widespread nature of DAC issues in the Region, part of the project selection process for this round of Proposition 84 IRWM funding included an analysis of how projects met regional DAC needs; as such, all six projects included in this Proposal directly benefit DACs and address the goals of the Human Right to Water Policy. Details for each project are provided below.

Project 1: MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program

Integrate Water Management: Project 1 is an integrated, multi-benefit (see Attachment 2) supply reliability program that includes components to improve water quality, conserve water, and ensure the usability of water throughout Mission Springs Water District's (MSWD's) service area.

Resolve Water-Related Conflicts: Project 1 will provide treatment for hexavalent chromium (Chrom 6) to make water that currently exceeds the drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Chrom 6 usable within a DAC. The presence of Chrom 6 in the Coachella Valley at levels exceeding the MCL is a substantial regional conflict that affects a large portion of the Region; this project will specifically improve water quality within a DAC, which further addresses water-related conflicts in the Region associated with maintaining the reliability and affordability of safe drinking water for DACs.

CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives: Project 1 will meet the Water Quality objective of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. It will implement well-head treatment to reduce Chrom 6 levels in drinking water, which will serve to protect and potentially improve water quality in the Region. Due to the Region's current reliance on Bay-



Delta water, improvements to local water that is blended with Bay-Delta water will improve water quality delivered to customers.

Address DAC Needs: This project exclusively serves DACs in MSWD's service area (see Attachment 7) and improves supply reliability and quality for DACs by conserving water and installing wellhead treatment to reduce levels of Chrom 6 and make an existing drinking water source potable.

Integrate with Land Use Planning: Project 1 integrates with land use planning, because Chrom 6 issues are prioritized based on land use patterns and number of individuals served by each well.

Reduce Reliance on Bay-Delta: Maximizing local supplies is a key part of the 2014 IRWM Plan, and this project helps to increase local supply reliability, reducing future demands for imported water, and meeting Objective D (maximize local supply opportunities) of the IRWM Plan.

Statewide Priorities: Project 1 will directly address five statewide priorities: 1) drought preparedness, 2) reuse water more efficiently, 3) climate change response actions, 4) protect surface water quality, and 5) ensure equitable distribution of benefits, and will indirectly meet one statewide priority: 1) expand environmental stewardship. Project 1 will address drought preparedness by making water available for drinking (through treatment) and conservation from advanced metering, which will also result in efficient reuse of water and help respond to climate change by increasing local supply reliability. Project 1 will protect groundwater water quality by reducing Chrom 6 levels in groundwater; this will indirectly expand environmental stewardship by removing pollutants from the environment. Project 1 will directly ensure equitable distribution of benefits by providing drinking water that meets the MCL for Chrom 6 to a DAC.

Human Right to Water: Project 1 addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by treating water and removing Chrom 6 such that local water supplies are suitable for human consumption. This project is located within an area that is entirely disadvantaged, and therefore also helps to ensure the affordability of local water supplies for DACs.

Project 2: Regional Turf Reduction Program

Regional Projects: Project 2 consists of collaboration between two local water agencies to expand existing turf removal programs; this project is regional and will conserve water throughout the Region.

Integrate Water Management: This project is an integrated effort between two agencies and will work in conjunction with other ongoing efforts to remove turf and reduce water use in the Region.

Resolve Water-Related Conflicts: Project 2 addresses a major water-related conflict throughout the State by removing turf, which will help to meet statewide goals to replace 50 million square feet of turf to save water and address the ongoing drought.

CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives: Project 2 will meet the Water Supply objective of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by maximizing the use of local water (through conservation) to meet existing and future demands. Due to the Region's current reliance on Bay-Delta water, measures to reduce overall regional demands will help to meet CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives.

Address DAC Needs: Project 2 will help to reduce regional water demands, and will therefore help to meet statewide water restrictions and maintain water affordability, which is an issue specific to DACs.

Integrate with Land Use Planning: Project 2 relies upon land use information to identify applicable rebate candidates, which are identified based on various types of land uses (residential, commercial, etc.). Further, the project builds upon a regional land use ordinance that requires reducing stormwater runoff and is implemented by the regional land use authority, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

Reduce Reliance on Bay-Delta: Maximizing local supplies (including conservation) is a key part of the 2014 IRWM Plan. This project helps to reduce future demands for imported water, and meets Objective D (maximize local supply opportunities) of the IRWM Plan.

Statewide Priorities: Project 2 will directly address five statewide priorities: 1) drought preparedness, 2) reuse water more efficiently, 3) climate change response actions, 4) expand environmental stewardship, and 5) protect groundwater quality, and will indirectly meet two statewide priorities: 1) improve tribal water resources, and 2) ensure equitable distribution of benefits. Project 2 addresses drought preparedness through turf replacement that will reduce groundwater pumping to effectively manage overdraft, reuse water more efficiently by reducing water waste, and address climate change response actions by improving local supply reliability. The project also directly protects groundwater quality by reducing runoff and associated



water quality degradation. Further, conversion to desert-appropriate landscapes will directly expand environmental stewardship by improving habitat in the Region. The project indirectly improves tribal water resources and ensures equitable distribution of benefits by conserving water throughout the Region, increasing water supply reliability for all groundwater users, including Tribes and DACs.

Human Right to Water: Project 2 addresses the Human Right to Water by reducing irrigation water demands and managing groundwater to ensure that supplies are available for drinking water purposes on a regional level. Further, the project will increase affordability of water by offering low-cost rebates to decrease water use, which will help DACs reduce monthly water bills that can be prohibitively expensive.

Project 3: Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program

Regional Projects: Project 3 includes proper decommissioning or converting abandoned wells to monitoring wells. This project is a rebate program that will be implemented throughout the Region.

Integrate Water Management: Project 3 is an integrated, multi-benefit project (see Attachment 2) that integrates water savings and water quality protection by reducing artesian conditions.

Resolve Water-Related Conflicts: Groundwater protection (both supply and quality) is a significant issue in the Region, because groundwater is an important resource to many stakeholders. The project will help to resolve water-related conflicts associated with groundwater protection by properly sealing or destroying abandoned or improperly sealed wells and therefore improving local groundwater management.

CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives: Project 3 will meet the Water Supply objective of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by reducing the loss of local groundwater leaking from artesian wells and reducing salinity levels in local groundwater, thus ensuring more local water supplies to meet existing and future demand. Due to the Region's current reliance on Bay-Delta water to recharge groundwater basins, measures to protect groundwater will help to meet CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives.

Address DAC Needs: Water affordability and water supply management are addressed by Project 3, because the project will reduce water waste from artesian conditions. As such, the project will help to maintain water affordability and water reliability, which are both issues specific to local DACs.

Integrate with Land Use Planning: The program integrates water management with land use planning, because the project will utilize land use information to identify improperly abandoned wells. Furthermore, mapping of local land use data and groundwater resources will help to identify potential locations where wells can be converted to monitoring wells.

Reduce Reliance on Bay-Delta: Maximizing local supplies (including improving groundwater management) is a key part of the 2014 IRWM Plan, and this project helps to reduce future demands for imported water, and therefore meets Objective D (maximize local supply opportunities) of the IRWM Plan.

Statewide Priorities: Project 3 will directly address five statewide priorities: 1) drought preparedness, 2) reuse water more efficiently, 3) climate change response actions, 4) surface/groundwater quality protection, and 5) ensure equitable distribution of benefits and will indirectly meet one statewide priority: 1) improve tribal water resources. Project 3 will address drought preparedness, reuse water more efficiently, and address climate change response actions by reducing groundwater waste and increasing water supply reliability through better management of groundwater. The project will protect groundwater quality by properly sealing or converting abandoned wells that could potentially leak contaminants into local groundwater supplies. The project will ensure equitable distribution of benefits by implementing a multi-benefit project that is directed towards meeting the needs of affected DACs. Project 3 also indirectly improves tribal water resources because there are Tribal Nations within the Region that are eligible to receive program rebates.

Human Right to Water: Project 3 addresses the Human Right to Water by improving groundwater management and removing a potential source of contamination that could threaten the reliability of local groundwater resources. Therefore, the project helps to ensure that groundwater resources will be available for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes in the Region.

Project 4: DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction

Regional Projects: Project 4 includes retrofits to improve water quality and reuse water within DACs throughout the Region. This project is regional in scope, because rebates for the project are available to all DACs in the Region.



Integrate Water Management: Project 4 is an integrated, multi-benefit project (see Attachment 2) that includes rebates to improve wastewater and water conditions for DACs.

Resolve Water-Related Conflicts: Project 4 was conceived as a result of the DAC Outreach Program, which identified septic system overloading as a major DAC issue. Therefore, the project will directly address a known and documented conflict for DACs in the Region.

CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives: Project 4 will meet the Water Supply objective of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by maximizing the use of local greywater to meet existing and future demands. Due to the Region's current reliance on Bay-Delta water, measures to reduce future water demands will help to meet CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives.

Address DAC Needs: Project 4 addresses two specific water-related needs of DACs identified in the DAC Outreach Program, including safe and reliable water supply and adequate wastewater infrastructure. Project 4 addresses both of these issues by reusing water from washing machines, which offloads a major source of septic system overloading and makes a local water supply available for DACs.

Integrate with Land Use Planning: The program effectively integrates water management with land use planning, because the project will utilize land use information to identify applicable septic rehabilitation candidates located in DACs.

Reduce Reliance on Bay-Delta: Maximizing local supplies (including reuse of locally available supplies) is a key part of the 2014 IRWM Plan. This project helps to reduce future demands for imported water, and meets Objective D (maximize local supply opportunities) of the IRWM Plan.

Statewide Priorities: Project 4 will directly address five statewide priorities: 1) drought preparedness, 2) reuse water more efficiently, 3) climate change response actions, 4) protect groundwater and surface water quality, and 5) ensure equitable distribution of benefits, and will indirectly meet two statewide priorities: 1) expand environmental stewardship, 2) improve tribal water resources. Project 4 will address drought preparedness, reuse water more efficiently, and address climate change response actions by reusing available onsite greywater, thereby helping to mitigate overdraft, increasing the efficiency of water use, and increasing local supply reliability. The project will protect groundwater and surface water quality by reducing a major source of loading into onsite septic systems that are susceptible to overflowing and potentially leaking contaminants into local surface water supplies. The project will ensure equitable distribution of benefits by implementing a multi-benefit project that is directed towards meeting the needs of affected DACs. Project 4 also indirectly improves tribal water resources because there are Tribal Nations within the Region that are designated as DACs and are eligible to receive program rebates. Finally, the project indirectly expands environmental stewardship because it will decrease septic system overflows and resulting loading of water quality contaminants into water supplies.

Human Right to Water: Project 4 addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by rehabilitating onsite septic systems in DACs. Project 4 will increase accessibility to clean drinking water for daily use where the water is currently unsafe for human consumption by removing a potential source of contamination (over-burdened septic systems). The project also increases affordability of water by offering no-cost (no match requirements) rebates to implement greywater systems, which will provide a local and reliable irrigation water supply to DACs and help reduce monthly water bills that can be prohibitively expensive.

Project 5: Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Program

Integrate Water Management: Project 5 is an integrated, multi-benefit project (see Attachment 2) that will involve planning and design work for a Tribal DAC to move forward with connecting to the municipal wastewater system.

Resolve Water-Related Conflicts: Project 5 addresses a specific water-related conflict identified in the DAC Outreach Program: the need for adequate wastewater infrastructure. Project 5 addresses this issue by moving a local DAC forward to connecting to the municipal wastewater system.

CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives: Project 5 will meet the Water Quality objective of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. It will move a DAC towards connecting to the municipal wastewater system in an area where septic systems often operate poorly, which will serve to protect and potentially improve groundwater quality in the Region. Due to the Region's current reliance on Bay-Delta water to recharge groundwater basins, measures to protect groundwater will help to meet CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives.



Address DAC Needs: See discussion about water-related conflicts that also directly address DAC needs.

Integrate with Land Use Planning: Project 5 effectively integrates water management with land use planning, because the project involves coordination with land use agencies to ensure successful permitting of the project.

Statewide Priorities: Project 5 will directly address five statewide priorities: 1) reuse water more efficiently, 2) climate change response actions, 3) protect groundwater and surface water quality, 4) improve tribal water resources, and 5) ensure equitable distribution of benefits and will indirectly meet two statewide priorities: 1) drought preparedness, and 2) expand environmental stewardship. Project 5 will reuse water more efficiently and address climate change response actions by connecting residents to a municipal wastewater system, thereby helping to mitigate overdraft, increasing the efficiency of water use, and increasing local water supply reliability. The project will protect groundwater and surface water quality by moving the Tribe towards replacing onsite septic systems that could potentially leak contaminants into local surface water supplies. The project will benefit tribal water resources and ensure equitable distribution of benefits by implementing a multi-benefit project that is directed towards meeting the needs of a Tribal DAC. Project 5 also indirectly addresses drought preparedness by moving the Tribe towards connecting with the wastewater system (increasing future reuse) and indirectly benefits the environment by reducing a source of pollutants (septic overflows) from entering local water ways.

Human Right to Water: Project 5 addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by rehabilitating wastewater distribution systems for disadvantaged Tribal residents. Project 5 will increase accessibility to clean drinking water for daily use where the water is currently unsafe for human consumption by removing a potential source of contamination (leaking septic systems).

Project 6: Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project

Integrate Water Management: Project 6 is an integrated, multi-benefit project (see Attachment 2) that will involve planning and design work for a local DAC to move forward with connecting to the municipal water supply and wastewater system.

Resolve Water-Related Conflicts: Project 6 addresses two specific water-related conflicts identified in the DAC Outreach Program, including the need for safe and reliable water supply and adequate wastewater infrastructure. Project 6 addresses both of these issues by moving a local DAC forward to connecting to the municipal water and wastewater system.

CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives: Project 6 will meet the Water Quality objective of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. It will move a DAC towards connecting to the municipal wastewater system in an area where septic systems operate poorly and can overflow, which will serve to protect and potentially improve groundwater quality in the Region. Due to the Region's current reliance on Bay-Delta water to recharge groundwater basins, measures to protect groundwater will help to meet CALFED Bay-Delta Objectives.

Address DAC Needs: See discussion about water-related conflicts that also directly address DAC needs

Integrate with Land Use Planning: Project 6 effectively integrates water management with land use planning, because the project involves coordination with local land use agencies to ensure successful permitting of the project.

Statewide Priorities: Project 6 will directly address four statewide priorities: 1) reuse water more efficiently, 2) climate change response actions, 3) protect groundwater and surface water quality, and 4) ensure equitable distribution of benefits and will indirectly meet two statewide priorities: 1) drought preparedness, and 2) expand environmental stewardship. Project 6 will reuse water more efficiently and address climate change response actions by connecting residents to a municipal wastewater system, thereby helping to mitigate overdraft, increasing the efficiency of water use, and increasing local water supply reliability. The project will protect groundwater quality by replacing septic systems that overflow and produce ponded sewage. The project will ensure equitable distribution of benefits by implementing a multi-benefit project that is directed towards meeting the needs of affected DACs. Project 6 also indirectly expands environmental stewardship by eliminating septic overflows that contribute to surface water quality issues.

Human Right to Water: Project 6 addresses the Human Right to Water Policy by providing a potable supply of water for disadvantaged residents in mobile home parks. Therefore, Project 6 will increase accessibility to clean drinking water for daily use where the water currently does not meet MCLs for drinking water.