

Prop 84 Guidelines - Key Points for IRWMP Biennial Review and Project Selection Process

TO: Santa Barbara County IRWM Proposition 84 Stakeholders
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The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region (region) is initiating a biennial review of sections of its 2007 IRWM Plan. As part of the biennial review, the region will update the 2007 IRWM regional projects list and the IRWM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The following information is a summary of relevant parts of Proposition 84 enabling legislation (SBxx1) and DWR documents that will provide a basis for DWR Prop 84 Guidelines. This information will provide short-term guidance for conducting a project selection process to update the project list until DWR releases its draft Prop 84 Guidelines.

Sections that are particularly relevant for the project selection process are outlined in yellow.

Project Selection Process Guidance

Objectives

The IRWM plan must clearly present IRWM objectives, and a description of the process used to develop those objectives. IRWM objectives must:

- o Address water related issues and conflicts within a region,
- o Be measurable by some practical means so achievement of objectives can be monitored

Plan may prioritize objectives for the region and contain an explanation of the prioritization.

Regional objectives and criteria for developing regional project priorities must be measurable.

Water Management Strategies

The IRWM plan must document the range of resource management strategies considered to meet the IRWM objectives and identify which resources management strategies were incorporated into the IRWM plan. The effects of climate change on the IRWM management area must factor into the consideration of resources management strategies.

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Resources management strategies* to be considered must include but are not limited to

Reduce Water Demand

Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
 Urban Water Use Efficiency

Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers

Conveyance – Local/Regional
 Conveyance - Delta
 System Reoperation
 Water Transfers

Increase Water Supply

Conjunctive Management & Groundwater Storage
 Desalination - Brackish and Seawater
 Precipitation Enhancement
 Recycled Municipal Water
 Surface Storage—CALFED
 Surface Storage—Regional/Local

Improve Flood Management

Flood Impact Reduction
 Floodflow Management
 Flood Risk Management

Improve Water Quality

Drinking Water Treatment and Distribution
 Groundwater / Aquifer Remediation
 Matching Water Quality to Use
 Pollution Prevention
 Salinity and Salt Management
 Urban Runoff Management

Practice Resources

Stewardship

Agricultural Lands Stewardship
 Economic Incentives (Loans, Grants, and Water Pricing)
 Ecosystem Restoration
 Forest Management
 Land Use Management
 Recharge Areas Protection
 Water-Dependent Recreation
 Watershed Management

Other Strategies

Other Strategies (includes crop idling for water transfers, dewvaporation, fog collection, irrigated land retirement, rainfed ag and transoceanic water bags)

*Source California Water Plan – Update 2009

Integration

The IRWM plan must provide opportunities, structures, and processes that develop, foster, and demonstrate integration. Integration may occur on many levels. IRWM plans must contain structures, processes, and procedures that foster one or more of the following types of integration:

- • Stakeholder/Institutional Integration
- • Resource Integration
- • Watershed Integration
- • Data/Information Integration
- • Planning Decision Integration

Project Review Process

The IRWM plan must contain a process(es) employed by the IRWM effort to identify implementation projects for inclusion in the IRWM plan. This review process must include the following factors:

- How the project contributes to the IRWM objectives;
- How the project is related to selected resource management strategies;
- Technical feasibility of the project;
- Project benefits;
- Specific benefits to disadvantaged communities’ water issues;

- Environmental Justice considerations;
- Project costs and financing;
- Project Economic Analysis, including water quality and water supply benefits and other expected benefits;
- Project status;
- Potential for integration;
- Potential for meeting the project goals with an alternative project/modified project;
- Strategic considerations for IRWMP plan implementation, including:
 - Purposefully integrating projects,
 - Purposefully implementing a project as is,
 - Purposefully meeting project goals with an alternative project/modified project, and
 - IRWMP objective priorities; and
- Contribution of the project in combating climate change (energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of carbon foot print, or reduction in water demand) as opposed to alternative projects. *There will be a less stringent standard for this for the 1st PSP (will just look at whether considered most energy efficient solution.)*

The IRWMP plan must also specify the process for submitting projects for inclusion into the IRWMP plan. The IRWMP plan must include an implementation list of projects or a link to where a list of implementation projects exists.

Regional objectives and criteria for developing regional project priorities must be measurable. (SBxx1)

Plan must include an integrated, collaborative, multi-benefit approach to selection and design of projects and programs. (SBxx1)

Any set of criteria for funding must provide a preference for regional projects or programs (SBxx1). Regional projects or programs that benefit a region should accomplish any of the following:

- Reduce water demand through ag or urban water use efficiency
- Increase water supplies for any beneficial use through the use of:
 - (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.
- Improve operational efficiency and water supply reliability, including conveyance facilities, system reoperation, and water transfers.
- 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.

- 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.
- Improve flood management through structural and nonstructural means, or by any other means.

(SBxx1, Ch.1, Sec. 10537)

Impact and Benefit

The IRWM plan must contain an initial, screening level discussion of potential impacts and benefits of plan implementation. This discussion must include, but is not limited to the following items:

- Potential benefits and impacts from the regional plan versus individual local efforts;
- Potential benefits and or impacts within the IRWM plan region;
- Potential benefits and impacts to other management regions (adjacent or more distant);
- Potential interregional impacts and benefits; and
- Potential impacts and benefits to resources other than water such as air quality or energy.

Plan Performance

The IRWM plan must include the metrics that will be used to evaluate project/plan performance, including but not limited to:

- Obtaining plan objectives,
- Stakeholder outreach and involvement,
- Monitoring systems that will be used to gather performance data
- Mechanisms to adapt project operations and plan implementation based on performance data collected, and
- Process to formally update or amend the IRWM plan.

Data Management

The IRWM plan must include mechanisms and processes by which data will be collected, stored, and disseminated to IRWM participants, stakeholders, the public, and the State. The IRWM plan must include:

- A description of data management process for the IRWM region.
- An explanation of how the data collection systems and data management protocols are shared throughout the IRWM region.
- An explanation of how the data management system supports local planning efforts with shared data.
- An explanation of how data will be shared with State agencies.

Financing

The IRWM plan must identify and explain potential financing for plan implementation, including but not limited to the following items:

- List possible, as well as known, local efforts and grant opportunities for funding the projects that implement the IRWM plan.
- Include explanations of certainty, magnitude, longevity of potential funding and the effects on plan implementation.
- Include an explanation of how any operation and maintenance costs would be covered.

Technical Analysis

The IRWM plan must contain a discussion of data, technical methods, and analyses used to develop the IRWM plan.

Relation to Local Water Planning

The IRWM plan must contain references to the local water planning documents on which it is based, including the following

- A listing of local water plans used in the IRWM plan,
- A discussion of how the IRWM plan relates to planning documents and programs established by local agencies, and
- A description of the dynamics between the IRWM plan and local planning documents

Stakeholder Involvement

The IRWM plan must:

- Identify IRWM stakeholders including but not limited to watershed groups, disadvantaged communities, environmental justice communities, and tribal interests and their current level of participation.
- Describe or reference the outreach protocols used to identify, inform, invite, and involve stakeholder groups in the IRWM process.
- Explain IRWM committees, roles, or positions that stakeholders can occupy including how a stakeholder goes about participating in those committees, roles, or positions.
- Discuss mechanisms and processes that have been or will be used to facilitate stakeholder involvement and communication during implementation of the IRWM plan
- Demonstrate that all agencies and organizations that were/are necessary to address the objectives and resource management strategies of the Plan were/are involved in the planning process. Those stakeholders include:
 1. Wholesale and retail water purveyors, including a local agency, mutual water company, or a water corporation
 2. Wastewater agencies.
 3. Flood control agencies.
 4. Municipal and county governments and special districts

5. Electrical corporations
 6. Native American tribes that have lands within the region
 7. Self-supplied water users, including agricultural, industrial, residential, park districts, school districts, colleges and universities, and others.
 8. Environmental stewardship organizations, including watershed groups, fishing groups, land conservancies, and environmental groups.
 9. Community organizations, including landowner organizations, taxpayer groups, and recreational interests.
 10. Industry organizations representing agriculture, developers, and other industries appropriate to the region.
 11. State, federal, and regional agencies or universities, with specific responsibilities or knowledge within the region.
 12. Disadvantaged community members and representatives, including environmental justice organizations, neighborhood councils, and social justice organizations.
 13. Any other interested groups appropriate to the region.
- A discussion of partnerships developed during the planning process.

Coordination

The IRWM plan must identify agencies and entities outside the IRWM effort targeted for coordination and cooperation. The IRWM plan must:

- Identify State or federal agencies important to the implementation of the IRWM plan and associated projects and the agencies roles.
- Identify areas where a State or other agencies may be able to assist in communication, cooperation, or implementation of IRWM plan components or processes.
- Identify State or federal regulatory decisions that are required for IRWM plan or project implementation.
- Identify any neighboring IRWM efforts and how cooperation or coordination with the other IRWM efforts will be accomplished.

Climate Change (Currently under review by DWR)

Governance

The IRWM plan must document Governance that ensures the IRWM plan will be updated and implemented beyond existing grant programs. The IRWM plan must:

- Name a regional water management group responsible for development and implementation of the Plan. A Regional Water Management Group must, at a minimum, meet the definition of California Water Code §10537. The IRWM plan must include a description of the Regional Water Management Group and explain how the make up of the group meets the definition of California Water Code §10537, and is sufficient in breath of membership and participation to develop and implement the IRWM Plan.
- The IRWM Plan must be adopted by the Regional Water Management Group and individual project proponents

- Contain a description of the IRWM governance structure
- Contain a description of how the chosen form of governance addresses/ensures:
 - Decision making,
 - Equal access and participation,
 - Communication within the IRWM structure and outside that structure,
 - Interim changes and formal changes to the IRWM plan,
 - Long term implementation of the IRWM plan, and
 - Coordination with neighboring IRWM efforts and state and federal agencies.