9 Project Evaluation and Prioritization

This chapter addresses requirements set forth in the Integration Standard and the Project Review Process Standard in the 2016 IRWM Program Guidelines (DWR, 2016). As such, this chapter includes information regarding the structures and processes that provide opportunities to develop and foster project integration, as well as the processes used to select projects for inclusion in the IRWM Plan.

9.1 Overview

The intent of this chapter is to document the project evaluation and prioritization processes associated with the San Diego IRWM Program for the purposes of IRWM grant funding. Specifically, this chapter includes information regarding:

- The system developed to promote and encourage integration.
- The process used for submitting, reviewing, and selecting projects for inclusion in the IRWM Plan and grant applications.

9.2 Integration

According to DWR, integration generally means combining separate pieces into an efficiently functioning unit (DWR, 2016). During development of the 2013 IRWM Plan, the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup defined integration as it pertains to the IRWM Program (refer to *Chapter 6, Governance and Stakeholder Involvement* for more information on the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup). IRWM Program Objective A encourages the development of integrated solutions to address water management issues and conflicts. With respect to the San Diego IRWM Program, integration refers to the five following aspects: partnerships, resource management, beneficial uses, geography, and hydrology. Each integration component defined by the IRWM Program is explained in the following sections. *Section 9.2.6* describes actions taken by the IRWM Program to promote and encourage integration.

The North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project – funded by Proposition 84-Round 1 and Round 2 – features multiple partnerships, watersheds, and beneficial uses.

Photo Credit: Kim Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Due to the importance of integration, projects must meet Objective A, Objective B, and at least one additional IRWM objective to be considered for IRWM-related grant funding (refer to *Section 9.3* for more information). The following sections also explain the manner in which projects are assessed to determine if they meet each definition of integration.

9.2.1 Partnership Integration

Definition: Establishing partnerships between different organizations through sharing of data, resources and infrastructure to produce better outcomes than could be achieved independently. Please refer to *Chapter 6, Governance and Stakeholder Involvement* for details on IRWM Program efforts to help establish partnerships.

As described in *Section 9.4*, the method by which this integration criterion is assessed for IRWM projects is based upon the number of entities involved in implementing the project. In order to be considered involved in implementation, partners (entities) must be responsible for completing work associated with the project. Partnerships between different departments in a single organization may also be considered as partnership integration; however, to garner points in the project evaluation process, a project must include partnerships with outside entities. Partners that provide only funding support are considered full partners. Passive support, such as provision of a letter of support, is not considered integration by the San Diego IRWM Program.

Example: Rural Disadvantaged Communities Partnership Program

The *Rural Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Partnership Program* was included in Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 4, and expanded on previous iterations of this program funded in prior rounds of IRWM grants. This program funds projects that serve the needs of rural DACs and Tribes, through the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC).

RCAC has extensive experience helping to fund infrastructure and capacity-building projects in rural communities. By utilizing their resources and experience, RCAC can assist implementation of projects conceptualized by Tribes or rural DACs and serves as the local project sponsor for the program. Because RCAC has extensive experience working with funding agencies, Tribes, and rural communities, it is well-suited to serve as the local project sponsor for Proposition 84 funding. In addition, RCAC understands the specific requirements of the IRWM grant program and is therefore able to address common issues that might impede project implementation. Utilizing the resources of RCAC can fill gaps in Tribal or rural DAC skill sets, helping to overcome potential barriers and ensure the success of projects. The partnership between RCAC and rural communities allows for a more cost-effective and comprehensive approach to addressing critical issues in rural DACs and tribal communities.

9.2.2 Resource Management Integration

Definition: Employing multiple resource management strategies within a single project to effectively address a variety of issues. For more information about resource management strategies as they relate to the San Diego IRWM Program, please refer to *Chapter 8, Resource Management Strategies.*

As described in *Section 9.4*, the method by which this integration criterion is assessed for IRWM projects is based upon the number of IRWM objectives addressed by the project. Due to the comprehensive nature of the IRWM objectives, these objectives cumulatively cover the resource management strategies pertinent to the Region.

Example: Conservation Home Makeover in the Chollas Creek Watershed

The *Conservation Home Makeover in the Chollas Creek Watershed* project included in Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 4 represents an example of resource management integration. The project installs stormwater capture, greywater systems, and landscape upgrades in low-income homes in the Encanto neighborhood of San Diego. This project increases urban water use efficiency, matches quality to use, captures stormwater reducing urban runoff, and better manages local resources. This project increases pride of place in low-income communities, reduce cost of living by lowering water use, and provide opportunities to increase access to healthy food through irrigation of fruit trees with greywater and captured stormwater.

Photo Credit: Loisa Burton, Water Authority

9.2.3 Beneficial Use Integration

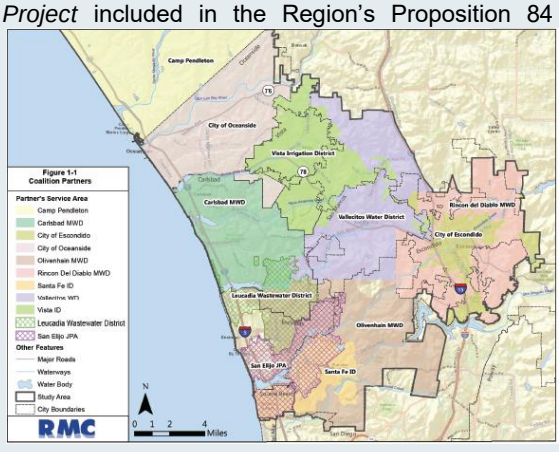
Definition: Project solutions can be implemented to support several different beneficial uses. For more information about beneficial uses as defined in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin*, please refer to *Chapter 3, Region Description.*

As described in *Section 9.4*, the method by which this integration criterion is assessed for IRWM projects is based upon the number of beneficial uses that are addressed by the project. Beneficial uses are defined in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin*, which is discussed in *Chapter 3, Region Description* and available online:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/

Example: North San Diego County Recycled Water Project

The *North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project* included in the Region's Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 1 and Round 2 is an example of a project that uses beneficial use integration, because its implementation will support several beneficial uses. The project will integrate urban and agricultural-based recycled water systems of ten partner water agencies located in the North County region to maximize the use of recycled water in the area. Through integration of recycled water systems across a variety of agency service areas, the project maximizes the beneficial uses served by the project by providing recycled water for industrial, municipal, and agricultural beneficial uses. Because this project involves the integration of many agencies across the North County region, the project will increase economic efficiencies, which will facilitate the support of more beneficial uses than could be supported by each agency's recycled water system on an individual basis.



The ten agencies of the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition

9.2.4 Geographical Integration

Definition: Implementing watershed-or regional-scale projects that may benefit from economies of scale. For more information on the IRWM region and watersheds within the region, please refer to *Chapter 3, Region Description* and *Chapter 5, Watershed Characterizations*.

As described in *Section 9.4*, the method by which this integration criterion is assessed for IRWM projects is based upon the level of integration that the project achieves across multiple watersheds.

Example: Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed

The *Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed* project, included in Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 2, is an example of a project that uses geographical integration. This project is a watershed-scale project that is being jointly implemented by San Diego County on behalf of the San Diego IRWM Region in coordination with the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region. In addition to increasing inter-regional communication, the partnership that resulted from this project enables the regions to share financial, technical, and knowledge resources and ensure the project's success. This will also serve to reduce conflict over resources and ideology. By using a watershed-scale approach, this project benefits from economies of scale and will provide greater benefits than if each individual IRWM Region were to attempt to address issues within the Santa Margarita River Watershed on an individual basis.

Photo credit: Project Clean Water

9.2.5 Hydrological Integration

Definition: Addressing multiple watershed functions within the hydrologic cycle. *Chapter 5, Watershed Characterizations,* contains information on the watersheds within the IRWM region.

As described in *Section 9.4*, the method by which this integration criterion is assessed for IRWM projects is based upon whether or not a project provides watershed services. For purposes of the IRWM Plan, watershed services are considered based upon the Watershed Management Area Analysis described in Provision B.3.b.(4) of the San Diego Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Permit (Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by Order No. R9-2015-0001 and Order No. R9-2015-0100).

As such, IRWM projects meet this integration criterion if they:

- Address dominant hydrologic processes, such as infiltration
- Address existing streams in a watershed, including those that are perennial or ephemeral
- Address current or anticipated future land uses that may impact the hydrologic cycle
- Address sedimentation or sediment yield areas
- Address existing flood control structures or channel structures and associated hydromodification

Photo Credit: Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

Example: Chollas Creek Integration Project

The *Chollas Creek Integration Project* included in Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 2 represents an example of hydrological integration. The project addresses flooding and water quality issues through creek realignment, physical flood control, and habitat restoration. Flood control efforts like reducing impervious surfaces or bank stabilization, will help to improve water quality, while water quality improvements and habitat restoration efforts, such as removal of invasive species and planting native species, will help reduce flooding. By simultaneously addressing different components of the hydrologic cycle, this project provides multiple benefits from a single activity.

9.2.6 Methods Used to Promote and Encourage Integration

A Strategic Integration Workshop was held for each round of implementation grants starting with Proposition 84 Round 2. Workshops were held on September 12, 2012 (Round 2), April 22, 2014 (Round 3), and April 1, 2015 (Round 4) to encourage and improve integration in and among projects submitted to the IRWM project database. The Strategic Integration Workshop was conceptualized by the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup, which was tasked with providing recommendations on how to increase project integration and promote development of projects that are aptly suited for IRWM funding due to their integrated components (as defined in *Sections 9.2.1 - 9.2.5* above).

In each grant cycle, prior to the Integration Workshops, the IRWM Program releases information on the upcoming funding opportunity and highlights the importance of integration. This information is released via the IRWM e-mail list and the IRWM website, and is also discussed at RAC meetings. At the workshops, breakout groups are held during which project proponents describe preliminary project ideas to other stakeholders with similar project types or in similar geographies. At some past workshops, potential project partners submitted project partner forms describing potential services that could be provided to support other projects. At others, potential partners either announced their potential services or approached project sponsors after hearing about potential project concepts. The format of the Integration Workshops are adjusted in response to feedback on past workshops and the specific goals of a given funding opportunity.

During the Integration Workshops, local project sponsors and potential project partners discussed the preliminary project concepts and partnering opportunities. The purpose of these workshops was to bring stakeholders together to provide information about projects being considered within the Region and to encourage sponsors and project partners to discuss ways in which their project concepts could be elaborated upon or potentially combined to increase integration. Through this process, many of the projects ultimately included in the Proposition 84 – Rounds 2, 3, and 4 funding proposals were conceived or improved.

Stakeholders discussing projects at the Strategic Integration Workshop

Photo Credit: Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

Based on discussion with the RAC on April 3, 2013, the first Strategic Integration Workshop was considered a success and incorporated into the formal project solicitation process. Stakeholders appreciated the opportunity to learn about other projects being considered and to integrate their projects with similar or complementary projects. Integration Workshops or similar integration-based forums will continue to be held in advance of future IRWM implementation funding opportunities, to further understanding of integration and improve project integration throughout the Region. An Integration Workshop for Proposition 1 – Round 1 is planned for October 2018.

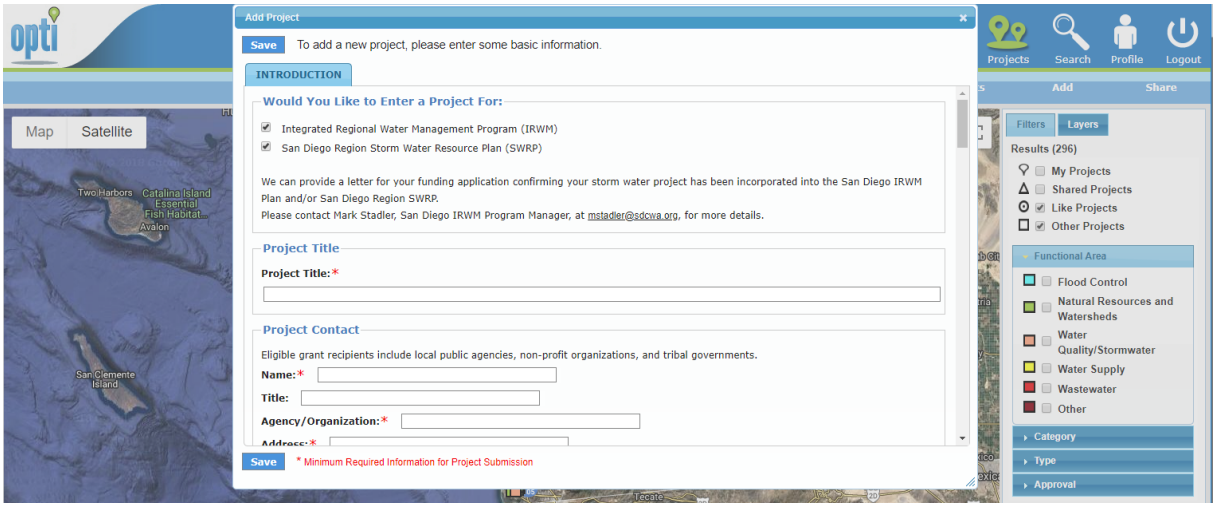
In addition to activities such as the Integration Workshop, the San Diego IRWM Program encourages integration through its project selection process because integrated projects are scored higher, making them more likely to be included in funding proposals, than non-integrated projects (refer to *Section 9.4.2* for more information on the project scoring process). Further, watershed coordination groups, such as watershed council or coalitions, are an effective means by which to promote community dialogue on water issues and can provide a basis for coordinating IRWM project development, integration, and implementation.

9.3 Including Projects in the IRWM Plan

Projects that meet at least one Plan Objective are eligible for inclusion in the San Diego IRWM Plan as soon as they are entered into the San Diego IRWM Project Database, which is hosted through the San Diego IRWM Website (www.sdirwmp.org). The San Diego IRWM Program has updated the online project database periodically to incorporate the evolution of the project selection process, the IRWM Program, funding opportunities, and accommodate the Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) project list.

The project database was updated to expand its functionality and use, and in particular to allow the database to function as a means for data and information-sharing. For example, the database includes a mapping feature that allows users to view all projects included in the database on a map (to view their location in the Region), allows users to sort projects by functional area (i.e., natural resources projects vs. water supply projects, etc.), and provides a scoring and ranking system of stormwater projects consistent with the SWRP. The inclusive nature of this process was established to encourage stakeholders to enter projects into the database even in times when there are not active IRWM grant

cycles occurring, so as to provide a comprehensive list of water resources projects across the Region and to maintain eligibility for a variety of non-IRWM funding programs. During IRWM grant cycles, a call for projects is put out through the stakeholder outreach channels in place for the San Diego IRWM Program (RAC meetings, stakeholder e-mail list, outreach meetings, etc.).



Screenshot of the San Diego IRWM Project Database

While stormwater projects should be added to the project database for inclusion in the IRWM Plan and/or SWRP, the SWRP has a separate project scoring process from the IRWM Plan. Information on the SWRP's scoring process can be found in Section 5.4 of that document and emphasizes multiple benefits and the quantification of such benefits. An overview of that process is provided in *Chapter 7 Regional Coordination* in this IRWM Plan. The SWRP is available on the San Diego IRWM Program website, here: http://sdirwmp.org/2017-swrp.

9.4 IRWM Project Review

IRWM projects are a fundamental component of the 2019 IRWM Plan, and are considered the primary venue through which to implement IRWM Objectives. Project review and prioritization for the 2019 IRWM Plan has two fundamental components: the project review process and project scoring content. The project review process refers to the specific actions taken to review and prioritize projects, while the project scoring content refers to the quantitative and qualitative criteria that are applied to the projects in order to complete scoring and ranking. The IRWM Plan is a living document, and the projects included in the IRWM Plan may be updated as necessary. Because of this, the addition or removal of a project from the IRWM Plan's online list of projects does not require the IRWM Plan to be amended or re-adopted. For inclusion in the Plan, a project must first be submitted to the online IRWM Project Database, available at: http://irwm.rmcwater.com/sd/login.php. Once submitted to the database, projects may be included in the IRWM Plan if they meet at least one IRWM Plan Objective (see *Chapter 2, Vision and Objectives*). Further, projects seeking funding from non-IRWM sources frequently score higher when included in their local IRWM Plan. The online project database allows all projects that meet at least one IRWM Plan Objective to be added to the IRWM Project List. The RWMG provides confirmation letters of inclusion in the San Diego IRWM Plan upon request that project sponsors may include in their funding applications to other programs.

As described in *Chapter 6, Governance and Stakeholder Involvement,* the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup was convened for the 2013 IRWM Plan and tasked with developing recommendations for the project prioritization process and project scoring content for IRWM funding opportunities.

Based on these recommendations, a Project Selection Workgroup is convened for each funding cycle to evaluate submitted projects based on the scoring criteria, funding cycle priorities, and other considerations identified by the Region's stakeholders for a given cycle. The basic scoring and project selection process has since been used successfully for Proposition 84 - Rounds 3 and 4, and the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement grant applications. Following each project selection process, the Project Selection Workgroup holds a debriefing session to identify opportunities for refining the process that can be incorporated for the next cycle.

The following sections describe how the IRWM project review and selection process and project scoring content for IRWM funding opportunities will be conducted and structured for future rounds of IRWM funding.

9.4.1 IRWM Project Review and Selection Process

During consideration of projects for IRWM funding programs, the San Diego IRWM Program uses a multi-step process for project review that relies heavily on stakeholder input. Note that a project must be included in the IRWM Plan to be eligible for IRWM funding, and submitted prior to the Call for Projects deadline. As outlined in the steps below, project selection is initially done through an objective, automatic scoring system, with scores confirmed by a third party. These scores are used to develop a ranked and tiered list of projects that are numerically scored based upon their ability to meet pre-defined criteria such as the ability to address multiple IRWM Plan objectives. Detailed information on scoring criteria is provided in *Section 9.4.2*.

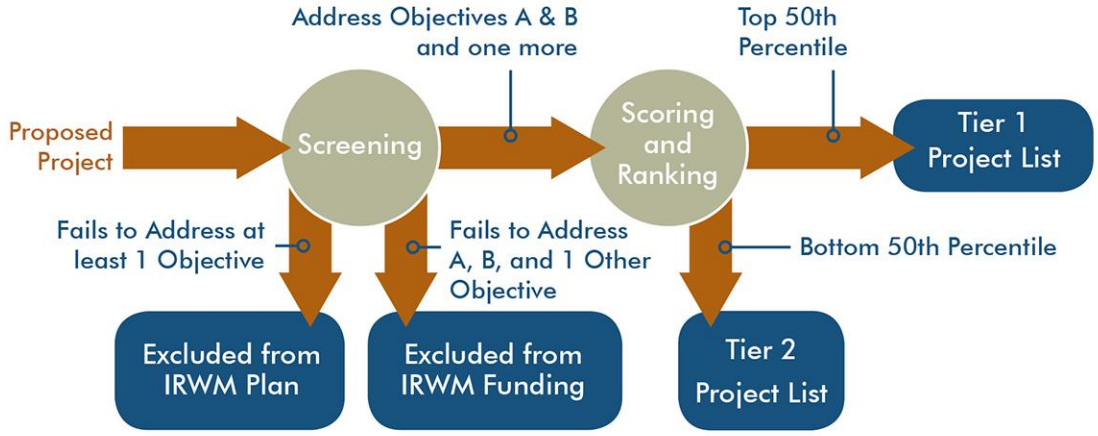
The Strategic Integration Workshop was an effective way to allow project sponsors to connect prior to opening of the Call for Projects.

Photo credit: Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

Stakeholder input is solicited following the scoring process, which allows stakeholders to elevate projects to the Tier 1 list (funding-eligible) based on merit, importance to IRWM Program, and other factors. During a grant proposal solicitation phase, only projects in Tier 1 are considered for funding. A Project Selection Workgroup, selected by the RAC, is convened to review database submittals and recommend projects to include in the San Diego IRWM Region's proposal package. The RAC considers the package of projects for inclusion in a funding proposal and votes whether to recommend the package to the RWMG governing bodies. Per the RWMG's MOU, the Water Authority is the applicant for the region, and its governing body – the San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors – must vote to approve the grant application, including the package of projects, before it may be submitted to DWR.

The recommended process to be implemented by the San Diego IRWM Program from project submittal through compilation of a grant proposal package is outlined in the following steps. Figure 9-1 shows an overview of IRWM project selection, while Figure 9-2 provides a step-by-step account of the project review and selection process.

Figure 9-1: Overview of IRWM Project Selection



Please note that the following steps are recommendations regarding the project selection process, and therefore may be amended as appropriate by the RWMG or the RAC:

1. RWMG to propose modifications to Scoring Criteria in Table 9-1 based on Proposal Solicitation Package priorities. RAC amends modifications and votes on final Scoring Criteria to use for a given funding cycle.
2. Hold an outreach meeting such as a Strategic Integration Workshop or a Watershed Workshop before the formal Call for Projects to allow stakeholders to interact and potentially integrate projects and project concepts. The scoring process and criteria will be explained, and tutorial given on how to use the online Project Database.
3. Issue a Call for Projects that is long enough to reasonably allow project sponsors to ask questions regarding the database, complete database forms, and revise previously submitted projects.
4. Use the IRWM Project Database to score and rank projects according to the numeric scoring criteria described in *Section 9.4.2*.
5. Partial credit may be applied if projects only result in indirect benefits. Table 9-3 (located at the end of this chapter) provides an overview of how partial scoring may be applied to projects with respect to the IRWM Plan Objectives.
6. Have a third party review the project database scoring and ranking, and review each project to consistently apply scoring across all projects ("ground-truthing").
7. Sort projects into Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists – approximately the top 50% and bottom 50%, respectively.
8. Make the Tier 1/Tier 2 scored project list available to all IRWM stakeholders and allow IRWM stakeholders to contest any scoring changes based on the ground-truthing exercise.
9. Present the Tier 1/Tier 2 scored project list to the RAC and allow the RAC to vote on the list. The RAC may vote to recommend elevating projects from the Tier 2 list to the Tier 1 list.
10. Convene a Project Selection Workgroup (selected by the RAC), which consists of RAC members or other qualified stakeholders representing each caucus.

11. Have the Project Selection Workgroup review all projects (Tier 1 and Tier 2). The Workgroup is provided the tiered list that includes recommendations from the RAC for elevating projects from Tier 2 to Tier 1.
12. Allow Project Selection Workgroup members to nominate elevation of projects from the Tier 2 list to the Tier 1 list. Decisions to elevate projects from the Tier 2 list to the Tier 1 list must be done by a 2/3 super-majority vote.
13. Have the Project Selection Workgroup discuss the overall grant budget and determine the appropriate process through which to split available funds among projects during one of the initial Project Selection Workgroup meetings.
14. Funnel any questions about projects posed by the Project Selection Workgroup members through a third party, who will report back to the Workgroup.
15. Have the Project Selection Workgroup discuss and evaluate projects based on the project- and proposal-level criteria, using the criteria to eliminate projects from consideration. As appropriate, the Workgroup may hold private votes to conduct the post-scoring evaluation.
16. When the Project Selection Workgroup is applying the project-level and proposal-level criteria, they may break up by caucus and rate each project on how they meet the criteria.
17. Have the Project Selection Workgroup select projects for interviews and provide proponents with presentation guidelines and standard format.
18. Have the Project Selection Workgroup conduct interviews of selected projects. Ask all proponents the same questions and give the same amount of time to present. Project-specific questions may be asked depending on additional clarification requested by the Workgroup.

    Do not allow Project Selection Workgroup members to participate as interviewees if their projects are included for consideration in the grant proposal.
19. Re-convene the Project Selection Workgroup after interviews to further eliminate/evaluate projects. Ultimately, the Workgroup will evaluate projects and budgets to reach consensus on a grant proposal.
20. Discuss final Project Selection Workgroup recommendation with the RAC. A formal vote of the RAC is required to recommend the package of proposed projects for inclusion in an IRWM grant application to the RWMG governing bodies.
21. Water Authority Board of Directors vote to approve the grant application, including the package of projects.

9.4.2 IRWM Project Scoring Content

As described in *Section 9.4.1*, projects undergo a scoring process in order to be classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2. This section provides an overview of the scoring criteria that are used in determining which projects will be considered for funding opportunities. In order to increase transparency in the project selection process, these scoring criteria are also made available to IRWM stakeholders before the Call for Projects so that they may use the criteria to decide if their projects may be appropriate for funding through the IRWM Program, or to enhance their projects to better meet the program objectives.

Table 9-1 shows the numeric project scoring criteria that are used to rank projects and sort them into the Tier 1 and Tier 2 project lists (refer to *Section 9.4.1*). Please note that each category in which a project is scored will be weighted to reflect the preferences of a given grant opportunity. This weighting will vary depending on the opportunity and will be determined by the RAC in coordination with the RWMG. Following project tiering, the Project Selection Workgroup evaluates projects on a

project-level and on a proposal-level to consider the difficult-to-quantify merits of the projects, and determine how well the projects fit together into a strong proposal that meets the preferences and requirements of the DWR grant solicitation (the grant guidelines, or Proposal Solicitation Package). Those criteria to be evaluated by the Project Selection Workgroup are included in Table 9-2.

Figure 9-2: Step-by-Step Project Review and Selection Process

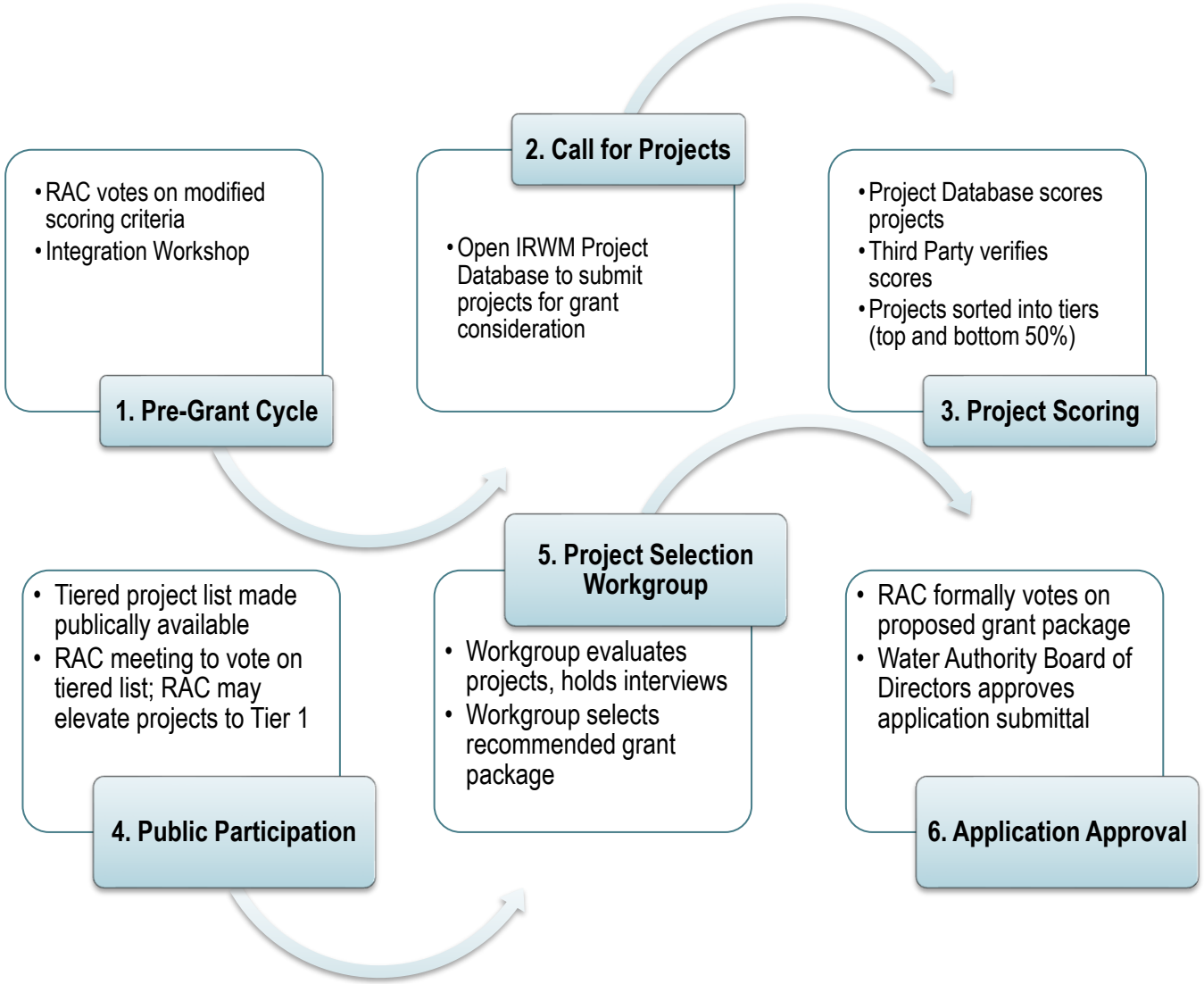


Table 9-1: Scoring Criteria for IRWM Grant Opportunities

Criterion	Scoring Procedure	Points Assigned	Percent of Total Score[2]
Addresses Multiple Objectives[1]	Score is based on # of objectives addressed[2]	6+ objectives = 4 pts 5 objectives = 3 pts 4 objectives = 2 pts 3 objectives = 1 pt	TBD
Spans Multiple Watersheds	Score is based on the level of integration between watersheds	Multiple Watersheds = 4 pts Integration within a single Watershed = 2 pts Only site-specific = 0 pts	TBD
Addresses Multiple Beneficial Uses (BUs)	Score is based on # of beneficial uses addressed	4+ BUs = 4 pts 3 BUs = 3 pts 2 BUs = 2 pts 1 BUs = 1 pt	TBD
Sustainable Water Development: Creates New Applied Water or Offsets Potable Demand[3]	Score is based on yield of water created or offset	Creates new source of reliable, local, drought-proof supply or reduces demands – consistent yield in average and dry years = 4 pts Creates new water or reduces demands – average conditions only = 2 pts Interconnections/ redundancy in supply but no additional yield created = 1 pt	TBD
Involves More than One Entity[4]	Score is based on degree of partnership	2 project partners working jointly on a task = 4 pts 2 project partners not engaged in same activity; or multiple financial sponsors = 2 pts	TBD
Invest in Disadvantaged / Environmental Justice Communities and Systems	Score is based on the degree of benefit (direct vs. indirect)	Directly invests in DAC-EDA-URC-EJ water systems, consolidation, OR training = 4 pts Other direct benefits that improve overall conditions in DACs (e.g. habitat improvement) = 2 pts Indirect benefits = 1 pt No Benefits = 0 pts	TBD
Resiliency to Climate Change	Score is based on extent of climate change adaptation or mitigation activity (Climate Change Conceptual Model[5])	Reduces very high or high priority vulnerability to climate change[6] AND improves knowledge and capacity AND implements climate change mitigation = 4 pts Reduces medium, low, or very low priority vulnerability to climate change[6] AND either 1) improves knowledge and capacity OR 2) implements climate change mitigation = 3 pts Improves knowledge and capacity AND implements climate change mitigation = 2 pts Improves knowledge and capacity OR implements climate change mitigation = 1 pt	TBD
Stormwater as a Resource	Score is based on benefit provided	Utilizes stormwater as a resource (e.g., environmental, source water replenishment) = 4 pts Implements onsite capture = 2 pts	TBD
Enhance Infrastructure	Score is based on the degree of benefit (regional vs local)	Enhances regional infrastructure (improved use of existing infrastructure)[7] = 3 pts Enhances local infrastructure (improved use of existing infrastructure) = 2 pts Indirectly improves use of existing infrastructure = 1 pt	TBD
Other[8]	TBD	TBD	TBD

1. ½ points may be applied if the project indirectly meets this criterion (see Table 9-3 example for 2019 IRWM Plan Objectives).

Criterion	Scoring Procedure	Points Assigned	Percent of Total Score[2]

2. Note that to be considered for IRWM funding, Objectives A and B and one other must be addressed. RAC may be asked to prioritize the IRWM Plan Objectives prior to each grant cycle.

3. Prior to each round of funding, percentages will be applied as appropriate to determine applicable weighting of each criterion in accordance with direction provided by the RAC and the RWMG. Please note that percentages may be set at 0 for any given criteria, indicating that any of these criteria may be removed from consideration for a specific funding opportunity. Conversely, the "Other" category provided in this table indicates that any number of new criteria may be added by the RAC and the RWMG to reflect new or modified funding priorities.

4. Partnership under this criterion is financial or physical support (active partnership). Passive support, such as letters of support, are not considered partnerships. Partners must be from different organizations (e.g., two departments in a single large organization would not be considered partners for the purposes of this scoring criterion).

5. Climate Change Conceptual Model is included in *Chapter 2 Section 2.7*.

6. Refer to Table 7-16 for prioritized climate change vulnerabilities.

7. For the purposes of project scoring, "regional infrastructure" is defined as infrastructure serving more than one agency of the same type (e.g., serves two water districts) and "local infrastructure" is defined as infrastructure serving a single agency.

8. "Other" scoring shall consider contribution of project to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, how the project will reduce dependence on Delta Supply, and how the project is related to resource management strategies (see *Chapter 8*).

Table 9-2: Framework for Scoring Guidelines for IRWM Grant Opportunities

Criteria	Suggested Workgroup Guidelines
PROJECT-LEVEL CRITERIA	
IRWM Plan Objectives	Select projects that contribute to the attainment of IRWM Plan objectives.
Legal, Scientific, and Technical Feasibility	Select projects that are well supported from a technical standpoint based on supporting studies and data.
Budget	Select projects that have well-developed budgets and exhibit reasonable costs. Note that DAC projects are exempt from the 25% funding match requirement.
Readiness to Proceed	Select projects that will be ready to proceed by Deadline established in PSP or within 3 months of LPS contract execution
Realization of Benefits	Consider timing of project benefit realization compared to project completion date (e.g., when water meter will begin recording deliveries vs completion of the pipeline).
Cost-Effectiveness – Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Damage Reduction	Select projects that are cost-effective on both the short- and long-term, and provide quantifiable benefits to the region.
Benefits Tribes	Select projects that address the water resources needs of San Diego area tribes.
Integration	Review integration potential using pre-defined types of integration – Partnerships, Management strategies, Beneficial uses, Geographic, Hydrologic
Climate Change	Contributes to climate change adaptation or mitigation
PROPOSAL-LEVEL CRITERIA	
IRWM Plan Objectives	Proposal to include a suite of projects that addresses all IRWM Plan objectives.
Linkages to Other Projects	Proposal to include projects with synergies and linkages among them.
Funding Match	Proposal to achieve an overall 50% funding match.
Schedule	Proposal must include at least one project that will begin implementation by deadline established in PSP or within 1 month of LPS contract execution.
	Proposal to include majority of projects that realize benefits within 3 years of project completion.

Criteria	Suggested Workgroup Guidelines
Economic Analysis – Water Supply, Water Quality and Other Expected Benefits, and Flood Damage Reduction	Proposal to include projects that realize quantifiable water supply benefits.
	Proposal to include projects that realize quantifiable water quality and other expected benefits.
	Proposal to include projects that realize quantifiable flood damage reduction benefits.
Geographic Parity	Proposal to include a suite of projects that will benefit watersheds across the Region.
Benefits Disadvantaged Communities	Proposal to include at least one project that addresses the critical water supply or water supply quality needs of disadvantaged communities.
Implementing Agency	Proposal to include a balance of projects sponsored by non-governmental organizations and agencies.
	Proposal to include a balance of projects that include known successful project sponsors and projects that include partnerships with organizations who have not previously been awarded funding through the IRWM Program
Cost Effectiveness	Compare cost effectiveness of projects within each functional area ($/level of benefit)
IRWM Integration	Compare integrated aspects of each project in accordance with the definition of integration established by the San Diego IRWM Program
Cutting-Edge Technology	Proposal to highly consider projects that implement cutting-edge or next-generation technologies that can effectively address water management issues

Table 9-3: Potential Partial Credit for 2019 IRWM Plan Objectives

Objective	1 point *Direct; active*	0.5 points *Indirect; passive*	0 points *Not applicable*
Objective A| Encourage the development of integrated solutions to address water management issues and conflicts.	Active project partnerships (working together on a task or splitting the work between multiple organizations); multiple resources management strategies; project provides multiple beneficial uses; project is implemented across multiple watersheds; Addresses multiple watershed functions (water quality, stormwater management, ecosystem services, etc.); project enhances sustainability of systems for the future.	N/A – Project must meet Objective A to be considered for funding	No specific activities in work plan
Objective B| Maximize stakeholder/community involvement and stewardship of water resources, emphasizing education and outreach.	Workshops/educational meetings; interpretive signage w/ IRWM principles; Hands-on events such as cleanups or water quality monitoring; Fliers/mailers; Surveys; Community events; School-based educational programs *Note: legally required outreach does not meet Objective B (e.g., CEQA meetings; Customer meetings)*	N/A – Project must meet Objective B to be considered for funding	No specific activities in work plan
Objective C| Effectively obtain, manage, and assess water resource data and information.	Collect, manage, assess and share data (online, database, plan); Data must inform decision-making	Used for project-purposes only; Not shared beyond project team	No specific activities in work plan
Objective D| Further scientific and technical foundation of water management.	Research and development; pilot projects with shared results; Scientific analysis must inform decision-making; Regulation development/revisions with regulatory agencies	Used for project-purposes only; Not shared beyond project team; Standard permitting with regulatory agencies	No specific activities in work plan
Objective E| Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources, encouraging their efficient use and development of local water supplies.	Produces and uses recycled water, seawater desalination, local surface water, or groundwater; Water transfers; Water conservation; Stormwater capture if beneficially used; Habitat preservation or treatment to protect supplies	Produces water but not uses; Stormwater capture not used; Incidental recharge; Incidental reduction in environmental demands (invasive removal); Upland preservation	No specific activities in work plan
Objective F| Construct, operate, and maintain a reliable and resilient water management infrastructure system.	Construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of aging/ inadequate infrastructure; Emergency/redundant facilities; Natural systems (creeks) if offloads constructed system	Energy efficiency for conveyance/treatment systems; Infrastructure built but not connected to customers; Pilot project infrastructure; Mitigation for infrastructure	No specific activities in work plan
Objective G| Enhance natural hydrologic processes to reduce the effects of hydromodification and encourage integrated flood management.	Hydromodification BMPs and LID; Retention basins in floodplain; Structural flood improvements; Floodplain widening or realignment; Managed habitat restoration for flood purposes (needs technical doc); Reduced flood risk; Acquisition and protection of floodplain	Incidental flood benefits from habitat restoration; Retention basins with other primary purpose (recharge or water quality); Monitoring only; Pilot project only	No specific activities in work plan; Data collection only

Objective	1 point *Direct; active*	0.5 points *Indirect; passive*	0 points *Not applicable*
Objective H| Effectively reduce sources of pollutants and environmental stressors to protect and enhance human health, safety, and the environment.	Salinity management; Stormwater BMPs and LID; Point-source treatment; Reduces wastewater discharges to ocean outfalls; Water and wastewater treatment; Erosion/ sedimentation control; Contaminant uptake via habitat restoration if changing from impermeable to permeable; Retention basins for water quality treatment	Incidental water quality benefits from habitat restoration (currently permeable); Monitoring only; Pilot project only	No specific activities in work plan; Data collection only
Objective I| Protect, restore and maintain habitat and open space.	Habitat acquisition or restoration w/nexus to water resources; Removal of aquatic/riparian barriers (check dams); Invasive species management; Habitat creation	Agricultural land protection (as wildlife corridors); Monitoring only; Incidental habitat protection due to sediment control	No specific activities in work plan; Data collection only
Objective J| Advance water-based enriching experiences.	Access points to water-based recreation; Trails; Fishing/boat launches; Picnic areas; Overlooks; Bacteria reduction that directly reduces beach closures; Water quality improvements at reservoirs; Quagga control at reservoirs	Incidental water quality benefits from habitat restoration; Acquiring land for future trails	No specific activities in work plan

9.5 References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2016. *2016 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines*. July 2016. Available: https://www.water.ca.gov/LegacyFiles/irwm/grants/docs/p1Guidelines/2016Prop1IRWMGuidelines_FINAL_07192016.pdf