



**Defining “Regional Water Security”**  
**An Eligibility Criterion for Proposition 1 IRWM Grants**  
*DRAFT*

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**Regional Water Security:**

Water security is defined by the United Nations (UN) as “the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.” The goal is to ensure protection against waterborne pollution and water-related disasters, including climate change impacts, by building capacity through improved infrastructure (natural and man-made) planning and training. Under Proposition 50, the State Water Resources Control Board describes improving local water security as reducing dependence on imported water.

The San Diego IRWM Program defines regional water security as reliable water resources for human and ecosystem needs (supply, availability, quality, and access). Water security may be improved through development of reliable supplies; improvements to water supply conveyance, storage facilities, and treatment that reduce the risk of infrastructure failures; increased water use efficiency; reduced reliance on imported water; multi-benefit water resource projects; projects that utilize a single supply for multiple uses (e.g., groundwater recharge via agricultural fields or habitat areas); water quality improvements; source water protection; and restoration projects that help to restore natural ecosystem functions. Other projects and efforts that contribute to or support local water resources, including capacity building related to management of water resources and quality, multi-purpose flood management, or that reduce threats to water resources and access (e.g., climate change mitigation and adaptation measures) also contribute to regional water security. The San Diego IRWM Program’s primary intent with improving regional water security is increase local supply reliability and diversification, increase water availability, and to improve water quality for all local and regional uses of water (potable, non-potable, ecosystem, and recreational).

References:

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