CHAPTER 7
Process for Plan Updates, Program Assessment, and Adaptive Management (SWRP Guidelines Section VI.E)

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SWRP Checklist Guidelines

☒ The Plan identifies the development of appropriate decision support tools and the data necessary to use the decision support tools.

☒ Plan describes implementation strategy, including:

☒ Procedures for ongoing review, updates, and adaptive management of the Plan; and

☒ Plan describes how implementation performance measures will be tracked.

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This chapter describes the process for updating the SWRP and the approach to adaptively manage the plan as existing plans are updated and future planning documents that have specific goals and timelines to meet watershed-based goals and implementation strategies are prepared. In addition, updates may be completed when new storm water-related funding sources become available.
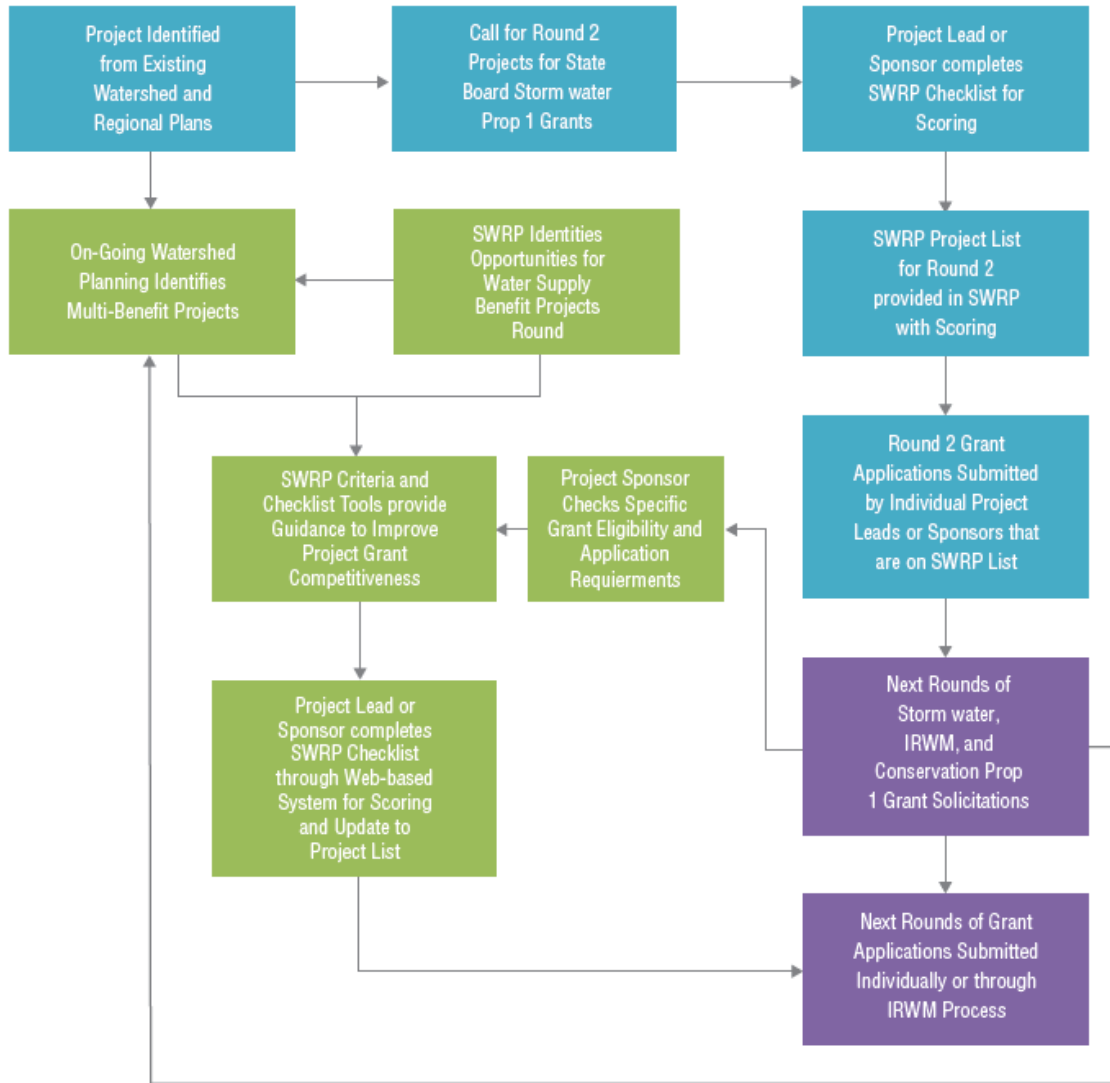
7.1   SWRP Updates and Adaptive Management

Updates to this SWRP will largely occur through the project submittal and evaluation process outlined in Chapter 5 of this plan, which includes completing the checklist for scoring and inclusion on the SWRP project list. Figure 7-1 presents the process for current and future project prioritization and inclusion in the SWRP. Anticipated updates to the SWRP checklist used to evaluate and score projects will be completed, as applicable, to reflect specific evaluation criteria in future grant solicitations. As presented in Figure 7-1, this SWRP establishes a prioritized project list by watershed for the second round of SWRCB Prop 1 storm water grant funding. As grant solicitations are announced, the SWRP project checklist may be updated prior to call for projects and updates to the SWRP project list.

Proposition 1 funds for multi-benefit storm water projects will be available through two solicitations or "rounds" of funding. Approximately, $80 million of Proposition 1 funds were available to fund implementation projects during the first solicitation (Round 1), which were awarded in the Fall of 2016. An additional approximately $86 million will be available to fund implementation projects during the second solicitation (Round 2) and will likely be distributed in the Spring of 2018. Preparation of this SWRP was initiated to identify and prioritize projects within the region in compliance with the requirements of Round 1 and Round 2 funds. The SWRP project checklist in Chapter 5 is based on SWRP funding solicitations, and may not be applicable to funding source solicitations that become available in the future. These include future rounds of SWRP funding for individual applicants or through the IRWM Program and conservation agency funding for projects that have a water quality or storm water capture element. As new funding sources become available, the project checklist will be evaluated and

updated as necessary. Updates to the project checklist, scoring, and project lists will be completed through the regional OPTI database established for the San Diego IRWM Program and used for this SWRP. Updates to the written SWRP are not anticipated.

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Figure 7-1
Funding Process for Current and Future Project Submittal for
SWRP Listing and SWRP Checklist Updates

As presented in Figure 7-1, future projects (those not included in the current project list, which was focused on meeting criteria for Round 1 and Round 2 of the Storm Water Grant Program) will be identified and developed through updates to existing plans or the development of new plans. Individual or regional applicants will complete the most updated version of the project checklist using the online OPTI system, and the projects will undergo assessment, scoring, and inclusion in an updated project list online. The current project list, included in Appendix I, is based on the call for projects for Round 2 of the Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program and evaluation and scoring using the current checklist. However, future project lists will be based on updated calls for funding and an updated checklist, if needed. This SWRP is, therefore, adaptive to updates and modifications to watershed and regional plan goals, project identification, and development based on new data, changes in conditions, and new regulations.

The OPTI system has been in place for several years, and was created for the San Diego IRWM Program.[1] The database provides an online system where interested parties can input projects for inclusion in the IRWM Plan. In the Fall of 2016, the OPTI system was modified to include a list of projects for the SWRP. The OPTI system provides a "living list" of projects such that users can continuously update their projects or add new projects. These projects will be included in either the IRWM Plan or SWRP, or the user can select to have the project in both planning documents. This flexibility allows regional stakeholders to add new projects as they are identified and developed, modify projects to maximize integration and benefits, and include projects for funding consideration. In addition, the OPTI database also provides other useful features, such as maps, so that users can view other projects within the region to determine potential synergy or collaboration opportunities. In this way, the OPTI database is considered a regional resource for stakeholders that can be used to integrate project opportunities throughout the San Diego region.

After users log into the system, they can select the type of grant funding (either IRWM Program or Stormwater Grant Program, or both) for which they would like their project to be eligible. From there, users must input a certain amount of project information (required fields) for the projects to be included in either planning document. Once projects have been entered into the system, the projects will remain on the list of projects indefinitely.

7.2   Tracking of Performance Measurements

The process for tracking performance measurements to assess the effectiveness of grant-funded projects to meet the benefit criteria listed in the SWRP checklist will be conducted by the project sponsor for individual grant applications. Project effectiveness assessment, monitoring, and reporting will need to meet specific grant solicitation and grant agreement requirements. The SWRP checklist includes criteria and additional scoring for the quantification of benefits using specific metrics. Higher scoring provides an incentive for applicants to further develop projects and to quantify benefits using the metrics and worksheet provided with the checklist. As the completed checklists for projects are entered electronically in the OPTI system, performance measures for each project will be recorded and be part of the project database. Future updates to these quantitative measurements may be completed and tracked as projects are further developed

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1   The OPTI database is accessible at this link: http://irwm.rmcwater.com/sd/login.php

and checklists and project scoring are updated. For example, a project that is at a conceptual stage may not have quantitative measurements of benefits when first entered in the OPTI database. In order to increase the scoring of a project for future grant funding, a project may be further developed to provide such data, and the checklist input could be updated to achieve a higher scoring and prioritization.

As funded projects are implemented, quantification of benefits per the listed metrics may become available as the design is completed and implementation performance measures are monitored and reported per the specific grant requirements, plans, and agreements. A PAEP is required for projects applying for SWRCB grants (including Round 2 of the Storm Water Grant Program), which entails the following requirements:

a) Identify targets appropriate for the benefits claimed, with emphasis on the benefits that are obtainable using the requested grant funds;

b) Discuss the proposed measurement methods needed to evaluate project performance and progress toward meeting the targets;

c) Describe any monitoring activities proposed, parameters and frequency of monitoring, and how the data will be integrated into California Environmental Data Exchange Network; and

d) Describe whether the proposal leverages existing monitoring efforts.

The SWRP checklist provides a basis for the development of the PAEP as it lists the quantifiable measurements and metrics in which to measure project effectiveness in achieving its benefits. The measurement and reporting of project-specific targets, as outlined in the PAEP, will be done according to the specific grant program and requirements by the project sponsor.

Tracking of completion of projects and meeting benefit targets will be done at the watershed and regional plan level through updates to these plans, where applicable. For example, completion and achievement of water quality goals to meet TMDL and MS4 Permit targets will be documented in annual reporting and updates to the WQIPs. These updates will result in updated targets and identification of projects that will then feed into the process outlined in Figure 7-1.

In addition, projects that are funded through the IRWM Program are tracked through the IRWM Grant Administrator. Once projects are complete, the project sponsor is required to provide a close-out report to the San Diego IRWM stakeholder group (the RAC) to inform other stakeholders about important lessons learned and outcomes of the project. After projects are completed, sponsors are also required to complete annual reporting to the DWR to track updates on project progress, and how well projects are performing with respect to their anticipated benefits.