

2013 San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

9 Project Evaluation and Prioritization

This chapter addresses requirements set forth in the Integration Standard and the Project Review Process Standard in the *2012 IRWM Program Guidelines* (DWR 2012). As such, this chapter includes information regarding the structures and processes that provide opportunities to develop and foster integration as well as the processes used to select projects for inclusion in the 2013 IRWM Plan.

9.1 Overview

The intent of this chapter is to document both the integration and 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 that was intentionally developed to promote and encourage integration.
- The process used for submitting, reviewing, and selecting projects for inclusion in the 2013 IRWM Plan and subsequent grant applications.

9.2 Integration

According to DWR, integration generally means combining separate pieces into an efficiently functioning unit (DWR 2012). 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. Further, Section 9.2.6 describes actions taken by the IRWM Program to promote and encourage integration.

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.



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

Photo Credit: Kim Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

9.2.1 Partnership Integration

Definition: Establishing partnerships between different organizations that are cost effective through sharing of data, resources and infrastructure. 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, in order to garner points in the project evaluation process, a project must include partnerships with outside entities.

Example: Rural Disadvantaged Communities Partnership Program

The *Rural Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Partnership Program* was selected for inclusion in the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 2 Proposal. This program proposes to fund 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 will serve 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 ensure the success of projects and overcome potential barriers. 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 than if the groups worked separately.

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: Sustaining Healthy Tributaries to the Upper San Diego River

The *Sustaining Healthy Tributaries to the Upper San Diego River* project included in the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 2 Proposal represents an example of resource management integration. The project proposes to restore habitat along a stream and monitor water quality and aquatic life before and after the restoration work. These data will provide insight into the success of the project and the impact restoration work has on water quality and aquatic life. Data collected as part of this project will also be used to provide baseline stream data, which is anticipated to help inform management of other streams in the San Diego River system, and provide information about source water protection as the primary creek being monitored for this project (Boulder Creek) is tributary to one of the Region's most important water supply reservoirs, El Capitan Reservoir. Integrating monitoring with habitat restoration and water quality data will provide a more complete understanding of stream health and help to address issues in similar streams in the future.

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 2 Proposal 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. By integrating recycled water systems across a variety of agency service areas, the project will maximize the beneficial uses served by the project by providing recycled water for industrial, municipal, and agricultural beneficial uses. As 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.

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 between 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 the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 2 Proposal, 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.

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 2013 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 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

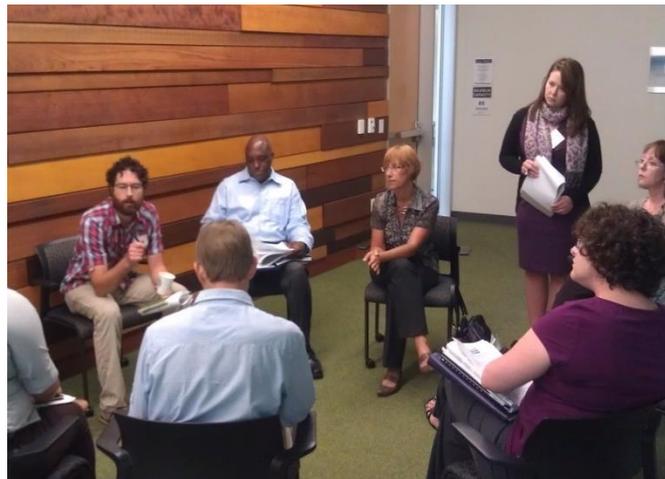
Example: Chollas Creek Integration Project

The *Chollas Creek Integration Project* included in the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant – Round 2 Proposal represents an example of hydrological integration. The project proposes to address 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 on September 12, 2012 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 several items including 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).

As suggested by the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup, prior to the Strategic Integration Workshop, the IRWM Program released a Call for Project Concepts and a Call for Project Partners. These items were released via the IRWM e-mail list, the IRWM website, and were also discussed at the August 3, 2012 RAC meeting. Project proponents submitted project concepts describing preliminary project ideas, and potential project partners submitted project partner forms describing potential services that could be provided to support other projects. Prior to the Strategic Integration Workshop, the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup reviewed the project concept forms and project partner forms for potential integration and partnering opportunities that could be suggested to stakeholders during the Strategic Integration Workshop. During the Strategic Integration Workshop, local project sponsors and potential project partners



Stakeholders discussing projects at the Strategic Integration Workshop

Photo Credit: Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment

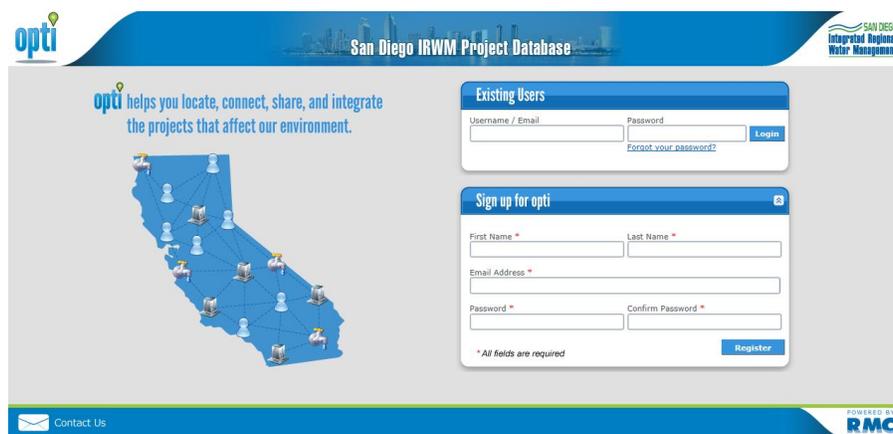
discussed the preliminary project concepts and partnering opportunities. The purpose of this workshop was to bring stakeholders together to provide information about projects being considered within the region and to encourage sponsors and project partners to discuss ways in which their project concepts could be elaborated upon or potentially combined to increase integration. Through this process, many of the projects ultimately included in the Proposition 84 – Round 2 funding proposal were conceived or improved.

Based on discussion with the RAC on April 3, 2013, the Strategic Integration Workshop was considered a success. Stakeholders appreciated the opportunity to learn about other projects being considered and to integrate their projects with similar or complementary projects. Strategic Integration Workshops or similar integration-based forums will be held in advance of future IRWM funding opportunities, to further understanding of integration and improve project integration throughout the Region.

In addition to activities such as the Strategic Integration Workshop, the San Diego IRWM Program encourages integration through its project selection process as 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 updated the online project database in 2012 when comprehensively updating the San Diego IRWM Program Website (refer to *Chapter 10, Data and Technical Analysis* for more information).



Screenshot of the San Diego IRWM Project Database

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 now 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), and also allows users to sort projects by functional area (i.e. natural resources projects vs. water supply projects, etc.). 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 grant cycles occurring, so as to provide a comprehensive list of water resources projects across the Region. During 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.).

The expanded nature of the online project database allows stakeholders to enter projects into the online project database at any time; however, these projects are not automatically included in the IRWM Plan. As described in *Chapter 2, Vision and Objectives*, in order to be included in the IRWM Plan, a project must meet at least one objective, but to be considered for inclusion in IRWM-funding grants, projects must meet Objective A and Objective B, as well as at least one of the other IRWM objectives (C through K).

9.4 IRWM Project Review

IRWM projects are a fundamental component of the 2013 IRWM Plan, and are considered the primary venue through which to implement IRWM Objectives. Project review and prioritization for the 2013 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 IRWM Plan Objective (see *Chapter 2, Vision and Objectives*).

As described in *Chapter 6, Governance and Stakeholder Involvement*, the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup, which was convened for the 2013 IRWM Plan was tasked with developing recommendations for the project prioritization process and project scoring content for IRWM funding opportunities. In Fall 2012 while the 2013 IRWM Plan was being prepared, the Region convened a Project Selection Workgroup to review and select projects for recommended funding via the upcoming Proposition 84-Round 2 Implementation Grant process. In December 2012 the RWMG convened a joint meeting of the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup and the Proposition 84-Round 2 Project Selection Workgroup to discuss the project prioritization process and project scoring content, and to provide recommendations for how the process and scoring may be amended for future rounds of IRWM funding. Further, a joint RAC meeting and public workshop was held on April 3, 2013, to provide additional input regarding the IRWM project review process and project scoring content.

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.

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. Those governing bodies – the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, San Diego City Council and 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 ultimate approval of the application and projects submitted for funding lies with the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority, the agency authorized to submit grant applications on behalf of the RWMG.

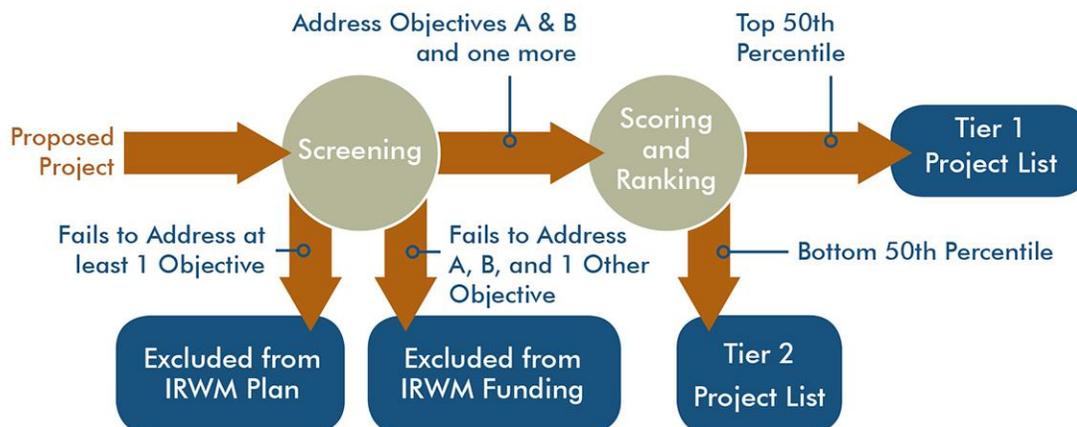


The Strategic Integration Workshop was an effective way to allow project sponsors to connect prior to opening of the Call for Projects.

Photo credit: Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment

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

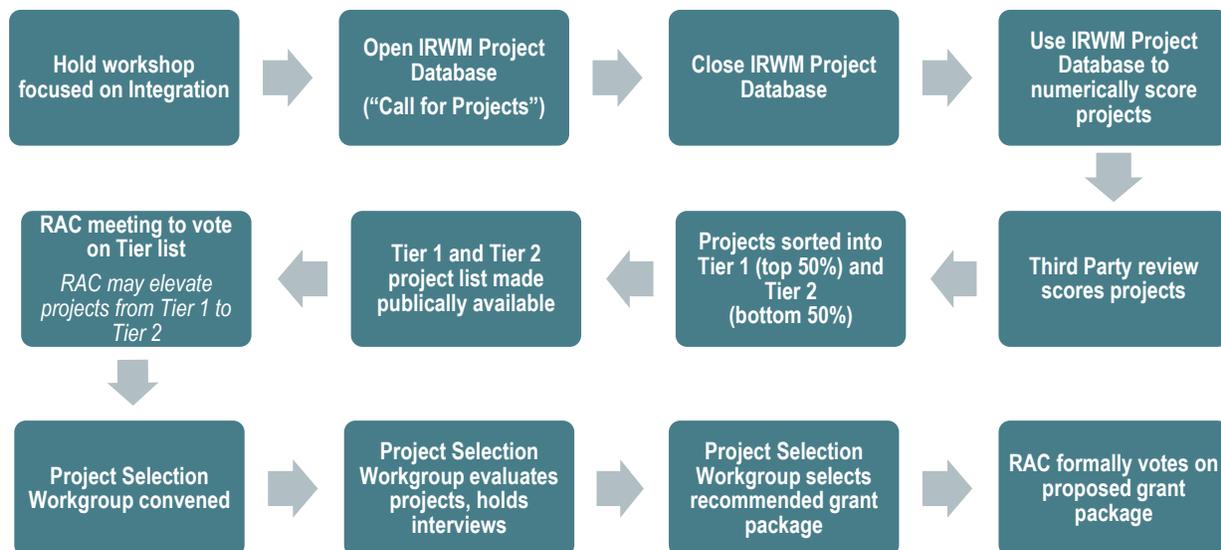


Please note that the following steps are recommendations regarding the project selection process, and therefore may be amended as appropriate by the RWMG or the RAC:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Use the IRWM Project Database to score and rank projects according to the numeric scoring described in Section 9.4.2.
4. 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.
5. Have a third party review the project database scoring and ranking, and review each project to consistently apply scoring across all projects (“ground-truthing”).
6. Sort projects into Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists – approximately the top 50% and bottom 50%, respectively.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Convene a Project Selection Workgroup, which consists of RAC members from each caucus.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Have the Project Selection Workgroup discuss the overall project budget, and determine the appropriate process through which to split available funds among projects during one of the initial Project Selection Workgroup meetings.
13. Funnel any questions about projects posed by the Project Selection Workgroup members through a third party, who will report back to the Workgroup.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Have the Project Selection Workgroup select projects for interviews and provide proponents with presentation guidelines, template, and standard format.
17. 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.

- Do not allow Project Selection Workgroup members to participate as interviewees if their projects are included for consideration in the grant proposal.
- 18. 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.
- 19. 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.
- 20. RWMG governing bodies vote to approve the grant application, including the package of projects.

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



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.

In addition to the scoring criteria listed in Table 9-1 and Table 9-2, the following steps pertaining to project scoring for future IRWM grant opportunities were recommended and approved of by the RAC and RWMG. Although included in the 2013 IRWM Plan, the following steps remain as recommendations only as to provide flexibility to adapt as needed to grant cycles. As with the project review process recommended in Section 9.4.1, the scoring steps and criteria presented below are recommendations that may be amended as appropriate.

1. Recommended edits to the project database:
 - a. The project database should be limited to only include information necessary to score the projects into Tier 1 and Tier 2 lists.
 - b. All projects will be asked to submit a formal project abstract that includes a complete summary of the project in a consistent (pre-determined) format.
2. Recommended edits to the scoring criteria:
 - a. RWMG will create draft scoring criteria for each round of funding, and will bring the criteria to the RAC for review and approval. As indicated in Table 9-1, weighting for all scoring criteria are not established in this IRWM Plan. Weighting for any of the criteria may be changed to 0%, which would indicate that the given criterion is not applicable to a future round of project selection. Conversely, given the open nature of the criteria, any number of additional criteria may be added to reflect regional funding priorities.
 - b. RWMG will create materials that explain how points will be assigned in the ground-truthing process. These materials will be made available to stakeholders prior to or during the Call for Projects.
3. Recommended edits to the project- and proposal-level criteria:
 - a. When the Project Selection Workgroup is applying the project-level and proposal-level criteria, they will break up by caucus, and rate each project on how they meet the criteria.
 - b. RAC to determine a guideline for the approximate number of projects to be included in each proposal.

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 ³	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
Addresses Multiple Watershed Services within the Hydrologic Cycle	Score is based on the number of watershed services ⁴ within the hydrologic cycle	Includes 2+ watershed services = 2 pts Includes 1-2 watershed services = 1 pts Includes no watershed functions = 0 pts	TBD
Creates New Applied Water or Offsets Potable Demand ²	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 4 pt No = 0 pts	TBD
Linked to Other Water Management Projects	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 4 pt No = 0 pts	TBD
Involves More than One Entity	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 4 pt No = 0 pts	TBD
Implements IRWM Plan Recommendation or Addresses an IRWM Issue ⁵ , IRWM Workgroup Recommendation, or a Recommendation in an Adopted Water Management Plan	Score is based on the kind of planning document that suggests implementing benefits or components of the project	IRWM Plan Recommendation or Issue = 4 pts Workgroup Recommendation = 2 pts Other Adopted Water Management Plan Recommendation = 1 pt	TBD
Directly Benefits Disadvantaged / Environmental Justice Communities	Score is based on the degree of benefit (direct vs. indirect)	Direct Benefits = 4 pts Indirect Benefit = 2 pts No Benefits = 0 pts	TBD
Other ⁶	TBD	TBD	TBD

1. ½ points may be applied if the project indirectly meets this criterion (see Table 9-3 example for 2007 Objectives).

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Watershed services are defined in Section 9.2.5

5. IRWM Issues are identified in Table 1-2 of the IRWM Plan Update

6. “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 December 2014.
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 30% funding match.
Schedule	Proposal must include at least one project that will begin implementation by May 2014.
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.
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 2007 IRWM Plan Objectives

Objective	1 point <i>Direct; active</i>	0.5 points <i>Indirect; passive</i>	0 points <i>Not applicable</i>
Objective A Maximize stakeholder and community involvement and stewardship.	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	CEQA meetings; Customer meetings	No specific activities in work plan
Objective B Effectively obtain, manage, and assess water resources 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 C 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 D Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources.	Produces and uses recycled water, seawater desalination, local surface water, or groundwater; Water transfers; Water conservation; Stormwater capture if beneficially reused; Habitat preservation or treatment to protect supplies	Produces water but not uses; Stormwater capture not reused; Incidental recharge; Incidental reduction in environmental demands (invasive removal); Upland preservation	No specific activities in work plan
Objective E Construct, operate, and maintain a reliable 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 F Reduce the negative effects on waterways and watershed health caused by hydromodification and flooding.	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 G Effectively reduce sources of pollutants and environmental stressors.	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 H 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 I Optimize water-based recreational opportunities.	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). 2012. *Guidelines: Integrated Regional Water Management, Proposition 84 and 1E*. November 2012. Available:
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/Guidelines/GL_2012_FINAL.pdf