

# CHAPTER 6

## Implementation Strategy and Schedule (SWRP Guidelines Section VI.E)

### SWRP Checklist Guidelines

- ☒ Plan identifies resources for Plan implementation, including: 1) projection of additional funding needs and sources for administration and implementation needs; and 2) schedule for arranging and securing Plan implementation financing.
- ☒ Plan projects and programs are identified to ensure the effective implementation of the storm water resource plan pursuant to this part and achieve multiple benefits.
- ☒ 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:
  - a. Timeline for submitting Plan into existing plans, as applicable;
  - b. Specific actions by which Plan will be implemented;
  - c. All entities responsible for project implementation;
  - d. Description of community participation strategy;
  - e. Procedures to track status of each project;
  - f. Timelines for all active or planned projects;
  - g. Procedures for ongoing review, updates, and adaptive management of the Plan; and
  - h. A strategy and timeline for obtaining necessary federal, state, and local permits.
- ☒ Applicable IRWM Plan: The Plan will be submitted, upon development, to the applicable integrated regional water management group for incorporation into the IRWM Plan.
- ☒ Plan describes how implementation performance measures will be tracked.

This chapter summarizes implementation of the SWRP, including schedule, implementation strategy, and performance tracking. As this SWRP draws from existing regional and watershed plans to provide a functionally equivalent SWRP, the implementation strategy efforts for this plan build upon those existing efforts, which include the IRWM Plan, WQIPs, and other relevant plans referenced in this document.

### 6.1 Resources for Plan Implementation

Implementation of the SWRP began with the development and prioritization of strategies and projects through the existing planning documents that comprise this functionally equivalent SWRP. This document collates regional multi-benefit storm water and dry weather flow capture projects from various plans, and will also include future projects that are submitted to the online database. Implementation activities include the call for projects to develop the project list included in this SWRP, the completion of the SWRP checklist, and listing and ranking of the projects. The SWRP implementation will continue as additional projects are developed or updated and submitted through the online project database (OPTI) that is managed via the IRWM website. The SWRP project list will continually be updated as applicants submit new projects and update existing projects when additional data and project details become available. The online SWRP checklist will be automated to re-score and rank the project list on a watershed and regional basis. This will ensure watershed and regional goals are achieved effectively by implementing prioritized multi-benefit projects.

The San Diego IRWM Program will maintain the online project database to serve both the IRWM and the SWRP processes through June 2019. Future calls for projects will be advertised through the existing IRWM stakeholder list. At this time, it has not been decided how future project database administration

(beyond June 2019) will be funded. Implementation of projects under the SWRP will follow the implementation strategies for the relevant plans within which each project is listed, as discussed below in Section 6.4.

Implementation of projects that are currently listed in the SWRP and future projects that will be submitted via the online database, will vary based on the participation of each project sponsor in grant solicitations as they become available, and as projects are awarded funding. Funding for implementation could come through SWRCB Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program grants (Round 1 and Round 2), grants through conservancies, DWR IRWM funding, urban greening programs, and others.

## **6.2 Plan Implementation and Achievement of Multiple Benefits**

The implementation of this SWRP achieves multiple benefits through the integrated analysis and prioritization of projects submitted using the checklist for inclusion on the SWRP list. In order to be considered an eligible project for the SWRP process, a project must be a storm water project that achieves multiple benefits. The more benefits that a project provides, the higher it will score through the checklist process. Therefore, the scoring and ranking process encourages project sponsors to develop and submit projects and programs that achieve a greater number of benefits.

The scoring and ranking of the SWRP project list is done on a watershed and regional basis to allow for comparison of projects on these scales. The quantification of benefits for each project is defined through the project metrics listed in the SWRP checklist. Projects that demonstrate quantitatively greater benefits will score higher, which will result in projects with measurably better effects being prioritized.

It is anticipated that each grant application process and grant agreement will require project sponsors to monitor and assess the benefits achieved by their projects, such as development and implementation of a PAEP. A PAEP defines the quantifiable measurements or metrics that will be used to assess the project's effectiveness in meeting the anticipated multi-benefit goals. This SWRP provides tools to develop the key elements of the PAEP required for SWRCB grant applications that will define the project-specific goals, measurements, and monitoring to demonstrate that multiple benefits are achieved.

## **6.3 Decision Support Tools and Supporting Data**

The SWRP checklist supports the integrated analysis of projects and provides a basis to prioritize projects based on the multiple benefits the projects would achieve. The project information provided as part of the checklist may be updated based on specific grant application requirements. Chapter 5 provides more detailed discussion of the SWRP checklist tool and the data that supports it.

## 6.4 Implementation Strategy, Timelines, and Tracking

The implementation strategy for this SWRP includes allowing for continual project list updates through additions and modifications to the existing project list. In addition, calls for projects specific to current and anticipated grant solicitations under Prop 1 and other potential funding sources will be conducted in order to update the SWRP project list and to identify multi-benefit storm water projects that may specifically address a grant program's scoring criteria and goals. Inclusion on the SWRP list requires completion of the checklist, which encourages the development and prioritization of multi-benefit projects for grant funding.

When the solicitation for Round 2 of the Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program is announced, which is anticipated to occur in Spring 2018, project sponsors may update information previously submitted to OPTI or submit new projects for inclusion on the list. Future calls for projects would be announced prior to new grant solicitations as they are made available, and the online checklist and SWRP project database would then be available as tools to further assess, rank, and encourage multi-benefit projects for funding to meet the watershed and regional goals defined in the planning documents that comprise the SWRP.

These planning documents include their own goals, strategies to meet the identified goals, and schedules or potential timelines for implementing these strategies to meet interim and long-term goals. For example, the WQIPs include water quality goals for meeting interim and final pollutant load reductions under a TMDL (corresponding to a high priority water quality condition). Numeric goals have been developed in the WQIPs to measure progress toward addressing the highest priority water quality conditions. Numeric goals may take a variety of forms, but must be quantifiable so that progress toward and achievement of the goals are measurable. Each highest priority water quality condition may include multiple criteria or indicators. In accordance with the MS4 Permit and applicable regulatory drivers, final goals and reasonable interim goals have been developed in the WQIPs (see Section 5.3). Implementation of projects under the SWRP will therefore, follow the implementation strategy for the associated plans.

Project development, selection, and implementation will be the responsibility of the project sponsors and associated stakeholders. The SWRP encourages collaboration between agencies and stakeholders within each watershed, and regionally, in the development of multi-benefit projects. Development of the WQIPs has established the agreements and structure for collaboration and input from stakeholders within each WMA. The WQIPs present a summary of the compliance analysis results to demonstrate the anticipated progress toward achieving the interim and final goals. The WQIPs also provide schedules to demonstrate progress toward achieving the interim and final numeric goals.

In addition to the WQIPs, the IRWM Plan provides regional goals, strategies, and implementation schedules for multi-benefit projects that have a greater focus on water resources. The IRWM Plan includes an Implementation Action Plan for regional priorities. As this and other regional and watershed plans are updated, the goals, strategies, and implementation schedules will be updated. As these plans comprise this SWRP, such updates will be reflected in the projects that are developed and submitted for ranking and listing through the online SWRP checklist. Further discussion of SWRP updates and adaptive management is presented in Chapter 7.

A portion of the implementation strategy will be the responsibility of the project sponsor or responsible agency, including the following:

- Obtaining project permits.
- Complying with CEQA and NEPA, as required.
- Implementing the project.
- Tracking the implementation and effectiveness of the projects and strategies identified in the planning documents, permits, or grant agreements (if the project is funded by a grant).
- Completing necessary reporting to comply with applicable permits or grant agreements.