



Section F

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

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F. REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Section F Summary – Water management challenges within the Region are diverse, complex, and geographically distributed. The Region’s Short-Term Priorities are to address immediate areas of need to ensure that effective regional planning can continue. The Long-Term Priorities are to reach the measurable targets associated with each objective presented in Section C, and to maintain the structure that will facilitate long term success of the Plan. Recognizing that achieving regional objectives are the Region’s highest priorities, a prioritization process was developed to identify integrated projects to achieve the regional objectives. Prioritization is envisioned as proceeding at two levels: the Plan-level and the Application-level. The Plan-level prioritization process, described herein, builds upon the integration process to identify highest priority actions, projects, and programs for regional implementation based on their ability to integrate and achieve regional objectives. It is recognized that the priorities presented herein will require periodic updating in response to (1) increased data collection and improved water management understanding, (2) changing water management conditions and needs, and (3) future changes in IRWM Plan water management objectives.

Through the IRWM planning process, the San Diego region has engaged stakeholders across several areas of water resources management to identify short- and long-term priorities for the region and to prioritize projects for implementation. This section presents the process for prioritizing IRWM projects as well as the short- and long-term implementation priorities. In addition, the process for modifying implementation priorities and sequencing in response to regional changes and project implementation responses is described.

F.1 Short-Term and Long-Term Priorities

As described in Section C, the RWMG, RAC and regional stakeholders identified water supply reliability, water quality protection, and natural resource protection as critical management needs for the Region. In response to these needs, goals and objectives were established, along with measurable targets designed to track progress toward achieving each

objective. Regional priorities have been identified to focus efforts to meet the objectives of the Plan. These priorities are based on an assessment of the short- and long-term actions necessary to maintain the regional planning efforts currently underway.

Short Term Priorities. Short term priorities are those actions necessary to address immediate areas of need that have been identified through RWMG and RAC meetings and public workshops. The short-term priorities presented herein are envisioned to be completed within the next 3-5 years. Achieving these priorities will continue to move implementation of the Plan forward and ensure that the Plan is representative of the Region's needs and responsive to key regional issues such as environmental justice and imbalances in prior planning efforts. These priorities are described below.

- **Implement priority projects and programs that support the Region's IRWM goals and objectives.** Addressing the water supply, water quality, and natural resources challenges facing the San Diego Region will require implementation of projects targeted to address these issues. The Region has developed a prioritization process described in further detail later in this section. The result of this initial prioritization process is a top tier of projects ("Tier 1") capable of providing a wide variety of water management benefits to the Region. To the extent that funding is available, high priority projects will be selected for implementation from the Tier 1 project list based on their ability to best address the Region's needs, achieve the objectives, and contribute to the measurable targets identified in Section C. At this time, the RAC and RWMG do not intend to require project proponents to combine projects, but will instead encourage integration and combination by publishing the process and criteria through which projects will be evaluated and funding determinations will be made. With this information, project proponents can coordinate project integration and combination to maximize project benefits, achieve multiple Regional objectives, minimize costs, and maximize funding potential. Once the Region's IRWM Plan institutional structure has been established, that structure will be responsible for determining whether Region-wide measures should be implemented to better integrate and combine projects. Future revisions to the IRWM Plan will include updated project lists reflecting increased integration of projects where appropriate.
- **Formally establish a long-term institutional structure to guide the ongoing development and implementation of the San Diego IRWM Plan.** A critically important short-term priority for implementation is to develop and launch an institutional

structure as discussed in Section G. The RAC and RWMG are jointly responsible for IRWM Plan development, as reflected in the MOU, which is included in Appendix 8. As outlined in the MOU, the RWMG and RAC will work together to establish and transition to a long-term institutional structure, which will replace the existing RWMG/RAC arrangement. Identification and implementation of this long-term structure is critical to ensuring effective Plan implementation.

- **Implement and update (as needed) a Public Outreach Plan that ensures key stakeholders and affected parties are informed and engaged in IRWM planning and implementation.** In addition to defining and implementing the institutional structure, the RWMG recognizes the need to maintain an active public outreach program, targeting disadvantaged communities and environmental justice concerns. Identification of and engagement with these communities is critical to adequately characterizing and addressing their needs. The Public Outreach and Disadvantaged & Environmental Justice Community Involvement Plan described in Section N identifies a timeline for performing specific actions prior to finalizing the IRWM Plan to solicit active participation and representation on behalf of disadvantaged communities and to address environmental justice concerns. Effective implementation of this short term plan will allow the IRWM planning process to better address the needs and issues of these traditionally underserved communities. In addition, this will assist the Region in achieving Objective A and its related targets. The RAC and RWMG will also work together on the short term to develop a more comprehensive outreach plan for disadvantaged communities that will continue throughout the implementation of the IRWM Plan. The ongoing outreach will incorporate and expand upon existing outreach efforts of IRWM Plan participants.
- **Establish a regional, web-based system for sharing, disseminating and supporting the analysis of water management data and information.** One of the issues limiting effective water management in the Region is the difficulty in developing and maintaining a comprehensive set of water management data and information. Although there are a multitude of monitoring and sampling programs in place throughout the Region, the degree to which data generated by such efforts is shared varies. The result can be duplication of data collection efforts or failure to identify and address significant gaps in data collection and analysis. A web-based system will make data instantly available to interested stakeholders and will facilitate data sharing by transmitting data through user-friendly features. Rather than relying on agency-to-agency data transfers, the web-based system will act as a central clearinghouse for information.

- **Complete a needs assessment and develop recommendations for addressing existing deficiencies in the technical and scientific foundation of San Diego Basin Plan beneficial uses and water quality objectives.** The RWMG and RAC have identified resolving deficiencies in the San Diego Basin Plan as a major need for the Region. Filling the existing gaps in knowledge and data related to the link between beneficial uses and water quality objectives will provide a sound basis for improved decision-making and will allow for improved coordination of efforts to improve water quality. Specific recommendations from the needs assessment will guide the implementation of projects currently being considered as well as the development of future projects.
- **Complete an updated assessment of local water management plans to ensure effective and upfront input from these plans during all phases of IRWM planning and implementation. Where planning deficiencies are identified, address these deficiencies as part of the IRWMP update process.** Extensive water resource planning has been conducted throughout the San Diego Region in water management functional areas such as water supply, water quality, wastewater, recycled water, flood protection, stormwater management, and habitat protection and restoration. Many of these planning processes have identified critical needs, objectives, and specific priorities related to water management. These sub-regional water-related planning efforts are important resources available to inform and guide IRWM planning. To ensure that the IRWM Plan is not only consistent with, but actually assists in furthering these efforts, workgroups will be formed around various functional areas of water management to compile and review existing plans (including local land use plans, watershed plans, urban water management plans, and others) in order to identify the key issues and priorities, and to synthesize the information to allow effective input into IRWM planning. The IRWM planning efforts will build on and leverage efforts of existing workgroups and regional forums, such as those currently used for water supply, storm water and active watershed planning. Expanding planning efforts in all watersheds to achieve equity Region-wide has been identified as a need for the region. Where regional or watershed planning deficiencies are identified, additional workgroups and forums will be encouraged. These forums and workgroups will serve as a vehicle for communicating objectives and priorities for each functional area and watershed planning group to assist in identifying critical needs, objectives, and priorities and effectively inform and guide IRWM planning. Incorporating prior and on-going work into the IRWM planning process will serve to improve the linkage of this Plan with other local and sub-regional planning efforts in the Region.

To the greatest extent possible, planning deficiencies identified by these workgroups will be addressed through Plan revisions and updates.

- **Revise the IRWM Plan and publish the Second Edition of the San Diego IRWM Plan.** This first edition of the San Diego IRWM Plan is the result of an unprecedented integrated, regional approach to water planning in San Diego County, and presents a significant milestone in IRWM planning for water management agencies and stakeholders Region-wide. Recognizing that planning at a regional scale is a time- and resource-intensive process, the RAC and RWMG have identified several areas which will require additional attention prior to achieving a fully integrated, regional approach to water management. Further, the RWMG, RAC, and stakeholders are committed to maintaining this IRWM Plan as a living document that will continue to evolve and adapt to respond to the Region's changing needs. Future editions of the IRWM Plan will both respond to the Region's currently identified needs, and will identify additional needs not yet anticipated. Through continual revision and update, the Plan will be adaptable and responsive to the changing needs of the Region. In addition, future editions of the IRWM Plan will address progress made toward achieving the Region's measurable targets, presented in Section C, which provide a mechanism for measuring the Region's progress toward addressing the objectives. The RWMG will explore with stakeholders and the RAC the potential of further refining what is most important to the region, including identification of the key water management strategies and approaches that will provide maximum regional benefit.

Completion of the Second Edition of the IRWM Plan has been identified as a short-term priority for Plan implementation. The Second Edition of the IRWM Plan will address the planning deficiencies identified in this initial draft, and will consider other factors necessary to achieve the IRWM Plan vision, such as defining sustainability for the Region. Through ongoing planning and periodic revisions and updates, the IRWM planning process will develop a definition of sustainability for the Region and will incorporate this definition and associated concepts into future Plan updates.

Implementation of these short-term priorities will help to ensure that IRWM Plan implementation proceeds in a coordinated manner, the benefits of Plan implementation extend throughout the Region, and the Region makes inroads toward achieving the vision of this IRWM Plan.

Long Term Priorities. Long-term priorities for IRWM Plan implementation include the following.

- **Maintain an effective institutional structure.** Once the preferred long-term institutional structure has been defined and established, the structure must be maintained. As the Region continues to evolve, and the IRWM Plan is implemented, the priorities of the Region will evolve, and the Region's needs may change. For the IRWM planning process and Plan implementation to be effective, the institutional structure must be robust enough to respond to regional changes.
- **Maintain public involvement.** The initial involvement and engagement of the general public, representatives of disadvantaged communities and environmental justice concerns within the Region is critically important to the development of a plan that responds to the Region's needs. Maintaining engagement and involvement by these communities is equally critical to ensuring that ongoing Plan implementation continues to meet the Region's changing needs. A long-term priority for the IRWM planning process is the continued engagement and involvement by the general public as well as individual advocates and advocacy organizations for traditionally underrepresented communities.
- **Achieve goals and objectives.** The Regional goals and objectives represent the fundamental drivers for water resource projects in support of this Plan. The measurable targets presented in Section C provide a mechanism for measuring the Region's progress toward addressing the objectives and achieving this long-term priority.

In general, the Region's long-term priorities revolve around identification and implementation of solutions to address the many diverse, complex, and widely geographically distributed water management challenges facing the Region.

F.2 Project Prioritization

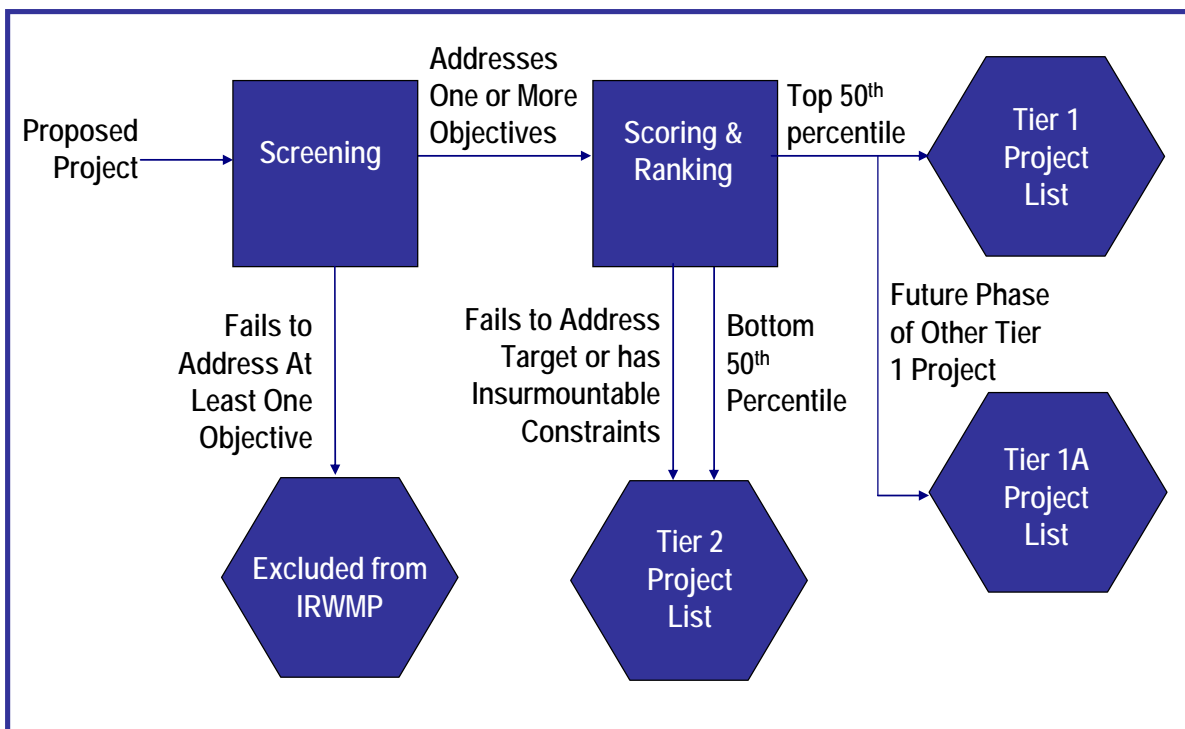
Implementation of priority projects is identified as a short-term implementation priority. In order to identify candidates for implementation, the San Diego RWMG and RAC set forth an

open call for water resource management projects for consideration for the IRWM Plan. Entities across the Region submitted more than 160 projects addressing a wide variety of needs through integration of a number of water management strategies. Together, these projects incorporate all of the water management strategies outlined in Section D. While all of these projects are considered to be important to effectively manage water resources in the Region, a prioritization process has been established to help manage the project list and to determine which projects best meet Regional needs. The immediate result of the prioritization process is to create a list of Tier 1 projects that will be considered for meeting short-term priorities. The long-term utility of the prioritization process will be to allow a ranking of projects for implementation using a transparent and defensible method that will encourage the development of projects that are best suited to meeting the identified needs of the Region.

F.3 Prioritization Process Overview

Projects submitted through the open call for projects were prioritized using a two-step screening and scoring approach, presented in Figure F-1.

Figure F-1: Prioritization Process Overview



As shown in this figure, projects were first evaluated for consistency with the Regional objectives. In order to be included within this Plan, projects had to address at least one

Regional objective; these projects were then scored and ranked. Project scoring was developed to rate projects on their ability to do the following:

- contribute to regional goals and objectives;
- integrate multiple water management strategies;
- provide multiple benefits
- benefit the entire region;
- synergize with other projects;
- benefit disadvantaged communities;
- address environmental justice needs;
- build upon other local and regional planning efforts; and
- foster partnerships among entities.

Through a consensus process, the RWMG and the RAC established the relative importance of each of these criteria. The approach to scoring projects and the relative importance of each criterion is presented in Table F-1.

Table F-1: Project Scoring

Criterion	Scoring Procedure	Points Assigned	Percent of Total Score
Addresses Multiple Objectives	Score based on # of objectives addressed	4+ objectives = 100 pts 3 objectives = 75 pts 2 objectives = 50 pts 1 objective = 25 pts	23%
Integrates Multiple Strategies	Score based on # of strategies employed	8+ strategies = 100 pts 6-7 strategies = 75 pts 4-5 strategies = 50 pts 2-3 strategies = 25 pts	23%
Spans Multiple Hydrologic Units	Score based on # of hydrologic units the project benefits	11 units = 100 pts 7-10 units = 75 pts 3-6 units = 50 pts 2 units = 25 pts	10%
Creates New Water	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 100 pts No = 0 pts	10%
Linked to Other Projects	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 100 pts No = 0 pts	10%
Involves More than One Entity	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 100 pts No = 0 pts	6%
Identified in Existing Plan	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 100 pts No = 0 pts	6%
Directly Benefits Disadvantaged Communities	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 100 pts No = 0 pts	6%
Addresses Environmental Justice Concerns	Score is based on Yes/No response	Yes = 100 pts No = 0 pts	6%

Each project was evaluated with respect to the criteria presented in Table F-1. Based on the outcome of this evaluation, each project was assigned a score for each criterion, for a maximum score of 100 per criterion. The total project score was developed by multiplying the score for each criterion by the percentage of total score identified in Table F-1. Projects were then ranked, with the highest-scoring project ranked number one.

Following the scoring and ranking, projects were evaluated for their ability to contribute to the Region's measurable targets, shown in Section C. If a project failed to contribute to at least one measurable target, it was automatically moved to Tier 2. Projects determined to be capable of meeting at least one measurable target were then reviewed to identify any insurmountable constraints associated with project implementation. For example, if the project proponent did not have authority to actually implement the project, or if there were

known legal or regulatory constraints that would prevent the project from moving forward, the project was deemed unready to be considered for implementation, and it was moved to Tier 2 to undergo additional development and enhancement.

After completing the above screening process, the top 50th percentile of ranked projects was identified as Tier 1 projects. The projects within the bottom 50th percentile were moved to Tier 2. Any Tier 1 projects that were identified as a subsequent phase (e.g. Phase 2) of another Tier 1 project were moved to Tier 1a to indicate that the projects would not be considered for implementation until the preceding phase of the project is implemented and/or completed. The results of this prioritization process are presented in Table F-2 and are presented in alphabetical order by Tier.

This is the first time that all types of water management projects within the San Diego Region have been assembled in a prioritized list. This process will provide for improved coordination and project understanding among the stakeholders involved in water management. In assembling this list, RWMG and RAC members identified the need to ensure that the project proponents provide an even-level of project information. The RWMG developed and distributed an application form to gather key information on individual projects. The RWMG hosted a public workshop on April 25, 2007, to work with project proponents to review the application form and provide guidance prior to the project submittal deadline. Based on project information received during the first call for projects, it was determined that additional guidance should be provided to project proponents who completed application forms to improve consistency in the level of detail provided, and to ensure that proponents understand the meaning of each criterion such that projects are accurately represented and prioritized. The RWMG hosted an additional public workshop on June 29, 2007 focusing on the project application form to ensure that project proponents interpreted questions correctly, consistent allowing consistent representation and evaluation of projects within the IRWM Plan. The project prioritization results presented in Table F-2 reflect all comments and updates received on the projects during the public review process.

Table F-2: Project Prioritization Results

Project Title	Project Sponsor
TIER 1	
51st St. Headwater Canyon Restoration	Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek
Acquiring Willow Glen Farm	Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County
Campo Creek Erosion, Habitat and Groundwater Recharge Improvement	Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group, advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Campo Creek Watershed Groundwater Management Plan	Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group, advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Capture and Reuse Storm Water Runoff from Visitor Parking Lot	Zoological Society of San Diego
Carlsbad Desalination Project Local Conveyance	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Central San Diego Formation Groundwater Desalination Demonstration Project	City of San Diego/Water Department
Chollas Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment	Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek
City of San Diego Green Mall Porous Paving and Infiltration, Phase 1	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Green Street Porous Paving and Infiltration, Phase 1	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Municipal Rooftop Rain Harvesting, Phase 1	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Parklands Recycled Water Retrofit Program and Distribution System	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Recycled Water Infill Projects	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Reservoir Sediment Removal and Storage Recovery Project	City of San Diego/Water Department
City of San Diego Water Department Cornerstone Lands Management and Source Water Protection	City of San Diego/Water Department
City of San Diego Watershed-based Street Sweeping Program, Phase 1	City of San Diego
Conservation in the Campo Valley	Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County
County of San Diego Chollas Creek Runoff Reduction and Groundwater Recharge	Department of General Services, County of San Diego
Dulzura Creek Source Water Protection through Property Acquisition and Habitat Restoration	City of San Diego/Water Department
East Riparian Corridor Project	Zoological Society of San Diego
Educational Demonstration Wetland Project	Zoological Society of San Diego
El Capitan Reservoir Hypolimnetic Oxygenation System for Water Quality Improvement	City of San Diego/Water Department

Project Title	Project Sponsor
El Capitan Reservoir Watershed Acquisition Program	The San Diego River Park Foundation
El Monte Valley Groundwater Recharge and River Restoration Project, Phases 1 and 2	Helix Municipal Water District
Green – San Dieguito	Department of Parks and Recreation
Groundwater and Salt Management Program	Santa Fe Irrigation District
Hodges Reservoir Water Quality Improvements Implementation Projects	City of San Diego/Water Department
Hodges Reservoir Water Quality Improvements Plan	City of San Diego/Water Department
Implementation of Agricultural Efficiency Programs	San Diego County Water Authority
Implementation of Integrated Landscape Program	San Diego County Water Authority
Implementing Improvements to the Rose Creek Watershed: Controlling Invasive Exotic Species	San Diego Earthworks
Implementing Improvements to the Rose Creek Watershed: Enhancing the Connection of Rose Creek to Mission Bay	San Diego Earthworks
Integrated Commercial/Industrial/Institutional and Residential Indoor Conservation Programs	San Diego County Water Authority
Joint Water Agency Natural Community Conservation Plan/ Habitat Conservation Plan (JWA NCCP/HCP): Initial Implementation	Sweetwater Authority
La Jolla Shores Ocean Protection Project	University of California, San Diego
Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative: A Vision for Habitat Conservation and Watershed Protection	The Nature Conservancy
Los Peñasquitos Habitat Diversification Project	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Enhancement Plan and Program Update and Implementation	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Los Peñasquitos Pollutant Monitoring Project	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Los Peñasquitos Watershed Sediment Transport Analysis and Monitoring Project	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Mission Valley Brackish Groundwater Desalination Pilot Project	City of San Diego/Water Department
Mountain Empire Watershed Preservation Program – “Pollution Prevention Education”	The Southern California Center for Youth, Nature and the Arts, Inc.
North City Recycled Water Distribution System Expansion, Phase 2	City of San Diego/Water Department
Northern San Diego County Invasive Non-Native Species Control Program	Mission Resource Conservation District (MRCD)
Over-Irrigation Runoff/Bacteria Reduction	City of Encinitas
Preserve Wright’s Field	Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County

Project Title	Project Sponsor
Preserving the Peutz Valley Watershed	Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County
Ramona Grasslands	The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy)
Recycled Water and Groundwater Storage Facility Project	Zoological Society of San Diego
Recycled Water Retrofit Assistance Program	San Diego County Water Authority
Recycled Water System Improvements	Santa Fe Irrigation District
Rutherford Ranch West acquisition of 1,689 acres on Volcan Mountain	Volcan Mountain Preserve Foundation
Sage Hills Open Space Acquisition	The Conservation Fund
San Diego County Rural Community Watershed Councils (primarily targeting inland areas not served by CWA/MWD infrastructure)	Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge - Otay Unit Land & Crestridge Linkage Acquisition	The Nature Conservancy
San Diego Region Four Reservoir Intertie Project Feasibility Study	Sweetwater Authority
San Diego Regional Water Quality Assessment and Outreach	San Diego Coastkeeper
San Diego River Watershed Coordinator	The San Diego River Park Foundation
San Dieguito Watershed Council Staffing	San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
San Pasqual Basin Brackish Groundwater Desalination Full-scale Project, Planning and Design	City of San Diego/Water Department
San Pasqual Basin Conjunctive Use (Storage and Recovery) Full-scale Project, Planning and Design	City of San Diego/Water Department
San Vicente Reservoir Hypolimnetic Oxygenation System for Water Quality Improvement	City of San Diego/Water Department
San Vicente Reservoir Source Water Protection through Watershed Property Acquisition	City of San Diego/Water Department
Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project	Fallbrook Public Utility District
Santee Water Reclamation Facility Expansion Project	Padre Dam Municipal Water District
South San Diego County Water Supply Strategy	Sweetwater Authority
Sweetwater River Watershed Management Plan	County of San Diego
Tertiary Wastewater Treatment Upgrade	Zoological Society of San Diego
Tijuana River Valley Invasive Plan Control Program, Phase 4	Southwest Wetlands Interpretative Association
Valley Well Improvement	Zoological Society of San Diego
Water Brooms for Schools and Fast Food Restaurants	Helix Water District
West Riparian Corridor Project	Zoological Society of San Diego
Wetland Expansion Science & Technology Against Runoff (WESTAR II)	The Nature School/Institute
TIER 1A	

Project Title	Project Sponsor
City of San Diego Green Lot Porous Paving and Infiltration, Phase 2	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Green Mall Porous Paving and Infiltration, Phase 2	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Green Street Porous Paving and Infiltration, Phase 2	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Municipal Rooftop Rain Harvesting, Phase 2	City of San Diego
City of San Diego Watershed-based Street Sweeping Program, Phase 2	City of San Diego
El Monte Valley Groundwater Recharge and River Restoration Project, Phase 3	Helix Municipal Water District
North City Recycled Water Distribution System Expansion, Phase 3	City of San Diego/Water Department
TIER 2	
22nd District Agricultural Association/San Dieguito Creek Sewer Force Main Replacement	22nd District Agricultural Association
Bottle Peak Property Acquisition	The Escondido Creek Conservancy
Bridges Unit 7 Property Acquisition	The Escondido Creek Conservancy
California Friendly Makeover	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
California Friendly Replacement Incentive	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Cielo Azul Property Acquisition	The Escondido Creek Conservancy
CMP Rehabilitation and Replacement in the City of Chula Vista, Priority A	City of Chula Vista
CMP Rehabilitation and Replacement in the City of Chula Vista, Priority B	City of Chula Vista
CMP Rehabilitation and Replacement in the City of Chula Vista, Priority C	City of Chula Vista
CMP Rehabilitation and Replacement in the City of Chula Vista, Priority D	City of Chula Vista
CMP Rehabilitation and Replacement in the City of Chula Vista, Priority E	City of Chula Vista
East County Regional Treated Water Improvements	San Diego County Water Authority
East Los Coches Drainage Improvements	County of San Diego
El Cajon Storm Drainage Master Plan	City of El Cajon/ Department of Public Works
Forester Creek Improvement Project	City of Santee
Grease – In the Can, Not the Drain	Fallbrook Public Utility District
Habitat Enhancement & Invasive Species Control Program for OMWD’s Easements and the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Integration of Lake Ramona/Lake Sutherland into CWA Local Storage Plans	Ramona Municipal Water District
Lake Jennings Regional Master Plan Improvement Project Phase I	Helix Water District

Project Title	Project Sponsor
Lake Morena Oak Shores Mutual Water Company Upgraded Residential Water Line Connections.	Campo/Lake Morena Planning Group, advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Lake San Marcos Restoration Project, Phase 1 & 2	Friends of Lake San Marcos
Loma Alta Lagoon Acquisition and Restoration	City of Oceanside
Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Low Flow Diversion Project	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
Low Impact Design Pilot Project	City of Oceanside
Low Impact Development (LID) Conference	The County of San Diego
Low Impact Development (LID) Manual	The County of San Diego
Lower Otay Pump Station Otay Water Treatment Plant Interconnection (LOPS)	Otay Water District
Lower Otay Reservoir Hypolimnetic Oxygenation System for Water Quality Improvement	City of San Diego/Water Department
Master Plan for Naturalizing Concrete Channels in the City of Chula Vista	City of Chula Vista
Membrane Bioreactor Recycled Water Treatment Plant	Otay Water District
Mission Basin Groundwater Contaminant Removal	City of Oceanside
Mission Trails Project	San Diego County Water Authority
Naturalize Telegraph Canyon Creek Channel in the City of Chula Vista at San Diego Bay	City of Chula Vista
Non-Potable Water Distribution Backbone	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Non-Potable Water Distribution Project	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
North County Brine Conveyance Pipeline Feasibility Study	City of San Diego/Water Department
Northwest Quadrant Recycled Water Project Phase B	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Oceanside Seawater Desalter Pilot/Alignment/Feasibility Study	City of Oceanside
Otay Water District Groundwater Supply Strategy	Otay Water District
Otay Water District North District Recycled Water System Development	Otay Water District
Otay Water District Otay Mesa Recycled Water Supply System Link	Otay Water District
Otay Water District Portion of San Diego 17 Pump Station and San Diego 17 Flow Control Facility Connection (SD17)	Otay Water District
Otay Water District Levy WTP Water Supply Conveyance and Storage System East County Regional Treated Water Improvement Program (ECRTWIP)	Otay Water District
Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities for the Olivenhain Reservoir	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) Santa Maria Interceptor Sewer and Manhole Relocation Project	Ramona Municipal Water District

Project Title	Project Sponsor
Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) Santa Maria Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	Ramona Municipal Water District
Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) Sprayfield Environmental Enhancements	Ramona Municipal Water District
Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) Recycled Water System	Ramona Municipal Water District
RE Badger Membrane Process Upgrade	Santa Fe Irrigation District
RE Badger Treated Water Storage Improvements	Santa Fe Irrigation District
Red Mountain Treatment Plant	Fallbrook Public Utility District
Renovation of the Dulzura Conduit at Barrett and Morena Reservoirs	City of San Diego/Water Department
Residential Landscape Wireless Irrigation Controllers Program	Santa Fe Irrigation District
Restoring Chocolate Creek	Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County
Ruxton Earthen Channel Improvements	County of San Diego
San Diego Coastkeeper's Securing San Diego's Water Supply Campaign	San Diego Coastkeeper
San Elijo Drainage Improvements	County of San Diego
San Elijo Joint Powers Authority Demineralization Facility	San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility Storage Optimization	San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
San Luis Rey Water Reclamation Facility Expansion	City of Oceanside
Santa Margarita River Corridor Protection	San Diego State University Field Stations Program
Santa Margarita Watershed Water Supply Augmentation, Water Quality Protection, and Environmental Enhancement Program	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Shade Covering for the Water Conservation Garden Amphitheater	The Water Conservation Garden
Stabilization and Restoration of Bonita Canyon Creek - a Tributary of the Sweetwater River	City of Chula Vista
Stabilization and Restoration of Long Canyon Creek - a Tributary of the Sweetwater River	City of Chula Vista
Stormwater Diversion and Reuse	Santa Fe Irrigation District
Summit Drive Drainage Improvements	County of San Diego
Tavern Road Drainage Improvements	County of San Diego
Tijuana River Watershed Invasive Species Removal	County of San Diego
Undergrounding Water Supply through the Sweetwater National Wildlife Refuge	City of Chula Vista
Upgrade and Expansion of David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Vista Flume Rehabilitation Project	Vista Irrigation District
Von Saggern Property Acquisition	The Escondido Creek Conservancy

Project Title	Project Sponsor
Water Conservation Garden Authority Multipurpose Building	The Water Conservation Garden
Water Treatment Plant Washwater Reclamation and Solids Handling Facilities	Helix Water District
Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers Rebate Program	Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Weese Filtration Plant Capacity Expansion	City of Oceanside
Wing Avenue Flood Control Improvements	County of San Diego
Woodside Avenue Drainage Improvements	County of San Diego
Zoo Sewage Equalization Tanks and Modification of Stormwater Flow	Zoological Society of San Diego

The projects included in Tier 1 incorporate a wide range of water management strategies that can be effectively integrated to achieve the Regional objectives, as shown in Appendix 7. Section E illustrates the manner in which water management strategies can work together to achieve the Region’s objectives. By combined implementation of selected projects included in Tier 1, the Region can achieve the added benefits of integration and address the Regional objectives. For example, Section E identifies the following group of integrated strategies to achieve Objective E (construct, operate, and maintain a reliable water infrastructure system):

- conveyance (#5),
- potable water treatment and distribution (#7),
- regional reservoir storage (#18), and
- re-operation and reservoir management (#19).

A variety of Tier 1 projects and programs have identified these strategies as the primary water management strategy. In constructing an integrated group of projects to achieve Objective E, the following Tier 1 projects might be considered:

Primary Strategy: Conveyance	Primary Strategy: Potable Water Treat. & Distribution	Primary Strategy: Regional Res. Storage	Primary Strategy: Re-operation & Res. Management
Tier 1 Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East County Regional Treated Water Improvements Program ▪ Mission Trails Project ▪ Valley Well Improvement Project 	Tier 1 Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lake Morena Oak Shores Mutual Water Company Upgraded Residential Water Line Connections 	Tier 1 Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Otay Reservoir/Lake Water Quality Improvements ▪ San Diego Region – Four Reservoir Intertie Project Feasibility Study 	Tier 1 Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reservoir Silt/Sediment Removal Project

In this way, Tier 1 projects can be assembled into integrated project groupings to achieve the objectives identified in Section C.

F.4 Funding Application Prioritization

Section F.3 presented the prioritization process used to identify a top tier of priority projects. While this process ranked projects based on ability to address Regional objectives and other criteria, the process does not identify specific groups of projects for which funding should be sought. The reason for this is twofold: first, prioritizing projects for a specific funding application in the Plan would limit the versatility of the prioritization process for use in identifying projects for future funding opportunities; and second, as this IRWM Plan is intended to be a living document, the prioritization process presented in this Plan should remain flexible, such that it may be adapted to changing regional needs.

A supplemental prioritization process must be implemented to identify appropriate projects from the Tier 1 project list to be included in future funding applications as they arise. The details of this process are fluid, and should reflect the specific needs and requirements of the given funding opportunity. The following are likely to be included as criteria for prioritizing high priority projects for inclusion in funding applications.

- **Program Preferences.** Funding programs frequently outline specific goals and objectives. Projects selected for inclusion in a funding application should conform to the details of the specific funding program.
- **Regionalism.** Some projects may have only local beneficiaries, while other projects may have beneficiaries that span the entire Region. Projects with Region-wide beneficiaries may be preferable to those with only local beneficiaries when applying for funding as a region. Alternatively, projects within a single geographic region may be coupled with projects in other geographic regions to achieve geographic balance overall.
- **Degree of Benefit.** The degree and scale of benefit provided by a project may be an important deciding factor in prioritizing projects for funding.
- **Degree of Negative Impact.** Though a project may provide significant benefits, the degree and scale of negative impacts caused by a project may be an important factor in prioritizing projects for funding. These negative impacts may be secondary or cumulative, or may occur over a longer time or distance.

- **Contribution to measurable targets.** The Region has developed specific, measurable targets for several areas of water resources management. Contribution to achieving these or other measurable targets may be a consideration in prioritizing projects for funding.
- **Cost-effectiveness.** As the cost of doing business continues to increase, agencies are challenged to identify cost-effective solutions. Both short- and long-term cost-effectiveness, as well as potential externalized costs to the public, may be a factor for consideration in funding application prioritization.
- **Readiness to Proceed.** Some funding opportunities require projects to be at a specific point in development, such as design or construction, while other opportunities may be targeted toward planning-level projects.
- **Amount Leveraged.** Implementation of a specific project may allow other projects to move forward. In this way, by funding a single project, multiple projects are enabled. This ability to leverage other projects may be one potential screening criterion considered in developing a funding application.

As appropriate, the RWMG and RAC will incorporate these and other prioritization criteria to narrow the pool of high priority projects from the Plan-level prioritization to develop funding applications. These criteria may be applied in multiple ways. Some prioritization criteria are essential to a project's success in achieving the Region's objectives and/or being eligible for funding. A two-step screening and scoring process, similar to that implemented to identify the Tier 1 projects, will likely be used to prioritize projects for future funding applications. These types of criteria may be applied at the screening level; that is, if a project does not comply with that criterion, it is not eligible to be brought forward for funding. Other criteria, while important to the project's success, may not necessarily be critical to moving the project forward for funding. In this case, projects may receive a score representing how well they address the scoring criteria. In that case, the projects with the highest scores may be brought forward for funding. The specific criteria used, and precise method for applying the criteria, will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

All projects included in the IRWM Plan have been determined to contribute to achieving the Regional objectives, and therefore provide benefits to the Region. As a result, if projects included in Tier 1 do not address the specific criteria set forth for a given funding opportunity, appropriate projects may be selected from Tier 2.

F.5 Modification Process

Section G presents an overview of the governance structure overseeing Plan implementation. This governance structure will similarly be responsible for conducting periodic IRWM Plan reviews and updates. The list of Tier 1 projects to be considered for implementation identified in this section will be subject to review and revision as part of the periodic Plan updates. Over time, it is expected that some Tier 1 projects included in this Plan will be implemented, and other projects not currently included in this Plan will be added to Tier 1 for implementation or to Tier 2 for further project development and enhancement.

Responsiveness of Decision-Making to Regional Changes. The periodic Plan update process will revisit the screening, assessment, and ranking process outlined herein to identify changes that should be made to the criteria and weighting in response to new Regional conditions and project implementation status. If changes are deemed appropriate, then the project list will be re-assessed and re-prioritized using the modified criteria and/or weightings. If changes to the scoring criteria and/or weightings are not deemed appropriate, then the project list will be revised to capture feedback from project implementation and incorporate new projects, and the revised project list will be re-assessed using the Plan prioritization process outlined in this section. For example, new regulations may be passed that reduce allowable concentrations of specific constituents in drinking water. In response to this change, the institutional structure may determine that treatment upgrades necessary to reduce the concentration of targeted constituents are of critical importance for the Region. In response to this change in context, the institutional structure would be responsible for re-prioritizing the list to recognize the critical importance of water treatment projects targeted to address those specific constituents. The planned sequence of project implementation would be adjusted such that these time-critical projects would be implemented in the near-term.

Assessing Responses to Project Implementation. As projects are implemented in the Region as part of this Plan, project outcomes will be monitored, and the results from this monitoring will be used to guide future project implementation. Specific mechanisms for monitoring project implementation responses are presented in Section I.

Altering Project Implementation Based on Project Implementation Responses. The results from monitoring project outcomes will be used to guide future project implementation. If project monitoring reveals that a project is progressing as planned and regional changes do not necessitate revisiting project implementation, then changes to project sequencing are not anticipated. However, if project monitoring reveals that a project is not producing the

anticipated result, the institutional structure will work with the project proponent to identify and implement corrective actions. For example, following implementation of a groundwater project designed to extract groundwater as a drinking water supply, it may be discovered that the quality of the groundwater is incompatible with its anticipated use. In that case, the institutional structure, in reviewing the response to project implementation would be tasked with working with the project proponent to identify and implement corrective actions. These corrective actions could include modifying project sequencing to first implement treatment necessary to allow the supply to be used as intended or to identify an alternative use for the supply consistent with the observed quality. Alternatively, the institutional structure, in conjunction with the project proponent, may determine that the appropriate action is to stop the project temporarily or permanently to allow another project to proceed in its place.

As the Region's needs and objectives continue to evolve, the short- and long-term priorities outlined in Section F.1 will be revised to meet the Region's changing needs. Similarly, as additional projects are conceptualized, the Plan-level prioritization will be updated. Sections G and I present additional information on periodic IRWM Plan updates and the review process.

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