



Section L

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

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L. STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

Section L Summary – IRWM Plan objectives are in accordance with designated statewide priorities. Proposed Tier I projects are also in accordance with statewide priorities, as the projects will reduce water user conflicts, help implement TMDLs, implement Regional Board policies, and implement the State Board’s Non-Point Source Pollution Plan. Additionally, IRWM water management strategies will reduce imported water demands, helping to achieve CALFED Bay-Delta goals and objectives.

L.1 Statewide Priorities

Appendix A of the 2007 and 2004 versions of the IRWM Program Guidelines require IRWM Plans to address Plan conformance with statewide priorities. (DWR and State Board, 2004 and 2007) Statewide priorities, as addressed by DWR and the State Board in Section II.F of the 2004 version of the Guidelines, include:

- Reduce conflicts between water users or resolve water rights disputes.
- Implement TMDLs that are established or currently under development.
- Implement Regional Board Watershed Management Plan Initiative chapters, plans, or policies, including the Regional Board’s Water Quality Certification (Wetlands) Program, Non-Point Source Program, Water Quality Assessment Program, NPDES Program, Basin Planning Program, and TMDL Program.
- Implement the State Board’s Non-Point Source Pollution Plan, which contains the following implementation objectives:

- (1) implement mitigation measures by all levels of water quality managers,
 - (2) preserve water quality in water bodies currently meeting standards,
 - (3) implement mitigation measures to achieve TMDLs, and
 - (4) leverage inter-agency and private resources for water quality improvement.
- Assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives, which include:
 - (1) reduce amounts of bromide and total organic carbon in drinking water intakes,
 - (2) reduce salinity in Delta water supplies, and
 - (3) achieve an equivalent level of public health protection using a cost-effective combination of alternative source waters, source control, and treatment technologies.
 - Implement recommendations developed by the State Board floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force, or state species recovery plan.
 - Address environmental justice concerns.
 - Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay Delta Program, which include:
 - (1) provide good water quality for all beneficial uses,
 - (2) improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species,
 - (3) reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses dependent on the Bay-Delta system, and
 - (4) reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching of Delta levees.
 - Reduce carbon emissions.

State Board task force recommendations for recycled water, floodplain management, and desalination are presented in Table L-1 (page L-3).

**Table L-1
 State Board Task Force Recommendations**

State Board Task Force	Task Force Recommendations
Recycled Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based decision making for project planning • Educational curriculum • Uniform Plumbing Code Appendix J implementation • Uniform interpretation of standards/method of economic analysis • Research funding
Desalination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desalination as an element of a balanced water portfolio • Equitable access to benefits from desalination • Monitoring and data sharing • Coordinated permitting and review, non-retail energy pricing • Assurances for environmental benefit • Highest priority for greatest public benefit
Floodplain Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of and reducing risks from reasonably foreseeable flooding • Multi-objective management approach to floodplains • Local assistance, funding, and legislation

L.2 Conformance of IRWM Plan Objectives with Statewide Priorities

Table L-2 (page L-4) summarizes how the nine Plan objectives address the statewide priorities. As shown in Table L-2, the objectives address (either directly or indirectly) all of the statewide priorities. Objective A will help to address all of the statewide priorities through:

- bringing parties together to address water rights issues,
- fostering public stewardship and education in water quality improvements, nonpoint source controls, species protection, and TMDLs, and
- addressing environmental justice.

Objectives B and C will focus on developing and managing data and technical/scientific knowledge that will help to better understand and address statewide priorities relating to:

- water rights issues,
- pollutant sources and pollutant loads,
- water quality and beneficial use interrelations,
- pollutant loads, sources, and allocations required for performing TMDLs,
- Basin Plan standards and protection of beneficial uses,
- recycled water, desalination, and flood control issues and needs, and
- habitat protection impacts and needs.

**Table L-2
Conformance of Plan Objectives with Statewide Priorities**

IRWM Plan Objective	Statewide Priority								
	Reduce Water User or Water Rights Conflicts	Implement TMDLs	Implement Regional Board Water Mgt. Initiatives	Implement State Board Non-Point Source Pollution Plan	Assist in Meeting Bay-Delta Water Quality Objectives	Implement State Task Force Recommendations	Implement State Species Recovery Plan	Address Environmental Justice	Assist in Achieving CALFED Bay-Delta Goals
A Maximize stakeholder and community involvement and stewardship	●	○	●	●	○ ¹	●	○	●	○
B Effectively obtain, manage, and assess water resource data and information	●	●	●	●	○ ¹	●	●	○	○
C Further the scientific and technical foundation of water quality management	●	●	●	●	○ ¹	●	●		○
D Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources	●				○ ¹	●		●	●
E Construct, operate, and maintain a reliable infrastructure system	●				○ ¹	●		●	●
F Reduce the negative effects on waterways and watershed health caused by hydromodification and flooding	●	○	●	●		●	●	●	
G Effectively manage sources of water pollutants and environmental stressors	●	○	●	●	○ ¹		●	●	○ ¹
H Protect, restore, and maintain habitat and open space	●	○	●	●		●	●	●	○ ¹
I Optimize water-based recreational opportunities	●	○	●	●	○ ¹	●	●	●	○ ¹

- IRWM Plan objective directly supports the listed Statewide Priority
- IRWM Plan objective helps achieve the Statewide Priority

In addressing regional water supply diversity and reliability, Objectives D and E directly support statewide priorities relating to water supply. By reducing the Region’s reliance on imported water, these objectives also help to achieve CALFED and Bay-Delta goals.

Objectives F, G, H, and I respectively address statewide priorities relating to hydromodification and flood control, water quality improvement, habitat and open space, and recreation. As shown in Table L-2, each of these objectives addresses several of the statewide priorities.

L.3 Conformance of Tier I Projects with Statewide Priorities

Appendix 12 summarizes conformance of the proposed Tier I water management projects with statewide priorities. A general description of how these projects conform to the statewide priorities is presented below.

Reduce Conflicts. Table C-12 (page C-22) summarizes potential conflicts within the Region. As shown in Table C-12, the Region's potential conflicts include (1) conflicts related to limited supplies (e.g. water rights or supply vs. environment conflicts), and (2) conflicts related to water quality. As shown in Appendix 12, more than a dozen Tier I projects address creation of supply or improvement of water quality in ways that help to avoid conflict. Proposed Tier I projects would help address potential conflicts within the Santa Margarita, San Luis Rey, Carlsbad, San Dieguito, San Diego, Sweetwater, Otay, and Tijuana HUs.

TMDLs. As shown in Tables B-14 and B-15 (pages B-36 and B-37), more than 40 inland surface waters and 35 coastal waters are designated as 303(d) impaired. Table J-2 (page J-5) summarizes TMDLs within the Region. Several proposed water management projects address waters subject to TMDLs, including projects that address water quality improvement of coastal waters, Chollas Creek, and San Diego Bay. Nearly 30 Tier I projects (see Appendix 12) help address and better define water quality, pollutant source, pollutant loads, and allocation issues that will help to implement these future TMDLs.

Watershed Management Initiative. The State Board's Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) establishes a framework for coordinating numerous federal and state-mandated regulatory programs and priorities. Goals of the WMI include:

- Prioritize water resource problems within individual watersheds and involve stakeholders to develop solutions.
- Better coordinate point source and nonpoint source (NPS) regulatory efforts and establish working relationships between staff from different programs.
- Better coordinate local, state and federal activities and programs, especially those relating to regulations and funding, to assist local watershed groups.

The Regional Board has committed to implementing the WMI, and is considering watershed issues, coordination issues, and program priorities in administering its Basin Plan, NPDES, NPS, Water Quality Assessment, Water Quality Certification, and TMDL programs.

By its very nature, the IRWM Plan process helps the Regional Board achieve the WMI goals by fostering coordination among agencies, ensuring coordination among project proponents, addressing Region-wide and watershed-specific water management issues, and prioritizing the Region's water resources management projects. Additionally, this Plan includes short-term priority action plans that help implement WMI goals through (1) furthering the scientific/technical foundations of beneficial uses and water quality standards, and (2) providing for coordinated data management.

Many of the Tier I projects include elements that directly help the Regional Board's WMI plans and policies. As shown in Appendix 12, a majority of the Tier I projects help implement the WMI. Tier I projects may assist in achieving WMI goals through NPS control, runoff management, pollution prevention, beneficial use enhancement, water quality assessment, wetlands and ecosystem creation and protection, and TMDL development and implementation.

Nonpoint Source Program. A majority of the Tier I projects (see Appendix 12) include components that address control of NPS pollutants through (1) source identification, (2) eliminating or reducing pollutant loads, (3) managing or controlling existing pollutant loads, and (4) public education.

State Task Force Recommendations. Several Tier I projects implement water recycling strategies that are in keeping with State Task Force water recycling management recommendations presented in Table L-1 (page L-2). Ecosystem restoration, land conservation, and other habitat preservation projects proposed in this Plan are in keeping with the state species recovery plan. An additional Tier I project is in keeping with the Task Force recommendations on desalination. In total, over 30 of the Tier I projects help implement State Task Force recommendations for water recycling, floodplain management, desalination, or the state species recovery plan.

CALFED Goals and Water Quality Objectives. Tier I projects that increase local supply or result in demand reduction (water use efficiency) will help to achieve CALFED Bay-Delta goals and water quality objectives by reducing the Region's reliance on imported water from the Bay-Delta. More than 20 Tier I projects (see Appendix 12) would help achieve CALFED Bay-Delta water quality objectives, and over 30 projects would help achieve CALFED Bay-Delta goals.

Reduce Carbon Emissions. Conveying imported water from the Colorado River and State Water Project represents one of the larger energy uses within California. Reducing the Region’s reliance on imported supply by developing local sources can lead to reduced power usage and reduced carbon emissions. Other means of reducing carbon emissions include improving water use efficiency and treatment efficiency. Over 20 proposed Tier I projects (see Appendix 12) would result in reduction of carbon emissions.

L.4 Environmental Justice Issues

Environmental justice is defined in California law (Government Code section 65040.12) as “the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.” Environmental justice in water management includes:

1. supporting community health, as well as a clean and safe environment,
2. diversifying the decision-making process by calling for involvement of all people and communities,
3. encouraging a more equitable distribution of economic benefits,
4. empowering communities themselves to take action towards improving their environment,
5. increasing awareness, understanding and effective cooperation within and among communities, and
6. ensuring the right of all people to equal and fair treatment under the laws and regulations of the United States.

Tier I projects that support water supply diversity and water system infrastructure reliability will ensure equitable water supply reliability, quality, safety, and economic benefits for all water users within the Water Authority’s service area, regardless of ethnicity or economics.

Disadvantaged communities (along with the Region’s population as a whole) will benefit from Tier I ecosystem restoration, recreation and public access, and floodplain management projects. Stakeholder outreach programs (see Section N) used to develop this Plan support the inclusion of economically disadvantaged communities within the Region’s municipalities and unincorporated areas.

As shown in Appendix 12, nearly half of the proposed Tier I projects address environmental justice by (1) creating safe and reliable water supply for disadvantaged communities, (2) improving water quality within disadvantaged communities, (3) improving water-based recreation opportunities in areas accessible to disadvantaged communities, and (4) implementing outreach and education programs.

Section L References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines*. 2004.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board. *Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines, Proposal Solicitation Packages, Round 2*. June 2007.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board). *Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region*. 1994.