Project Guide for Watershed Resilience Planning Conservation Implementation Grant

November 5, 2026

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has grant funding available to help advance California's climate resilience goals, made possible by Proposition 4 - the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. Approved by voters in November 2024, this $10 billion general obligation bond will fund projects that address climate change and strengthen California's long-term resilience.

Proposition 4 provides vital funding to support locally driven water infrastructure and climate adaptation projects**,** including efforts to improve groundwater management and dam safety, protect riverine systems, and enhance flood preparedness across California.

DWR will administer multiple grant programs under Proposition 4, however this project solicitation is only for the Waterhead Resilience Program's Conservation Implementation Grant. The Watershed Resilience Program is an evolution of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program that builds on local relationships, trust, and collaborative regional planning while placing a stronger emphasis on climate vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, watershed-scale collaboration, and equity and inclusiveness.

The Conservation Implementation Grant has $60 million available in funding for capital projects with a water conservation benefit in agricultural and urban areas. Eligible projects must be selected by a collaborative group to apply for this funding; the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (SDIRWM) Program is acting as that collaborative group for the project sponsors in the SDIRWM region.

The Project Guide explains the SDIRWM Program's process for selecting projects to include in an application to DWR. **Projects must be submitted to the SDIRWM Program by 5 pm on Friday December 11, 2026, to be considered and evaluated for inclusion in the regional application.**

SDIRWM Program

The SDIRWM Program began in 2005, and since then has achieved remarkable success! San Diego published its first IRWM Plan in 2007 and has been awarded, thus far, $132.8 million in state grant funding. Adoption of the *2019 San Diego IRWM Plan* made the Region eligible for the future rounds of DWR funding. The *2019 SDIRWM Plan* (available at www.sdirwmp.org) provides a mechanism for coordinating, refining, and integrating projects within a comprehensive, regional context and provides a foundation for future IRWM planning and implementation activities in the region.

Stakeholder involvement is an essential element of IRWM planning. To date, the IRWM program has made significant efforts to identify and engage key stakeholders. A Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) was established to assist in the development and implementation of the SDIRWM Plan prioritization of projects and integration of water activities within a region. The RAC also helps foster cooperation among agencies and non-government organizations. The RAC, which currently consists of 31 members with expertise in water

supply, wastewater, recycled water, stormwater and urban runoff, natural resources, and environmental stewardship, continues to play a critical role in shaping key elements of the SDIRWM program.

Purpose of Guide and Contact Information

The purpose of this Project Guide is to provide potential applicants with the information necessary to develop and prepare a project concept form for the SDIRWM Program to be considered in a regional application to DWR. If you have any questions about the upcoming grant cycle or the SDIRWM project submittal process, please contact the SDIRWM team at SDIRWM@woodardcurran.com

DWR Grant Information and Guidance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Watershed Resilience Program Conservation Implementation Grant. The draft materials are available on the DWR Watershed Resilience Program webpage.

Please note that this SDIRWM Program Call for Projects is intended to identify and evaluate projects for potential inclusion in a regional application to DWR for funding through the Conservation Implementation Grant. Submission of a project through the SDIRWM program call for projects does not guarantee inclusion in the regional application or an award of DWR funding.

DWR guidelines include the process, procedures and criteria that DWR will use to implement the Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Program, and the PSP describes the individual solicitation eligibility requirements, application instructions and application review and scoring criteria.

Application Process

DWR requires that applications include projects selected by a collaborative group; for this application, the SDIRWM Program will serve as the collaborative group. DWR has established a two-step application process. The first step is submittal of a package of Project Concept Forms, which will be evaluated for eligibility and alignment with priorities. Once the forms are reviewed by DWR, in the second step for the process DWR will invite applicants (the SDIRWM Program) to prepare a full application that includes Work Plans, Budgets, Schedules, and other required information. It is possible that some projects submitted in the first step will not be invited to submit the full application. **Do not submit a Project Concept Form directly to DWR, projects must first be selected by the SDIRWM Program, who will then coordinate a single application package with all projects selected for DWR's consideration.**

In order to select the projects for inclusion in the Project Concept Form package to DWR, the SDIRWM Program is implementing a local selection process with the following steps:

1. Call for Projects (Nov-Dec 2026) – project sponsors are asked to complete the SDIRWM Project Concept Form packet and submit to the SDIRWM Program by 5 p.m. on December 11, 2026.
2. Project Selection (Jan 2027) – submitted projects will be reviewed and scored in accordance with the SDIRWM Program's scoring criteria for this funding cycle; the Project Selection Committee will be convened to review projects and select projects for inclusion in the regional application package; the SDIRWM Program anticipates selecting 5 projects
3. Phase 1 Application (Jan – Feb 2027) – the SDIRWM Program will coordinate with selected project sponsors to confirm their cost sharing commitment (see Grant Preparation Cost Sharing, below) and refine their Project Concept Forms prior to submittal to DWR; the SDIRWM Program is targeting submittal to DWR by the end of February 2027.

4. DWR Review Concept Forms (Mar 2027) – DWR will review the project concept forms and notify the SDIRWM Program whether the projects are invited to move forward with a complete application.
5. Phase 2 Application (Mar-May 2027) – once invited by DWR to complete a full application, the SDIRWM Program will work with local project sponsors to prepare a complete application, including a work plan, budget, schedule, and additional supporting information as required by the PSP.
6. DWR Grant Application Review (Summer - Fall 2027) – DWR will review the applications, score, and determine awards. Awards are anticipated to be announced in Fall 2027.

How to Submit Projects

The SDIRWM Program is accepting conservation projects that increase water conservation in urban and/or agricultural areas. Stakeholders interested in submitting a project for consideration must complete the project concept form included in this call for projects packet. The form is also available on the SDIRWM Program website. Projects submitted through this process will be evaluated for potential inclusion in the SDIRWM Program regional application to DWR for Conservation Implementation Grant funding.

Projects will be considered by the Project Selection Committee, using a combination of project scoring, merit, and other considerations to balance regional priorities with competitiveness at the statewide level. To assist with the evaluation, the SDIRWM Program has updated its a scoring criteria to reflect both regional considerations and DWR's Conservation Grant preferences. The SDIRWM Program's scoring criteria is included here as Attachment A. Although project scores are one data point in the decision-making process by the Project Selection Committee, it is strongly recommended that project sponsors review the scoring criteria when preparing their Project Concept Form.

Projects that have a stormwater component and need to be included in a Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) will need to be submitted into the project database (Opti San Diego IRWM) also available through the SDIRWM website. You do **not** need to complete the entire form, but will be asked to check the box for inclusion in the SWRP and to complete the three SWRP-specific tabs. Additional information is available in Attachment B. Projects submitted that do not have a stormwater component do not need to be submitted to the project database.

If a local project sponsor has multiple projects, they would like to submit please submit one project concept form for each project. Each project will be evaluated individually by the SDIRWM Program using the scoring criteria. Local project sponsors are also encouraged to partner with other organizations, tribes, and disadvantaged communities.

Grant Preparation Cost Sharing

Consistent with the SDIRWM Program's current grant cost sharing policy, project sponsors will be responsible for paying their portion of grant application preparation costs. For this Conservation Grant application, the total cost to prepare the application will not exceed $79,790. Project sponsors will pay an amount proportional to their project's share of the total grant request. For example, if a project requests 10% of the total grant amount in the application (inclusive of their portion of grant administration), they would be responsible for paying $7,979 towards the overall grant preparation cost.

These costs would only be incurred once your project is selected for inclusion in the regional application. There is no cost to submit a concept form for the SDIRWM Program's consideration. Because DWR is implementing the application in a two-phase process, if your project is selected for inclusion in the regional application, but not invited by DWR to submit a full application, you will not be responsible for any application costs. Further,

the cost associated with preparing your project's materials for the first phase of DWR's process will be absorbed by the RWMG, and not reallocated to the other project sponsors in the application.

The SDIRWM Program anticipates selecting 5 projects for inclusion in the application, with a total grant request between $5 million and $8 million. Two examples of how the cost sharing works are provided to show how an individual project sponsor's costs would change depending on how much grant funding they are requesting and the total grant request in the regional application. While the total cost to prepare the application is fixed, these are examples to show a potential range of individual costs, and how your specific costs would vary depending on your portion of the grant request.

Example A (5 Projects and $5M Grant Amount)				
Cost Share	**Project Grant Ask**	**Project Grant % of Total Grant**	**Total Application Cost**	**Cost Share (Proportional to Grant)**
Project Sponsor A	$500,000	10%	$ 79,790	$7,979
Project Sponsor B	$750,000	15%		$11,969
Project Sponsor C	$950,000	19%		$15,160
Project Sponsor D	$1,300,000	26%		$20,745
Project Sponsor E	$1,500,000	30%		$23,937
Total Grant	**$5,000,000**	**100%**	**-**	**$79,790**

Example B (5 Projects and $8M Grant Amount)				
Cost Share	**Project Grant Ask**	**Project Grant % of Total Grant**	**Total Application Cost**	**Cost Share (Proportional to Grant)**
Project Sponsor A	$500,000	6%	$ 79,790	$4,987
Project Sponsor B	$750,000	9%		$7,480
Project Sponsor C	$1,250,000	16%		$12,467
Project Sponsor D	$2,500,000	31%		$24,934
Project Sponsor E	$3,000,000	38%		$29,921
Total Grant	**$8,000,000**	**100%**	**-**	$79,790

SDIRWM Program Conservation Implementation Grant Project Concept Form

Download here: http://sdirwmp.org/grant-opportunities

Email Concept Form to sdirwm@woodardcurran.com by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2026

Contact the SDIRWM team at SDIRWM@woodardcurran.com with any questions.

Eligible Projects

Projects submitted through the SDIRWM Program should be implementation-ready capital projects that increase water conservation in urban and/or agricultural areas. DWR indicates that the eligible project list is intentionally broad, but every project proposed for Conservation Implementation funding must demonstrate a quantifiable water conservation benefit. There is no specified minimum percentage of water savings, but the benefit must be identifiable and quantified in acre-feet per year. These conservation benefits must be to an urban area, agricultural area, or both. Urban areas include cities, towns, and their water systems, while agricultural areas include farms and ranches. If you believe you have an eligible project but are not sure how to quantify the benefit, you can contact the grant team (sdirwm@woodardcurran.com) to schedule a short call to discuss potential methods for calculating the benefit. Standalone planning, design, technical assistance, or training projects are not eligible under this solicitation. Further, rebate programs are not eligible, consistent with the requirements of Proposition 4.

Eligible projects must be completed within 5 years from DWR's grant award date. DWR's estimated award date is fall 2027. DWR is unable to guarantee the ability to extend the grant agreement to accommodate project delays.

DWR has listed eligible project types and criteria for prioritization in the draft Guidelines and PSP, available online: https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/watershed-resilience-program. Please make sure to click on the solicitation documents under the Conservation Implementation Solicitation portion of the website.

DWR's Eligible Project Types	DWR-Prioritized for Funding
• Water reuse and recycling for non-potable • Water-use efficiency and water conservation • Local and regional surface and underground water storage • Regional water conveyance facilities • Watershed management projects, including wildfire risk reduction or water supply • reliability • Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater storage facilities • Water desalination projects	• Projects that can commence immediately upon receiving funding due to CEQA completion, having secured other environmental approvals, acquired necessary land or landowner permission, and completed plans specifications. • Proposition 4 requires at least 40% of authorized funding to benefit disadvantaged communities or vulnerable populations and at least 10% to benefit severely disadvantaged communities. DWR states that projects qualifying for these benefits will be prioritized. • Projects demonstrate alignment with state climate priorities and explain how climate change has been considered in project design and operation.

Project sponsors are encouraged to submit implementation-ready projects that can clearly demonstrate measurable water conservation benefits, a realistic path to completion within the grant period, and strong alignment with regional and state climate resilience priorities.

Definitions

Proposition 4 establishes its own definitions of Disadvantaged Community (DAC), Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC), and Vulnerable Populations in Public Resources Code § 90100. These definitions are different from previous funding rounds and are shown below. Project sponsors should check whether their projects benefit these communities and populations using DWR's provided mapping tools.

Direct and Meaningful Benefits

To assist with meeting Proposition 4's requirement that 40% of the bond funding benefits disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations, DWR requires that at least 40% of this grant program's funding must go to projects that provide direct and meaningful benefits to vulnerable populations, disadvantaged communities, or severely disadvantaged communities. To qualify as contributing to this requirement a majority of a project's water-related benefit must go directly to these populations or communities. The project benefit area (by population or geographic area) is determined by who receives the benefit, not by the physical location of the project. Individual projects and proposals are not required to meet it; however, projects that qualify will be prioritized. Projects must meet the following four criteria:

- Projects must create direct and tangible and substantial benefits that would not have happened without the project. Meaningful benefits are not incidental, indirect or speculative.
- Protect or enhance a community's resources and quality of life by building climate resilience. This may include reducing risk to the community from climate hazards or protecting resources threatened by climate change.
- Directly respond to a community's expressed needs or desired benefit either through direct project input or as part of the larger planning and engagement effort.
- Avoid long-term degradation or reduction in any population's resources. Benefits provided to one community cannot burden another.

Disadvantaged Community: A community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.

Severely Disadvantaged Community: A community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.

Vulnerable Population: subgroup of population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. Tribes are considered vulnerable populations.

Resources To Determine if The Project Meets these Definitions

The following section outlines resources developed by DWR to help determine if your project meets these definitions.

Determining DAC/SDAC Status:

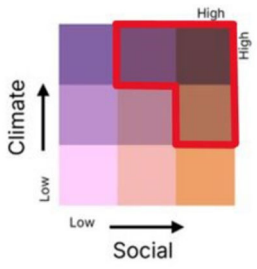
- The Climate Bond (Proposition 4) Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities Map allows users to identify DACs and SDACs using ACS data. This tool can be accessed at the following link: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa723fdf521a44c9a428f1a46cd38a09
    - *Note: CalEnviroScreen and the California Climate Investments Priority Populations Mapping Tool cannot be used to identify DACs or SDACs for Climate Bond funding, as the definitions of these terms differ.*
- The applicant may use ACS data at the census place, census tract, or census block group geography levels to show whether a project serves a DAC, based on which geography is the most representative for that community.

Determining Vulnerable Community Status:

Unlike DAC/SDAC status, which is determined solely by median household income, vulnerable population status is assessed by considering two factors together.

1. Climate hazard exposure: How much of a population or is or will be affected by climate impacts such as wildfire, flooding, sea level rise, drought or extreme heat; and
2. Adaptative capacity: The resources and ability a population has to prepare for, cope with, and recover from those impacts.

The primary tool for this purpose is the Vulnerable Communities Platform (VCP), developed by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation which shows the location and boundaries of communities experiencing extreme heat, flooding, sea level rise, drought, or wildfire, including a Climate Vulnerability Map Tool that displays both current conditions and a 2050 future scenario. To qualify as a vulnerable population, the project benefit area must have a rating of at least medium for one climate hazard or social vulnerability and high for the other. See the example from DWR below. The boxes highlighted in red qualify as vulnerable communities.



- The VCP can be accessed at: https://vcp.lci.ca.gov/.
- For guidance on using the VCP specifically for Climate Bond vulnerable population determinations, refer to the CNRA StoryMap guide: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/155ac51794bc49ea85d3c1697ed3007a.

Please note that California Native American tribes are automatically considered vulnerable populations under Proposition 4 and do not need to be independently assessed using the tools above.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible the following must apply:

- Local Project Sponsor: Public agencies, 501(c)(3) Non-profit organizations, Special districts, Joint Powers Authorities, Public utilities, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, State Indian Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's Tribal Consultation list, Mutual water companies, Local agencies, Local publicly owned utilities.
- Funding Match: There is no cost share required by the bond, though providing cost share can increase your project's score in the final application to DWR.
- Project Schedule: projects must be complete five years after award date, DWR expects to issue awards in Fall of 2027.

If selected for inclusion in the SDIRWM Program's regional application, local project sponsors will be asked to submit a self-certification form and must be in compliance with the applicable requirements. See self-certification for eligibility requirements as part of the Concept Proposal Application Under Part V Application Instructions of the PSP.

- Urban Water Management Compliance: Have a current 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) verified by DWR and have a complete and validated water loss audit report verified by DWR.
- Agricultural Water Management and Measurement Compliance: Agricultural water suppliers must be in compliance with all requirements for an agricultural water supplier.
- Surface Water Diverter Compliance: List the surface water diverters that will receive funding from the proposed grant on the self-certification form. If there are none, please indicate so.
- Groundwater Management Compliance: For groundwater management and recharge projects, the applicant must be compliance with Water Code section 10753 regarding Groundwater Management Plans.
    - Water Code section 10920 et seq. establishes a groundwater monitoring program designed to monitor and report groundwater elevations in all or part of a basin or sub-basin . California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM Compliance): DWR has prioritized groundwater basins throughout the state via the CASGEM Program (available at https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/. This is the SGMA monitoring network module formally CASGEM Program.
- Stormwater Management Plan Compliance: For all stormwater projects and/or dry weather runoff projects, the project must be included in a Stormwater Resource Plan (or Functionally Equivalent Stormwater Resource Plan.

Advanced Payment

Eligible local project sponsors may initially be allowed Advanced Payment in the amount of up to 25 percent of the award, up to a maximum of 90 percent of the total grant award to the recipient (Public Resources Code § 90130). Project must meet specified criteria. See Appendix E of the 2026 Guidelines for more information (https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Watershed-Resilience-Program/Files/Watershed-Resilience-Grant-Program-Guidelines.pdf)

Contracting and Grant-Related Requirements

The following requirements are anticipated based on previous grant rounds as well as local experience during previous IRWM grant contract processing and contract compliance administration.

Contract Execution Conditions – Grant contract execution conditions must be met before DWR will execute a grant funding contract. These conditions are in addition to requirements that must be met on an ongoing basis to maintain grant funding eligibility or must be met prior to disbursement of grant funds. The requirements are due typically within 30-60 days of the award notification and include, but are not limited to, the project sponsor's most recent three years of audited financial statements.

Grant Contract Process – While grant recipients may incur costs eligible for grant reimbursement as soon as the grant award confirmation letter is received, they will be responsible for covering all project costs until a grant contract is executed between DWR, Water Authority, and the project sponsor. Execution of the grant agreement may take several months.

Ineligible Project Costs – Only costs incurred after the award date are eligible for reimbursement. No costs incurred prior to award (anticipated Fall 2027) can be submitted for reimbursement. Grantees are encouraged to limit grant administrative costs. While DWR does not have a limit on grant administration costs for this funding, administration cost will be reviewed for reasonableness and a high administration budget will need strong justification.

Insurance – Grant recipients are required to obtain and maintain sufficient insurance as determined by the Water Authority, as grantee, throughout the duration of the project.

Local Project Sponsor Agreement – Funding requirements from the contract between DWR and Water Authority will be passed through to the project sponsors via the Local Project Sponsor (LPS) Agreement.

Prevailing Wage – Project sponsors are required to comply with all provisions of the Labor Code regarding prevailing wages and monitor contracts under this grant to ensure prevailing wage provisions are met.

Post-Performance Reporting – A project may be required to prepare and submit a Post Performance Report annually for several years after the conclusion of the project's first operating year.

Retention – For each project, DWR will withhold a minimum of 10% of the funds requested for grant reimbursement until the project is completed and the grant recipient has met DWR's funding requirements.

Sample Contract Templates – To see a sample of grant agreement templates for the Watershed Resilience please check DWR's website. Please review the sample templates for an understanding of responsibilities for grant recipient and project proponents. DWR current draft agreement is provided at the link below. https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Watershed-Resilience-Program/Files/Conservation-Implementation-Agreement-Template.pdf

State and Local Auditing Requirements – During and after project completion, an audit may be performed either by the State or by Water Authority staff. Sample contract templates show a list of minimum materials that will need to be maintained for auditing purposes.

Attachment A: SDIRWM Scoring Criteria

SAN DIEGO Integrated Regional Water Management

SDIRWM Scoring Criteria for Proposition 4 Conservation Grant Funding

Criterion	Scoring Procedure	Points Assigned	Percent of Total Score
Addresses Multiple Objectives[1]	Score is based on # of objectives addressed	6+ objectives = 4 pts 5 objectives = 3 pts 4 objectives = 2 pts 3 objectives = 1 pt	10%
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	5%
Sustainable Water Development: Creates New Applied Water or Offsets Potable Demand	Score is based on yield of water created or offset	Reduces demands – consistent yield in average and dry years = 4 pts Reduces demands – average conditions only = 2 pts	20%
Involves More than One Entity	Score is based on degree of partnership	Conservation Corps will work directly on project = 4 pts Conservation Corps was consulted but declined to work on project = 2 pts Other partnerships involved in implementing project = 1 pt	5%
Invest in Disadvantaged / Environmental Justice Communities and Systems, SDACs, and Vulnerable Communities	Score is based on the degree of benefit (direct vs. indirect)	Directly invests in DAC, SDAC, EJ, or Vulnerable Population water systems, conservation, or consolidation = 4 pts Other direct benefits that improve overall conditions in DAC, SDAC, EJ, or Vulnerable Populations (e.g. habitat improvement) = 2 pts Indirect benefits = 1 pt No Benefits = 0 pts	15%
Resiliency to Climate Change	Score is based on extent of climate change adaptation or mitigation activity (Climate Change Conceptual Model)	Reduces very high or high priority vulnerability to climate change AND improves knowledge and capacity AND implements climate change mitigation = 4 pts Reduces medium, low, or very low priority vulnerability to climate change AND either 1) improves knowledge and capacity OR 2) implements climate change mitigation = 3 pts Improves knowledge and capacity AND implements climate change mitigation = 2 pts Improves knowledge and capacity OR implements climate change mitigation = 1 pt	15%
Stormwater as a Resource	Score is based on benefit provided	Utilizes stormwater as a resource (e.g., environmental, source water replenishment) = 4 pts Implements onsite capture = 2 pts	5%
Enhance Infrastructure	Score is based on the degree of benefit (regional vs local)	Enhances regional infrastructure (improved use of existing infrastructure) = 3 pts Enhances local infrastructure (improved use of existing infrastructure) = 2 pts Indirectly improves use of existing infrastructure = 1 pt	10%
Project Readiness	Score is based on how many pre-implementation steps are completed	100% Design AND CEQA complete = 4 pts 100% Design OR CEQA complete= 3 pts Permitting complete (pre-construction permits only) = 2 pts Remaining Funding Secured (if needed) = 1 pt	15%

Refer to Table 9-1 of the 2019 IRWM Plan for further details about each scoring criteria. Download Chapter 9 here: http://sdirwmp.org/2019-irwm-plan-update.

San Diego IRWM Plan Objectives from the 2019 San Diego IRWM Plan

Refer to Section 7 in Chapter 2 of the 2019 San Diego IRWM Plan for further details about each objective, including the targets and metrics for each objective. Download Chapter 2 Here: http://sdirwmp.org/2019-irwm-plan-update

- **Objective A: Encourage the development of integrated solutions to address water management issues and conflicts.**
- **Objective B: Maximize stakeholder/community involvement and stewardship of water resources, emphasizing education and outreach.**
- **Objective C: Effectively obtain, manage, and assess water resource data and information.**
- **Objective D: Further the scientific and technical foundation of water management.**
- **Objective E: Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources, encouraging their efficient use and development of local water supplies.**
- **Objective F: Construct, operate, and maintain a reliable and resilient water management infrastructure system.**
- **Objective G: Enhance natural hydrologic processes to reduce the effects of hydromodification and encourage integrated flood management. Objective H: Effectively reduce sources of pollutants and environmental stressors to protect and enhance human health, safety, and the environment.**
- **Objective I: Protect, restore, and maintain habitat and open space.**
- **Objective J: Advance water-based enriching experiences.**

Attachment B: Adding a Project to the SWRP

San Diego Region Storm Water Resources Plan
OPTI Database – Project Form

Stormwater projects must be submitted into the online project database (Opti) to be added to the Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) project list. A blank version of the San Diego Region's OPTI Database for the San Diego Region Storm Water Resource Plan project submittal form has been provided here for reference. Please contact us at sdirwm@woodardcurran.com for a Word version of this form. Responses for text fields may be copied from the Word version and pasted into the OPTI system. Drop-down menus must be entered manually into OPTI. Please note that the database does not easily translate into a Word format, and users are encouraged to also review the database form online while completing this version. Resources and links in this form may be accessed through their corresponding links in OPTI. When copying responses into the database, be sure to review your project to ensure your responses have copied in correctly.

For conservation projects with a stormwater element that are pursuing Proposition 4 Conservation Grant funding, only the SWRP tabs must be completed in Opti. A Project Concept Form is still required to be submitted via email if interested in the Conservation Grant funding program.

Please contact Sally Johnson, sjohnson@woodardcurran.com, if you have questions about using OPTI.

Step 1: Project Eligibility

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Complete the following Step 1 Checklist questions to determine project eligibility prior to completing Step 2 and Step 3.

Please refer to the application guidance for your particular program to determine your project's eligibility.

All projects must complete Steps 1, 2, and 3 to be included in the San Diego Region SWRP.

Question	Yes/No/NA
1. Is the project an implementation project?	
1a. If project includes planning activities (CEQA, permitting and design) does the percentage of planning funds being requested of the total project costs meet the grant application requirements (see applicable grant application requirements)?	
2. Does the project include stormwater or dry weather runoff water quality improvement (water quality) and/or capture and beneficial use (water supply) as a key element and main benefit?	
3. Does the project meet at least **2 or more Main Benefits** and as many as feasible **Additional Benefits** (listed below)? Check all benefits that apply	
3a. **Water Quality Benefit** - while contributing to compliance with applicable permit and/or Total Maximum Daily Loads requirements. **Main Benefit:** increased filtration and/or treatment of runoff; **Additional**	

Question	Yes/No/NA
Benefits: nonpoint source control, re-establish natural water drainage and treatment	
3b. **Water Supply Benefit** - through groundwater management and/or runoff capture and use. **Main Benefits:** direct water supply and conjunctive use through stormwater and runoff capture and groundwater infiltration to an aquifer that is a source of water supply; dry weather flow diversion to wastewater treatment plant or recycled water treatment plant to augment water supply; capture and delivery to water treatment for irrigation, **Additional Benefits:** or indirect use through capture and infiltration to groundwater that is not designated as a groundwater aquifer used for water supply and/or water conservation.	
3c. **Flood Management Benefit** **Main Benefit:** decrease flood risk by reducing runoff rate and/or volume.	
3d. **Environmental Benefit** **Main Benefit:** habitat restoration or enhancement, including wetland enhancement/creation and/or riparian enhancement, instream flow improvements and/or increased urban green space; Additional Benefits: reduced energy use, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, or providing a carbon sink; reestablishment of the natural hydrograph; and water temperature improvements to improve habitat.	
3e. **Community Benefit** **Main Benefits:** Employment opportunities and/or public education provided. Additional Benefits: enhanced and/or created recreational and public use areas and/or; community involvement.	
4. Does the project sponsor have an available funding source for its operations and maintenance?	
5. Does the project meet the minimum eligibility requirements per the specific grant application under Proposition 1 (see grant-specific application guidelines and requirements)?	

Step 2: Project Benefits

For the following sections, only respond to questions in the corresponding benefit areas identified in question #2 of Step 1.

Scores shown are awarded with a yes answer or, where applicable, provision of the requested data or information. A no answer results in no points awarded.

If choosing to use the Calculator to assist with quantification of benefits WS-2, WS-3, WS-4, FM-1, FM-4, or E-4, please review the Read Me tab in that file prior to use. Note that results from the Calculator may be used for conceptual planning and grant applications, but more sophisticated methods and tools should be used when greater level of detail is desired, especially when regulatory requirements are involved. The Calculator is not appropriate for use for design or predictive purposes, and results should not be taken as predictions of specific benefits.

Section 2.1 Water Quality Benefit

Section 2.1.1 Project Metrics - (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
1. Does the project increase filtration and/or treatment of runoff (Main Benefit)? If you answered no, skip to the Section 2.2.		N/A	4
2. Does the project address one or more of the constituents covered under a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and/or listed as a priority water quality condition in the WQIP? See Section 5 for further details.		N/A	4
3. Have estimates of expected pollutant load reductions been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the estimated load reduction for each constituent as either a concentration-based or mass-based value. Report pollutant load reductions in **lbs./year** or **MPN/yr.** for each high priority and priority water quality conditions or constituents identified in the applicable WQIP. For projects designed to meet the minimum pollutant removal requirements under the MS4 Permit using the 85th percentile design storm event, the metric for load reduction can be reported as **lbs/design storm event** or **MPN/design storm event**. Load reductions must be entered using the format of Constituent: Quantification Units. Multiple constituents should be separated by a semicolon (ex: TSS: 2,000 lbs/yr; Lead: 1.03 lbs/yr). (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to WQ-1):			2

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
4. Does the project reduce stormwater runoff volume through increased infiltration, filtration and evapotranspiration in order to restore natural hydrology? If you answered no, skip to #6		N/A	4
5. Have estimates of the reduction of stormwater runoff through infiltration, filtration, and evapotranspiration been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the estimated change to overland flow, groundwater recharge and infiltration, interflow, and/or evapotranspiration here. Report storm water runoff volume reductions in **gallons/year**. (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to WQ-2):			2
6. Does the project restore natural stream and riparian corridor function by a) restoring natural coarse fraction sediment delivery or, b) restoring natural hydrology through increased subsurface residence time in subsurface soils? If you answered no, skip to Section 3.1.1.		N/A	2
7. Have estimates of the (a) changes to coarse sediment delivery or (b) increased subsurface soil residence time been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes to #7a and #7b, enter the estimated change here. Report changes to subsurface flow residence time as the **percent increase in lag time between rainfall and peak stormwater outflow from a BMP during the 85th percentile rainfall event**. (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to WQ-3):			2

Section 2.2 Water Supply Benefit

Section 2.2.1 Project Metrics (20 Possible Points) (Bonus Points available under this Benefit)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
1. Does the project capture storm water and/or dry weather runoff for direct uses (Main Benefit)? If you answered no, skip to #8		N/A	5
The following direct use options under #2, #4 and #6 each provide a total of 20 points including #1. Bonus points are available if the project provides for more than one direct-use option.			
2. Does the project collect, store, and divert stormwater and/or dry weather flows to a wastewater or water treatment facility for		N/A	10

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
potable or recycled use (Main Benefit)? If you answered no, skip to #4.			
3. Does the applicant have a written agreement with the appropriate agency to divert stormwater and/or dry weather runoff to a facility and have flows been estimated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the volume diverted in acre-feet per year (AF/yr.) here and attach the agreements (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to WS - 1):			5
4. Does the project collect, store, and divert stormwater and/or dry weather flows to be used as irrigation on-site, at a park, for habitat restoration, and/or for a natural treatment system (Main Benefit) and/or reduce the use of potable water for irrigation through quantifiable water conservation measures? If you answered no, skip to #6		N/A	10
5. Has the volume of storm water and/or dry weather runoff that will collected, stored, and used beneficially and/or the amount of potable water conserved from reduced irrigation use been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) See Section 5 for additional information. If you answered yes, enter the volume here. Report storm water and/or dry weather flow runoff volume diverted, stored and then used beneficially and/or conserved in **AF/year** (see worksheet in Appendix G; a calculator has also been developed to assist with quantification - refer to WS-2):			5
6. Does the project infiltrate storm water and/or dry weather runoff to a groundwater aquifer that is a source of local water (**Main Benefit**)? For a list of groundwater basins that are used for local supply, please refer to this table. Groundwater basins not listed are generally not considered to be a current or planned source of supply. You can view groundwater basins in relation to your project using the project map in OPTI. If you answered no, skip to #8		N/A	10
7. Has the volume of storm water and/or dry weather runoff that will be infiltrated to a direct-use basin been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the volume here in **AF/yr**. (see worksheet in Appendix G;			5

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
a calculator has also been developed to assist with quantification - refer to WS-3):			
8. Does the project capture storm water and/or dry weather runoff for indirect use (infiltration to groundwater not used as water source)? For a list of groundwater basins that are used for local supply, please refer to this table. Groundwater basins not listed are generally not considered to be a current or planned source of supply. You can view groundwater basins in relation to your project using the project map in OPTI. If you answered no, skip to Section 3.2.1.		N/A	5
9. Has the volume of storm water or dry weather runoff captured, stored and then infiltrated to a non-direct-use basin been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the infiltration volume here in **AF/yr**. (see worksheet in Appendix G; a calculator has also been developed to assist with quantification - refer to WS-4):			5

Section 2.3 Flood Management Benefit

Section 2.3.1 Project Metrics (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
1. Does the project decrease flood risk by reducing runoff rate and/or volume (**Main Benefit**)? If you answered no, skip to Section 2.4.		N/A	5
2. Has the reduction of peak flows and duration of peak flows been determined for the project? If you answered yes, enter the volume and duration here (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to FM-2):			5
3. Has the volume of storm water runoff that will be infiltrated as part of the project been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the volume here. Report storm water runoff volume reductions in **gallons/year** (see worksheet in Appendix G; a calculator has also been developed to assist with quantification - refer to FM-1):			5
4. Has the volume of storm water runoff that will be stored onsite as part of the project been			5

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the maximum stored volume here. Report storm water runoff volume reductions in **gallons/year**. (see worksheet in Appendix G; a calculator has also been developed to assist with quantification - refer to FM-3):			

Section 2.4 Environmental Benefit

Section 2.4.1 Project Metrics (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
1. Does the project create or enhance wetland and/or riparian habitat (**Main Benefit**)? If you answered no, skip to #3.		N/A	4
2. Has the area of habitat created or protected been calculated for the project? If you answered yes, enter the area here (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to E-1):			1
3. Does the project reestablish the natural hydrograph (e.g. delay the timing of the peak flow or reduce the volume of the peak flow) (**Main Benefit**)? If you answered no, skip to #6.		N/A	3
4. Has the change in timing of the peak flow been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the change in time here. Report reductions in percent of peak flow and peak flow duration for design storm event and 10 year storm event (if different than design storm). (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to E-2):			1
5. Has the reduction in flow been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the reduction in flow here. Report reductions in percent of peak flow and peak flow duration for design storm event and 10 year storm event (if different than design storm). (see worksheet in Appendix G - refer to E-2):			1

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
6. Does the project improve water temperatures for the benefit of habitats? If you answered no, skip to #8.		N/A	1
7. Has the change in water temperature been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the change in temperature here:			1
8. Does the project reduce energy use, reduce GHG emissions, or increase carbon sinks? If you answered no, skip to #10.		N/A	2
9. Has the reduction in energy use or GHG emissions or the increase in carbon sinks been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the value for each change here (see worksheet in Appendix G; a calculator has also been developed to assist with quantification - refer to E-4):			1
10. Does the project increase urban green space (**Main Benefit**)? If you answered no, skip to Section 3.4.1.		N/A	4
11. Has the area of urban green space been calculated for the project? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the area here (see worksheet in Appendix G):			1

Section 2.5 Community Benefit

Section 2.5.1 Project Metrics Step 2 (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
1. Does the project enhance and/or create recreational and public use areas (**Main Benefit**)? If you answered no, skip to #3.			4
2. Has the area of created recreational and public use areas been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the area here:			2
3. Does the project include community involvement? If you answered no, skip to #5.			3

Question	Yes/No/NA	Benefit Quantification	Scoring
4. Has the number of community members involved in the project been calculated? (Points awarded only if quantities provided below.) If you answered yes, enter the number of community members here:			1
5. Does the project provide employment opportunities (**Main Benefit**)? If you answered no, skip to #7.			4
6. Has the number of jobs created by the project been calculated? If you answered yes, enter the number of jobs here:			2
7. Does the project provide public education opportunities (**Main Benefit**)? If your answer is no, skip to Step 3			3
8. Have surveys been conducted or planned to obtain data on awareness of community actions that will help meet project goals (e.g. water conservation, water quality, etc.)?			1

Step 3: Watershed Prioritization

For the following sections, only respond to questions in the corresponding benefit areas identified in question #2 of Step 1.

Scores shown are awarded with a yes answer or, where applicable, provision of the requested data or information. A no answer results in no points awarded.

Section 3.1 Water Quality Benefit

Section 3.1.1 Watershed Prioritization (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Scoring
1. Has the project been identified and assessed as a strategy associated with high priority water quality conditions in the most current, applicable WQIP that has been listed as a key strategy to meet a define interim and/or final water quality goal? See Section 5 for further details. Provide location of Project and reference to applicable WQIP section that specifically references the strategy associated with achieving an interim and/or final highest priority water quality condition in the most current WQIP.		10
2. Is the project located in a high priority drainage area of the watershed based on priority water quality assessment and high pollutant-loading potential? Provide location of project on high priority water quality drainage areas associated with achieving defined interim and/or final highest priority water quality conditions in the most current WQIP. (Maps provided in Appendix G.)		10

Section 3.2 Water Supply Benefit

3.2.1 Watershed Prioritization - (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Scoring
1. Has the project been identified and assessed as a water supply/conservation project opportunity on a watershed basis in Section 6 or in a watershed-based plan, and prioritized based on the quantification of the benefits achieved in AF/yr.?		20

Section 3.4 Environmental Benefit

Section 3.4.1 Watershed Prioritization - (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Scoring
1. Has the project been identified and assessed in a regional or watershed habitat conservation, restoration, watershed management, urban greening and/or other watershed-based plan? (Scoring: 10 - listed and ranked, 20 - high priority). (See Section 5 for further details.)		10

Question	Yes/No/NA	Scoring
If yes, provide plan reference and location of project with regard to habitat restoration and enhancement priorities by uploading to the Document page.		

Section 3.3 Flood Management Benefit

3.3.1 Watershed Prioritization (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Scoring
1. Has the project been identified and assessed as a priority project to reduce flood risk in a watershed flood management plan, a master plan, or another watershed-based plan? (Scoring: 10 - listed and ranked, 20 - high priority). (See Appendix G for further details) If yes, provide plan reference and location of project with regard to flood risk management priority by uploading to the Document page.		10

Section 3.5 Community Benefit

3.5.1 Watershed Prioritization (20 Possible Points)

Question	Yes/No/NA	Scoring
1. Has the project been identified and assessed as a priority project in a community, recreational, education, development, active transportation, job opportunity plan and/or the County's 5-Year Operational Plan and/or another watershed-based plan? (Scoring 5 - listed and ranked, 10 - high priority) (See Appendix G for further details.) If yes, provide reference to the plan and specific identification of the project in a priority assessment by uploading to the Document page.		5
2. Is the project located in a disadvantaged community or economically distressed area? (See Appendix G for further details.)		10