



Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (BAIRWMP) Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program

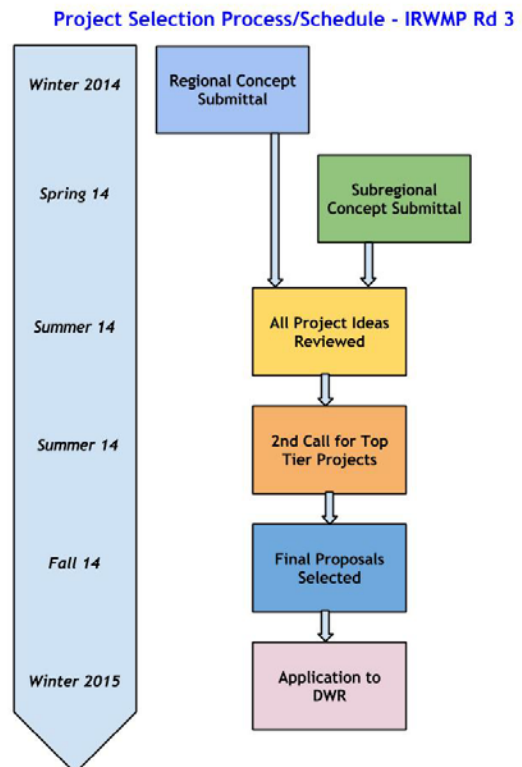
Request for Regional Concept Submittals

The Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee (CC) is soliciting projects for the region’s response to a forthcoming Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Proposition 84 implementation projects. The Committee thanks you in advance for your interest in this program and has developed the following guidelines to answer your questions about how to submit a prospective **REGIONAL** project concept and what the project selection and grant application processes will entail. Additional guidance will follow on how to submit projects targeted within a single subregion, as well as scoring criteria for selecting 2nd call projects.

Project Selection Process/Schedule

The CC anticipates release of the DWR’s Round 3 PSP in Summer 2014, with full applications due in late 2014/early 2015 (See <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/index.cfm> for the latest DWR schedule). It is currently anticipated that up to \$73 million may be available to the region in this next round; however this will not be confirmed until the state’s 2014/15 fiscal year budget is in place and can change at any time.

In order to effectively put together a regional proposal in that window, the CC is soliciting and vetting project concept proposals well in advance. This RFS concerns **regional project submittals** that benefit large portions of the region by addressing the priority regional needs identified below. It will be followed by development of smaller-scale opportunities in each of the four IRWM subregions throughout the spring of 2014. All project ideas are expected to be reviewed in late spring/early summer 2014 in order to call back a final pool of



project applicants (both regional and subregional) in late summer once DWR releases the next project solicitation package and determines regional allocations for the State.

Background

In November 2006, voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Prop 84), which provided \$1,000,000,000 for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Planning and Implementation. IRWM grants are administered by DWR's Integrated Water Management group. The program's goal is managing water resources in a collaborative effort and seeks to have regions work across jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries. Regions are defined by Regional Water Quality Control Board boundaries and involve multiple geo-political boundaries, agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups. In some cases, regions bisect or overlap within counties to more closely follow watershed boundaries.

Prop 84 gives preference to IRWM grant proposals that:

- Include regional projects or programs (CWC §10544),
- Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region,
- Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions,
- Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program,
- Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region,
- Effectively integrate water management with land use planning, and
- Address statewide priorities.

Prop 84 guidelines provide a preference for projects that benefit Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and projects providing for water conservation to meet a 20% reduction by 2020.

In 2009, the Bay Area Region was formally recognized by DWR and includes all or portions of the nine counties that ring the San Francisco Bay and lower Delta area. The BAIRWM was further divided into four subregions: North, South, East, and West to represent the diversity of needs around the Bay and to allow for more locally targeted outreach through the Subregional Process. A map showing the region and subregions can be found at:

<http://bairwmp.org/content/Bay%20Area%20IRWMP%20Sub-Regions.jpg>.

DWR encourages integrated regional strategies for management of water resources that support multi-benefit water resources planning and implementation projects. A PSP will be issued by DWR to explain the application process and disbursement of funds under the Round 3 Implementation Grant of Prop 84. In past rounds, DWR has used a one-step application process to evaluate IRWM Implementation Grant applications and it is anticipated that it will do so again. The DWR PSP will be based on the 2012 IRWM Guidelines document with modifications

as necessary for the specific funding round. The 2012 Guidelines are posted on the DWR website at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/guidelines.cfm>

Prospective applicants for IRWM Implementation Grants should read this PSP and the entire 2012 Guidelines. Grant funds are only available for projects included in an IRWM Plan. Prop 84 funds are intended for capital improvements and the CC anticipates a focus will be on implementation projects that can document high benefit/cost. More information on DWR's approach and process may be found at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/>

Priority Regional Needs, Factors and Criteria

The CC has determined to prioritize regional submittals that best address a suite of ***regional priority needs*** identified in the plan and further refined with input from each IRWM functional area. These need categories are not exclusive and projects that integrate solutions to multiple needs are welcomed. The priority needs are as follows:

- **Climate Change**, as relates to ***all*** topics below, but also including:
 - Enhanced Weather Management Projects
 - Shoreline Sustainability Projects
- **Reinforce/Enhance Water Supply Capacity** (Desal, Infiltration, Interties)
- **Regional Water Reliability/Long-term sustainability**
- **Health of the Bay and Creeks** (Water quality and biota)
- **Sediment Management**
- **Invasives Management**
- **Riparian and Fisheries Restoration**
- **Protection of Water Source Areas**

Regional project submittals will be considered that best address the priority regional needs at the regional scale. See more detailed screening criteria for each category of need below under "Criteria for Priority Needs."

In addition, all regional concept proposals will have to adequately address each of the following factors to be further considered for inclusion in a regional application:

1. ***Inclusion in the 2013 Bay Area IRWM Plan:*** Projects must either be included in the current BAIRWM plan (www.bairwmp.org) or must be submitted for inclusion in the Plan. Proponents must indicate the status of their submittal (currently in plan, in plan with new modifications, new submittal), and should specify how their project addresses the Goals and Objectives of the new plan (See Chapter 3 of the BAIRWM Plan). Proponents who indicate their projects are being modified or are new to the plan will be further notified about the process for plan updates/submissions.

2. **Readiness to proceed:** Projects must be able to proceed to implementation within the timeframe of the Round 3 grant. Funds are not expected to become available until 2016 and generally must be expended within 5 years. Proposals must indicate status and proposed timing of any preliminary designs, environmental documentation, engineering and final design, and permitting that may apply.
3. **25% upfront Match:** Projects must be able to demonstrate that a minimum of 25% in non-state match is committed to the project and can be spent in advance of receiving grant reimbursement from DWR.¹ Projects whose primary benefit is to a Disadvantaged Community may qualify for a match waiver, however must specify the geography (city, census tract, zip code, etc.) and corresponding income by census data or income survey to qualify as a DAC project and for a match waiver.
4. **Defines Physical Benefits:** Proponents must be able to clearly define the physical benefits of a project, as defined in the DWR PSP. Proposals must provide clear and appropriate metrics of the physical benefits that the project will provide.
5. **Benefit/Cost Analysis:** Proposals should estimate how good a ratio could be provided and using what basis (either relate to similar projects or provide evidence). All proposals that move forward must be able to provide a rigorous Benefit/Cost Analysis (See Exhibit D in the DWR PSP and “Additional Resources” below).
6. **Cash for Consultant:** Project proponents will be required to contribute to application preparation costs, which have ranged in the past between \$10,000-\$25,000 per project, depending on scale. Proponents must indicate their ability to pay an equitable share of a regional application.
7. **Regional Collaboration:** Proposals must demonstrate the support of relevant participants in region, their consistency with the priorities of regional plans, and degree of fit with established regional frameworks (such as the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals, Comprehensive Conservation and Monitoring Program, TMDL Implementation, etc.).
8. **Multi-objective – Achieves Multiple Benefits:** Cross functional projects are preferred and the degree to which up-front integration of different IRWM functional categories (See Chapter 1.2.4 in the BAIRWM Plan) has occurred should be discussed.
9. **Amount of Grant Request:** No maximum request is currently set but projects may be required to scale downward should the funding made available to the region be reduced. Please describe the scalability of your proposal. No firm minimum has been set, however the Coordinating Committee is targeting regional projects of \$5 million and above.

¹ Match is typically eligible for a period of time prior to grant award, often as early as the date of funding appropriation to DWR.

10. Regional Impact/Effect: Proposals must clearly describe how a project is regional in scope, and how it serves a greater than local need. How geographically extensive are the benefits of the project? Include a description of project monitoring and evaluation of project goals.

Criteria for Priority Needs

Proposals must specify which priority need or needs they meet, and the degree to which they address the criteria below (or can provide the metric referenced) for each priority they cite. These screening criteria are not intended as individual scoring factors; they are intended to illustrate the breadth and intended focus of each category. Projects will not be evaluated exclusively by how many criteria they meet, but by how well they address the intent and substance of each priority regional need. The CC will be determining and releasing specific scoring criteria prior to selecting regional and subregional projects for a second call in summer 2014.

Climate Change

These projects should address the effects of climate change on the region's water resources.

Proposals should specify degree to which:

- Project is based on vulnerability or risk assessment,
- Program enhances region's ability to address climate change impacts,
- Proposal demonstrates innovation based on an evaluation of adaptive options (not business as usual),
- Projects or programs are adaptive to climate changes (Project or program responds to climate change through adaptive management),
- Ecosystem enhancement is included (where appropriate),
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction is achieved (where appropriate), especially regarding projects that achieve energy reduction and/or carbon sequestration.

Additional desirable characteristics for Enhanced Weather Management Projects include:

- Project provides more precise information on the timing, location, amount and duration of extreme rain events,
- Project designed to be useful for flood, reservoir, and wastewater management.

Additional desirable characteristics for Shoreline Sustainability Projects include:

- Project demonstrates an ability to reduce shoreline vulnerability to climate change, addressing potential future sea level rise and documenting metrics of benefit such as economic, habitat or wildlife damages or losses avoided, length of shoreline protected, and/or reduction in frequency of levee topping,
- Project contributes necessary data, analysis or proof of concept for development of climate adaptation strategies relevant at the regional scale,

- Project re-uses wastewater or sediment as a resource or for wetlands enhancement.

Reinforce/Enhance Water Supply Capacity (Desalination, Infiltration, Interties)

These projects should support creating additional water supply for the Region.

Proposals should specify quantity, if any, of:

- Acre-feet (AF) additional water supply to Region (e.g., desalination, imports via wheeling & interties, recycled water offset of potable supplies),
- AF additional infiltration in Region (e.g., recycled water for recharge, stormwater infiltration),
- New interties (and/or miles of connecting supply lines) with potential to provide X AF additional potable water to Region,
- AF additional storage within or connected to Region.

Regional Water Reliability/ Long-term Sustainability

These projects should support increasing water supply reliability within the Region by adding distribution options or otherwise adding flexibility for use or conveyance of existing (and/or new) supplies.

Proposals should specify quantity, if any, of:

- Acre-feet (AF) additional water supply NOT from Delta sources (e.g., desalination, imports via wheeling & interties, recycled water offset of potable supplies),
- AF additional infiltration in Region (e.g., recycled water for recharge, stormwater infiltration),
- AF additional storage within or connected to Region,
- New interties (and miles of connecting supply lines) with potential to provide X AF capacity to redistribute existing supplies within Region,
- New interties (and/or miles of connecting supply lines) with potential to provide X AF additional potable water to Region and/or additional flexibility amongst water agencies within Region,
- Reduction in energy required for production and/or distribution of AF potable or recycled water,
- Energy produced or saved from waste,
- AF of conservation savings.

Health of the Bay and Creeks

These projects should:

- Protect, restore and rehabilitate watershed and bay processes,
- Maintain health of watershed vegetation, land cover, natural stream buffers and floodplains to improve filtration of point and nonpoint source pollutants,

- Minimize point-source or non-point source pollution; in particular improving conditions that have led to a 303D listing/TMDL for a watershed,
- Control erosion and sedimentation,
- Improve floodplain connectivity, and/or
- Improve infiltration capacity.

Proposals should (where applicable) specify quantity of:

- Amount of Nitrogen/nutrient removal – lbs removed,
- Amount of first flush stormwater treated or diverted,
- Gallons of discharge diverted from Bay – including amount reused,
- Pollutant reduction to address TMDLs or 303D Listing.

Sediment Management

These projects should:

- Address conflicting goals with sediment management (e.g., impact to water quality and/or habitat management),
- Provide a beneficial reuse of sediment or solids in lieu of disposal.

Projects are further encouraged to:

- Be part of a sediment management program that addresses long-term maintenance goals,
- Identify the incremental costs of reuse over disposal and weighs the benefits over the impacts.

Invasives Management

These projects should:

- Address an invasive species that is present in more than one subregion,
- Employ top-down watershed approaches to eradicating the invasive species (headwaters or first occurrence locations are addressed first), where applicable, and
- Address how the site will be managed in the future.

Projects are further encouraged to:

- Be adaptive to climate changes (Project or program responds to climate change through adaptive management),
- Include ecosystem enhancement (where appropriate).

Riparian and Fisheries Restoration

These projects should improve riparian and fisheries resources of regional significance, and should:

- Rely on proven designs/methodologies,

- Address known limiting factors or threats (e.g., identified fish passage barrier, water quality impairment such as temperature or sedimentation, low flow resulting from over-allocation, or habitat deficiency like substrate or cover),
- Affect substantial area of high quality or potential high quality habitat in manner consistent with ecological principles (e.g., favors native assemblage, leads to improved match with natural hydrograph, creates long-term channel stability and function, etc.),
- Include metrics of habitat improvements for specific priority habitats/species (miles of upstream habitat opened, % percent riparian cover established, etc.); for fisheries, addresses life stage concerns/population bottlenecks,
- Tie to explicit regional priorities,
- Include sufficient post-project monitoring and long term commitment to management.

Protection of Water Source Areas

These projects should protect and/or enhance surface and groundwater source areas of regional significance. Proposals should:

- Include conservation practices or land acquisition in a priority watershed serving multiple needs (habitat, water storage, groundwater recharge, etc.),
- For land conservation projects, establish permanency and/or site control,
- Include identified commitment to long term management,
- Include adequate baseline documentation and site management planning,
- Address public access needs and/or concerns.

Submittal Procedure

Dates

All submissions must be received electronically by **5:00 p.m. PST on Monday, March 31st** at projects@bairwmp.org.

The IRWM Project Screening Committee will review submittals in anticipation of a call-back of top proposals in mid-summer 2014.

Concept Submittals

Proposals should include the following 5 components (*please do not include additional materials beyond these, including via web links, etc.*):

Applicant Info: *Maximum ½ page.* Specify lead applicant organization and address, including a primary proposal contact name, email and phone. List names of any partnering organizations.

Project Narrative: *Maximum of 5 pages.* Address all factors and any relevant criteria as specified above. Include whether the project is listed in the 2013 IRWMP, and if so, what modifications are being made to the project as listed (if any). Font for narrative text should be no smaller than 11 pt.

Preliminary Budget: *Maximum 1 page.* Break down by key project elements and include proposed and secured matching funding sources.

Timeline: *Maximum 1 page.* Include milestones for design, CEQA and permitting.

Background documents: *Maximum 3 pages.* Include map(s) or photos that illustrate the site and areas of influence for the project.

Eligible Applicants

Proponents must be able to satisfy all criteria for inclusion in a regional application per the DWR Guidelines and eventual Round 3 PSP. See Section III of the Guidelines for more detail. Local public agencies and non-profit organizations, as defined in the Guidelines, may serve as the regional applicant, and other IRWM stakeholder or partner entities, as defined in CWC§10541(g), may be part of the proposal as a project proponent and access grant funding through their relationship with the applicant, at DWR's discretion.

Eligible Project Locations

IRWM Regions and Funding Areas are based on hydrological watersheds rather than city/county boundaries. In the Bay Area, the Funding Area described in Proposition 84 and the San Francisco Bay Area IRWM Region is coterminous, including all or part of nine counties and 110 cities. The counties include San Francisco, and parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin. The [specific geographic extent of the Bay Area IRWMP](#) is based on the boundary of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board Region 2.

Projects proposed for inclusion in a regional application must be within the region and/or bring plan-specified benefits to the region (see Guidelines Section III C.2).

Questions

For all inquiries, contact projects@bairwmp.org.

Additional Resources

Example Bay Area Applications:

<http://bairwmp.org/prop84-imp-rnd1/submitted-to-dwr>

<http://bairwmp.org/prop84imprnd2>

NBWA Benefit/Cost Manual:

http://nbwatershed.org/library/NBWA_Handbook_2012-1221.pdf