ATTACHMENT 12 – STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed IRWM Implementation Grant, Step 1

The implementation proposal for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed will assist the region in meeting Statewide Priorities, as established by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Section 4 of the Framework Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, in Attachment 3, identifies the Statewide Priorities and the Regional Objectives that have been defined to meet these priorities. Table 6 on page 69 in Section 4 of the Framework IRWM Plan lists a series of regional objectives that have been identified in the numerous water management documents within the Region.

This implementation proposal includes numerous components that meet the regional objectives listed in Table 6. While all of the projects meet numerous Statewide Priorities, only a few are given as examples below due to space limitations.

A. Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes including interregional water rights issues.

El Dorado Park Lakes Water Usage and Wetlands Restoration utilizes reclaimed water for the artificial lakes to reduce the need for the Long Beach Water Department to import water by 400 acre-feet per year. Because many users throughout the state would compete for that imported water, the project reduces water user conflicts.

The Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) UV Disinfection Facilities Project will enable the existing chlorine contact tanks to serve as diurnal recycled water storage reservoirs, which will be used in a newly constructed recycled water distribution system for the Whittier Narrows Regional Recreation Park. The use of recycled water at this park will reduce groundwater pumping of the Main San Gabriel Basin by approximately 2,600 acre-feet per year. Essentially all of the water that is produced from this WRP is already allocated to recharge in the Central Groundwater Basin or for reuse in the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. However, if this project is not implemented, there may be additional pressure over remaining water resources, which could lead to future disputes.

B. Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development.

The Full Capture Trash Removal Devices will fully meet the TMDL criteria established by the SWRCB for trash within the Los Angeles River Watershed. The project will also assist the Compton Creek subwatershed in meeting the TMDL requirements for metals and bacteria through the BMPs that will be installed.

Studies for the Large Landscape Conservation/Runoff Reduction Management and Educational Program demonstrate a potential of up to a 70% reduction in the volume of runoff. This would reduce the total migration of pollutants, especially nutrients from fertilizers, in the waterways, aiding in compliance with the nutrient TMDL for the Los Angeles River Watershed. Nutrients are also a constituent of concern in much of the San Gabriel River Watershed.

The Whittier Narrows WRP UV Disinfection Facilities Project will produce recycled water using ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, so unwanted disinfection byproducts caused by adding ammonia to the process will not be generated. The reduction in the amount of ammonia in the effluent will directly reduce the amount of nutrients, which are a constituent of concern in the San Gabriel River and the Los Angeles River Watersheds and the subject of current and future TMDLs.

C. Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) Chapters, plans, and policies.

El Dorado Park Lakes Water Usage and Wetlands Restoration will improve water quality by addressing nitrogen and metals impairments in the San Gabriel River Watershed. Currently, the Park and Nature Center lakes have excessive levels of nitrogen, which are discharged into the San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek. This project will address the nutrients through a treatment wetland. This project will also

intercept a storm drain from a 100-acre shopping center, filtering it for trash, and conveying flows through a treatment wetland, which will address metals.

The Full Capture Trash Removal Devices will help to meet the trash impairment identified for the Los Angeles River Watershed in the RWQCB's WMI. The full capture devices will capture all particles greater than 5 mm before they reach Compton Creek and, eventually, the Los Angeles River and Pacific Ocean.

Montebello Forebay Attenuation and Dilution Studies are hydrogeologic studies that will help provide technical knowledge regarding disinfection byproducts as they mix with surface water and groundwater. This project will provide information needed to address impairments in the San Gabriel River Watershed.

The Whittier Narrows WRP UV Disinfection Facilities Project will protect the production and utilization of recycled water that meets the requirements established in NPDES, reuse and groundwater recharge permits. This project emphasizes recycling, reclamation, and protection of beneficial uses and municipal water supplies, which are key priorities of the WMI.

D. Implementation of the SWRCB's Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan.

The Full Capture Trash Removal Devices will help the Region to address NPS trash pollution for the Los Angles River watershed by capturing particles greater than 5 mm in runoff tributary to Compton Creek.

Large Landscape Conservation/Runoff Reduction Management and Educational Program will reduce runoff by up to 500 acre-feet per year by providing weather-based irrigation controllers and management solutions for 500 sites. This will reduce pollutant loads from fertilizers, specifically nutrients and bacteria.

Peck Water Conservation Park incorporates a variety of NPS pollution management measures that will be applied. These range from using BMPs in the parking lot to prevent pollutants from entering Peck Lake to watershed protection, habitat restoration, restoration of riparian areas to pollution prevention outreach and education. Through intense education and outreach, families, students, and local businesses will learn about water resources, water use efficiency, water quality and conservation, and how the use of native plants reduce the amount of pollutants produced.

E. Assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.

Montebello Forebay Attenuation and Dilution Studies supports the use of recycled water for groundwater recharge, thereby reducing the demand for imported water from the State Water Project.

Morris Dam Water Supply Enhancement Project will enable an additional 5,720 acre-feet of water per year to be captured and recharged, reducing the demand for imported water from the State Water Project.

Peck Water Conservation Park outreach and educational programs emphasize how to protect water quality, minimize drinking water waste, and improve water supply reliability. By using reclaimed water for irrigation, the project will effectively demonstrate separation of potable and recycled water for landscape purposes, thereby reducing demand for imported water. The project will reduce the impacts of trace metals by creating a swale in the median to prevent various pollutants from entering the lake.

The Whittier Narrows WRP UV Disinfection Facilities Project supports the use of recycled water for groundwater recharge, reducing the demand for imported water from the State Water Project. In addition, this project is making advancements in treatment technology for the Region by using UV disinfection to prevent the generation of unwanted disinfection byproducts.

F. Implementation of recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force, or state species recovery plan.

The Morris Dam Water Supply Enhancement Project implements the floodplain management task force recommendations regarding multi-objective management, multi-jurisdictional partnerships, proactive and adaptive management, and coordination among agencies and groups. The project provides increased flood protection along with protecting wildlife habitat, water quality, and supply. The project involves a large amount of coordination with other agencies, such as the San Gabriel Valley Protective Association and the Main San Gabriel River Watermaster.

In the Peck Water Conservation Park, a total of 60 acres of habitat areas will be created, preserved, or enhanced and will support many critical species, aiding the State's recovery plans for these species: Willow flycatchers, Least Bell's vireo, Burrowing owl, Coastal California gnatcatcher, Cooper's hawk, Coastal Cactus wren, Optunia Cactus, White pelicans, Sanderlings, and other shorebirds.

The Southeast Water Reliability, Phase I Water Recycling Project will implement recommendations from the State Recycling Task Force by enabling the Region to use 800 acre-feet of recycled water.

Since recycling with the Whittier Narrows WRP is well established, the UV Disinfection Project protects longstanding recycling of water and groundwater recharge in the Central Basin and protects the use of groundwater in the Main San Gabriel Basin. It also protects the beneficial reuse of water.

G. Address environmental justice concerns.

The development of Peck Water Conservation Park addresses various critical environmental justice issues and will provide a direct benefit to the disadvantaged communities of El Monte and Rosemead that it will serve. The region surrounding Peck Park has many pollution and environmental degradation problems in comparison to most other areas of the county and the open space and recreational resources for these communities are far below the national average.

The Southeast Water Reliability, Phase I Water Recycling Project addresses environmental justice concerns because it will be constructed through disadvantaged and less affluent communities. Recycled water will be available for use by schools, parks, and government buildings for irrigation purposes.

The Whittier Narrows WRP UV Disinfection Facilities Project improves the water quality of reclaimed water used to replenish groundwater aquifers. This water is used by disadvantaged communities, which are supplied drinking water from the Central Groundwater Basin.

H. Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

The Full Capture Trash Removal Devices meets the water quality goal of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by removing trash from the impaired waterways of Compton Creek and the Los Angeles River.

Invasive Weed Control in Riparian Habitat meets the ecosystem restoration goal by reducing the negative impacts of invasive species that compete and destroy native species.

The Morris Dam Water Supply Enhancement Project maximizes the use of available water supplies because it will increase the capacity of Morris Dam, making more stormwater available for recharge and extraction. This increased capacity will reduce the region's dependence on imported water.

The Southeast Water Reliability, Phase I Water Recycling Project meets the water supply reliability objective because it is a new source of water for the region that is efficient and effective. Through this project, the amount of imported water needed from the Bay-Delta area for non-potable purposes will be reduced. Water from the Bay-Delta could then be saved for potable purposes to ensure water reliability and sustainability for the Region.

The Whittier Narrows Conservation Pool meets the water supply reliability goal because it conserves additional stormwater that would otherwise be wasted to the ocean, reducing the demand on imported water sources and maximizing local supplies.