

ATTACHMENT 4 –  
CONSISTENCY WITH MINIMUM IRWM PLAN STANDARDS

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

## **Section A – Development of an IRWM Plan**

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Region is currently developing an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan. To date, a considerable amount of research has been completed to develop a Framework IRWM Plan, which is included in Attachment 3 of this proposal. The Regional Water Management Group for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Region (Regional Group), operating under the lead agency of the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA), is responsible for developing the IRWM Plan. The Framework IRWM Plan has been adopted by the governing Board of the WCA.

The WCA, created on April 17, 2003, is a joint powers authority consisting of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). The Regional Group is comprised of many agencies and organizations, including seven local public agencies, five of which have statutory authority over water management. A full listing of the Regional Group members can be found in *Attachment 3, Framework IRWM Plan, Section 1.3, Page 5*.

The Minimum IRWM Plan standards will be met in the final adopted IRWM Plan for the Region. A discussion on how each IRWM Plan standard is addressed in the *Framework IRWM Plan, Attachment 3*. This information will be further refined during the development of the final IRWM Plan for the Region. *Attachment 5* of this application discusses how each IRWM Plan objective will be addressed in the final IRWM Plan. This is also discussed in more detail within the *Work Plan*, included as *Appendix D* to the *Framework IRWM Plan, Attachment 3*.

## **Section B – Meeting IRWM Plan Objectives**

Regional planning objectives have been grouped by Water Management Focus Areas, which are classifications that combine similar water management strategies. These objectives were derived from various stakeholder-driven watershed management planning efforts throughout the Region. Prior to completion and adoption of the IRWM Plan, the objectives presented in each Water Management Focus Area will be reviewed, refined, and integrated to complete a comprehensive list of regional objectives. These objectives will be consistent with statewide priorities. This list of objectives will address all water-related issues including, but not limited to water supply, surface and groundwater management, ecosystem restoration, habitat and environmental protection, and water quality. A complete listing of regional objectives can be found in the table in *Attachment 3, Framework IRWM Plan, Section 4.2, Page 70*.

A summary of each document that forms the foundation for the integration of water management strategies is listed in *Attachment 3, Framework IRWM Plan, Section 3.1, beginning on page 51*. These documents address water supply reliability, groundwater management, conjunctive use, water quality protection and improvement as well as a number of other water management strategies. A series of multiple objective documents are described in *Attachment 3, Framework IRWM Plan, Section 3.1.2, Page 54*, that focus heavily on the integration of water management strategies, as well as habitat, land use, recreation, and stakeholder involvement.

The Regional Group developed a preliminary list of proposed Implementation Projects as shown in *Attachment 6, Section 1.4, Page 12*, by prioritizing the projects according to their ability to meet IRWM Plan Objectives. The prioritization criteria are shown in *Attachment 3, Appendix C*. A map of the ten priority ("Tier 1") projects that are part of this implementation proposal is included in *Attachment 6, Section 1.4, Page 14*. An implementation strategy will be developed for future projects and will be included in the IRWM Plan. Included in *Attachment 8* is a schedule that depicts the timeline for implementation of the projects included in this proposal.

Within the prioritization criteria, points were allocated for implementation projects that have a direct benefit to disadvantaged communities. Environmental justice issues will be addressed in the development of the IRWM Plan and in conjunction with the proposed projects.

### **Section C – Schedule for IRWM Plan Adoption**

On May 12, 2005, the WCA submitted a Proposition 50, Chapter 8 IRWM Grant Program Planning Grant application on behalf of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Regional Group. This application contained a schedule for IRWM Plan development and adoption and is included in this attachment on the following page. The schedule shows that the IRWM Plan will be completed by October 31, 2006, and will be adopted by all Regional Group members by December 15, 2006.

Several of the participating agencies and organizations have approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposing to set up a governance structure, develop an IRWM Plan, and make regional decisions in areas related to integrated water management. These agencies and organizations are currently seeking formal adoption of this MOU, which is included in *Attachment 3, Framework IRWM Plan, Appendix E*. Several agencies and organizations have provided letters to the State, included in *Attachments 6 and 10*, indicating their support of this IRWM implementation proposal as well as their support of the WCA as the regional lead agency. This MOU establishes the intent of the Regional Group to ensure that integrated regional strategies are utilized for the management of water resources and to seek funding, through competitive grants, for projects that protect communities from drought, improve water reliability, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing the Region's dependence on imported water.

SECTION 4

SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS WATERSHED IRWMP SCHEDULE

