

Section 5: Project Priorities and Implementation

5.1 Project Prioritization Process

The Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP will be implemented through specific studies and actions. As described in Section 4.4, in order to identify potential projects that facilitate IRWMP implementation (e.g., “Candidate Projects”), the RWMG held an open “call for projects.” Stakeholders and others were encouraged to submit projects during multiple stakeholder meetings, in email correspondence solicitations, and via the project website. To implement water management strategies identified in the IRWMP, Stakeholders identified nearly 40 separate projects. The resulting Candidate Projects are contained in Appendix C.

The Stakeholders developed a process to prioritize projects, with the intent that highest-ranked projects be put forth in applications for funding. The prioritization of projects is based upon a detailed screening process. The process is three-fold: Initial Project Sorting; Project Development and Refinement; and Secondary Project Evaluation (please see Figure 5.1-1 for a graphical overview of the process). However, all projects submitted will be maintained on the Candidate Project list, and the list will be updated on a regular basis as new projects are submitted and as projects are developed through time and re-prioritized.

CANDIDATE PROJECTS

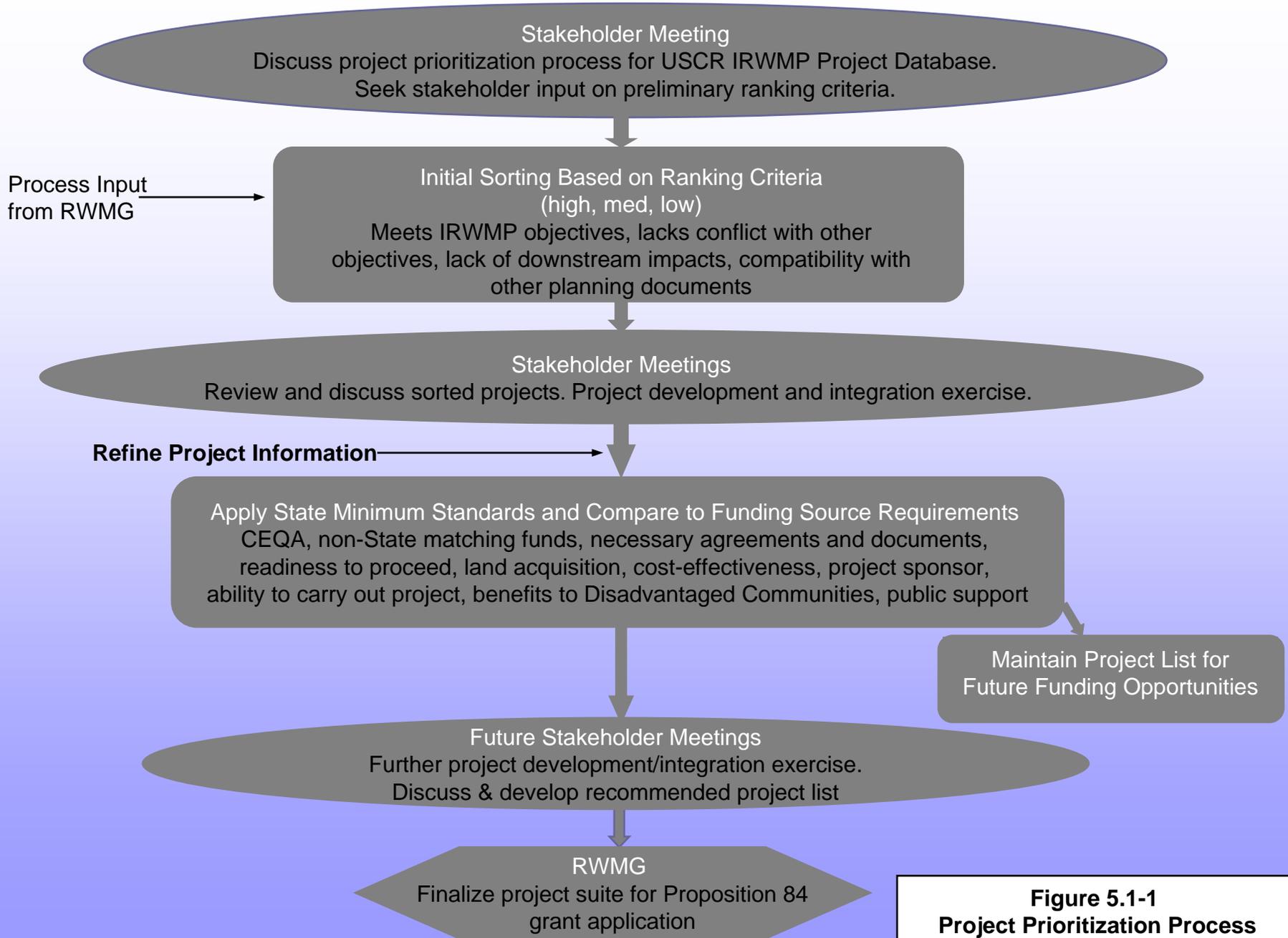
A large number of projects were submitted by Stakeholders. During the Stakeholder meeting process, several project proponents observed commonalities in their projects and decided to form partnerships and combine their individual projects into a single enhanced project. As a result, there are 39 Candidate Projects presented in this IRWMP.

5.1.1 Initial Project Sorting/Step 1 Prioritization

At the fifth stakeholder meeting (16 August 2007), the prioritization process was introduced to the RWMG and larger stakeholder group. The process was designed to meet two separate but related objectives: (1) to enhance and develop projects in order to meet regional objectives; and (2) to select the best suite of projects in order to maximize funding opportunities for the Region. Stakeholders expressed a desire to have projects ranked according to how well they met the objectives agreed upon for the Region. Based on this input the RWMG did an initial sorting of Candidate Projects. Each project was assigned points; one point was awarded for each objective that the project would meet (i.e., reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency, increase water supply, improve water quality, and promote resource stewardship). Candidate Projects were sorted so that those projects that met the most objectives appeared at the beginning of the project list. Following this exercise, Candidate Projects were further parsed and sorted based on how well they met a secondary set of criteria:

- Lack of conflict with other objectives
- Lack of downstream impacts
- Compatibility with other planning documents for the Region

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**Figure 5.1-1
Project Prioritization Process**

Using these primary and secondary criteria the RWMG sorted the Candidate Projects into “high,” “medium,” and “low” categories. During the fifth (August 16, 2007), sixth (September 27, 2007), and seventh (November 13, 2007) Stakeholder meetings, Stakeholders provided input on the sorting process, the criteria used for sorting, and whether or not a given candidate project met a given criteria. The Stakeholders also discussed means to integrate particular Candidate Projects (see Section 5.1.3). The initial sorting process was completed and was presented at the eighth Stakeholder Meeting (February 19, 2008). The results of this initial sorting are displayed in Table 5.1-1: 12 projects are sorted as “high priority,” 9 projects as “medium priority,” and 10 projects as “low priority.” Due to its length, Table 5.1-1 appears at the end of this section.

In addition, several projects were categorized as “Pending Further Development.” These projects have been put into this category for a variety of reasons:

- Lack of sufficient project information to be evaluated
- Lack of appropriate sponsor
- Received too late in the process to be fully evaluated

It should be noted that Table 5.1-1 represents a “snapshot” particular to this first edition of the IRWMP. Over time, as particular projects become more refined, it is likely they could be re-categorized (e.g., moved from the “low” category to the “high” category). In addition, over time, new Candidate Projects will be added and ranked according to the established criteria. The list of Candidate Projects is intended to continually grow and change as projects are completed and new project concepts are added.

5.1.2 Refinement/Step 2 Prioritization

It will be necessary to “pare down” the list of Candidate Projects shown in Table 5.1-1 and develop a list of projects specific to IRWMP implementation and funding applications. This second step in the prioritization process will first be applied to projects rated “high” in the project sorting exercise (see Table 5.1-1). If no “high” projects remain or are ready to be implemented, then projects rated “medium” will be taken through the second step. This step will be based on how well Candidate Projects meet the following State Minimum Standards and readiness to proceed criteria:

- CEQA and Other Permitting. Projects that have the potential to cause a change in the physical in environment are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Activities receiving State funding must be in compliance with CEQA. The second step in project prioritization will consider whether a project has completed or will complete environmental documentation and permitting in the near term.
- Necessary Planning Documents. Projects seeking Proposition 50, Proposition 84, and other State grant funding must demonstrate compliance with the Urban Water Management Planning Act (CWC § 10610 et seq). Effective January 1, 2009, consistent with Assembly Bill 1420, any urban water supplier receiving a water management grant or loan must also demonstrate implementation of the water demand management measures described in their urban water management plan. Further, applicants with projects that have potential groundwater impacts must also demonstrate that either: they have prepared and implemented a Groundwater Management Plan in compliance with

CWC § 10753.7, or they are participating in a process that meets the requirements of CWC §10753.7(a).

- Sponsor Authority and Funding Match. Projects must be sponsored by an entity with the authority to implement the project, the ability to maintain the project, and the ability to provide local funding for the project.
- Readiness to Proceed. Project feasibility should be determined and the project concept should be advanced enough to estimate both schedule and costs.

Because the *Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Guidelines* (Guidelines) are undergoing revision following the passage of Proposition 84, there is uncertainty about the specific State requirements that should be considered during project refinement, if Proposition 84 funding is to be pursued. The list of criteria described above may be revised once the Proposition 84 Guidelines are available, or when guidelines for other funding sources become available. The RWMG has decided that project refinement at this time will not result in useful information as data developed in the present will need to be updated to reflect revised Guidelines. However, in anticipation of project refinement, Stakeholders were asked to complete project information “long forms” in which as much detailed project information as available was solicited, including such information as the projected benefit/cost effectiveness of each project. These long forms, updated as necessary, will provide the basis for completing this second step in the prioritization process. Completed long-forms for Candidate Projects are provided in Appendix E.

5.1.3 Selected Plan Projects

As described earlier, due to uncertainty about IRWMP Guidelines and pending legislation, the RWMG has decided to solicit project ideas and sort these ideas based on consistency with regional objectives. It is the intent of the RWMG to adopt this IRWMP with the list of projects described in Table 5.1-1 and detailed in Appendices C and E. The RWMG will solicit DWR’s input on this Draft IRWMP document. The IRWMP will then be updated based on State guidance (as well as other comments received during the public review of the Draft IRWMP). After guidelines for Proposition 84 and other funding sources become available, and based on the requirements of any enacted legislation, the prioritization process will be finalized and a suite of projects (i.e., “Plan Projects”) selected for inclusion in applications to various funding sources (or for local implementation).

It is the intent of the RWMG and Stakeholders that the database of Candidate Projects will be regularly updated, with new projects added as time goes on. During regular updates of the IRWMP, all Candidate Projects will be evaluated and prioritized and a new list of Plan Projects generated.

Following selection of Plan Projects the document will be revised as necessary to:

- Describe linkages and the interdependence of Plan Projects
- Identify any coordination of Plan Projects with State and Federal agencies

- Describe the relationship of Plan Projects to local planning, IRWMP program preferences, and *California Water Plan Strategies*

5.2 Integration of Water Management Strategies

CWC § 79501 states the following:

The people of California find and declare that it is necessary and in the public interest to do all of the following...

Establish and facilitate integrated regional water management systems and procedures to meet increasing water demands due to significant population growth that is straining local infrastructure and water supplies.

Improve practices within watersheds to improve water quality, reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater better, and increase water use efficiency.

Protect urban communities from drought, increase supplies of clean drinking water, reduce dependence on imported water, reduce pollution of rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Integrated regional water management planning meets this intent by encouraging broad evaluation of watershed related issues as well as identification of projects to address these needs. Integrated regional water management planning solicits the input and expertise of various groups, including water agencies, flood control agencies, local planning entities, conservancies, sanitation districts, business organizations, open space and recreation interests, and habitat preservation interests. One of the benefits of this planning process is that it brings together this broad array of groups into a forum to discuss and better understand shared needs and opportunities. This format assures that a full range of issues and needs are considered. It also ensures that an extensive range of expertise is used to evaluate projects and identify means to improve and integrate projects.

Examples of regional integration took place in the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP process. During the sixth and seventh stakeholder meetings, all entities that submitted Candidate Projects for inclusion in the IRWMP were asked to give presentations on their proposals. These presentations and subsequent discussions allowed the group to become familiar with the various Candidate Projects. This information assisted with project sorting, but also led to suggestions for project improvement and led to integration of several Candidate Projects. For example, as part of the initial “Call for Projects,” three separate agencies proposed projects that focused on removal of the non-native plant *Arundo donax*. Three agencies proposed projects involving groundwater recharge using reclaimed water. Two entities proposed treatment of

BENEFITS OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- Regional planning and communication
- Creation of partnerships
- Efficiency (shared data and know-how)
- Consideration of all watershed components
- Sharing of potential impacts and benefits

groundwater for iron and manganese. Following Stakeholder discussions on these various proposals, entities decided to join and collaborate rather than duplicate effort and are now jointly sponsoring a single, more regional project for Arundo removal, a single project for reclaimed water recharge, and a single project related to iron and manganese treatment.

5.3 Impacts and Benefits of Plan Implementation

5.3.1 Benefits of Plan Implementation

The primary benefit of the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP is development of a framework supportive of collaborative regional planning. This IRWMP allows for Stakeholders in the community to create a vision for watershed planning in the Region, and identify appropriate means to achieve this vision. Creation of the IRWMP has facilitated partnerships between local, State, and Federal entities. For example several Candidate Projects are being jointly sponsored by multiple local entities.

The IRWMP process fosters coordination, collaboration and communication among entities in the Region and has resulted in greater efficiencies (e.g., efforts are not duplicated, information is shared), will enhance public services, and will facilitate public support for watershed projects. As part of preparing this IRWMP, the regional agencies have provided input as to their ongoing research and data collection projects. Knowledge of these research and data collection projects assists other agencies from duplicating efforts. Knowledge of each other's efforts has allowed Stakeholders to better coordinate data (developing consistent formats and consistent means of examining data). This "pooled" data results in a larger and more significant data set. For example, CLWA, SCWD, LACWWD No. 36, NCWD, and VWC annually coordinate preparation of a summary of water supplies and demands. In addition, during IRWMP preparation many of the agencies and non-profit groups shared the experience gained in implementing past projects – passing their know-how to others. For example, the City of Santa Clarita provided details related to their experience with Arundo removal, including information on successful removal techniques and the tradeoffs with various approaches. VWC provided information on their experience with water softening technologies. Efficiencies have also been achieved by cooperating on regional efforts rather than separate localized efforts.

A regional planning effort ensures that all potential components of watershed planning are considered rather than one particular area or project type dominating. Regional planning improves the likelihood that benefits and impacts are shared instead of one group or area reaping the benefits while another bears the impacts. Regional planning efforts also increase the likelihood that projects that implement one particular objective (e.g., water supply) are considerate of other objectives (e.g., flood control or habitat preservation). As part of project integration, projects can be refined so that they achieve multiple objectives.

The IRWMP will allow otherwise separate agencies to speak as a region and to improve policies, regulations and laws related to water demand, water supply, water quality, operational efficiency, and resource stewardship.

The range of projects identified by this IRWMP meet all objectives identified by the Stakeholders:

- Implement technological, legislative and behavioral changes that will reduce user demands for water.
- Maximize water system operational flexibility and efficiency, including energy efficiency.
- Understand future regional demands and obtain necessary water supply sources.
- Supply drinking water with appropriate quality; improve groundwater quality; and attain water quality standards.
- Promote resource stewardship:
 - Preserve and improve ecosystem health
 - Improve flood management
 - Preserve and enhance water-dependent recreation

Full implementation of this IRWMP will result in multiple benefits associated with these objectives. In addition, the IRWMP will provide for the following specific benefits through implementation of these projects:

- Water Quality Improvement Projects. Candidate Projects include efforts to reduce use of water softeners in the Region, treatment of naturally occurring manganese and iron, and development of a process to avoid disinfection by-products. The primary benefit from implementing these water quality projects would be the reduced potential for human exposure to potentially harmful substances. These projects would also improve the efficiency of both water and wastewater treatment processes. Besides improving drinking water, these projects could potentially benefit other types of water users, such as agricultural water users and water dependent wildlife habitat.
- Demand Management Projects. Candidate Projects include preparation of a Valley-wide conservation strategic plan and technical support to improve water use efficiency in large landscape areas. More efficient water use will result in less demand on imported water supplies, less energy usage for treatment and delivery of water, and reduced demand for new or expanded water supply infrastructure. In addition, improved outdoor irrigation reduces the flows of poor quality urban run-off.
- Resource Stewardship Projects. Candidate Projects include Arundo removal programs, floodplain acquisition, preparation of drainage plans, and trash removal programs. Projects that remove trash and non-native species, such as Arundo, improve overall habitat quality. These projects also reduce flooding by removing obstructions in the river that can result in significant erosion and damage to public facilities. Arundo removal also increases water supply as this plant utilizes large



Preservation of Ecosystem Health is an IRWMP Objective

quantities of surface and groundwater. Floodplain acquisition would serve to protect river habitat and reduce the potential for having developed properties in a flood risk area.

- Water Supply Projects. The majority of Candidate Projects submitted by Stakeholders relate to water supply, particularly storm water capture, groundwater recharge, and development of recycled water supplies. Storm water capture and subsequent groundwater recharge provides for increased use of local supplies rather than imported water. These projects assist in maintaining the long-term sustainability of the groundwater supply. Depending on project specifics, these projects can also serve to decrease peak flood flows and provide opportunities for habitat improvement and restoration. Recycled water supplies, likewise, decrease demand for imported water. Recycled water can offset potable water demand, recharge groundwater, and be used to create and restore wetland areas.
- Operational Efficiency Projects. Several projects are proposed to improve water infrastructure, including projects to relocate a sewer out of the Santa Clara River channel, consolidation of mutual water companies, and projects to replace outdated and poorly functioning infrastructure. These projects have benefits related to reduced maintenance costs and decreased system water loss. In the case of the sewer relocation project, a primary water quality benefit would be the reduced risk of damage to the sewer and potential for a sewage spill. Consolidation of mutual water companies would result in economies of scale and would ensure each connection is metered (encouraging water conservation).

5.3.2 Plan Beneficiaries

The potential beneficiaries of the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP are residents of the Region, water agencies, local, State and Federal agencies, businesses, wildlife and associated habitats, and others within the jurisdictions served by IRWMP projects. These beneficiaries are represented by members of the RWMG and the larger Stakeholder group. Specific IRWMP benefits and beneficiaries will be identified after selection of Plan Projects (see Section 5.2).

5.3.3 Interregional Benefits

The Region is bounded by the San Gabriel Mountains to the south and southeast, the Santa Susana Mountains to the southwest, and the Liebre Mountains and Transverse Ranges to the northeast and northwest. Therefore, projects implemented in the Region are unlikely to directly affect IRWMP efforts in the neighboring Antelope Valley or greater Los Angeles areas. However, the Region does have a hydrologic connection to the portion of the Santa Clara River in Ventura County. It is likely that projects to enhance and protect the watershed may have downstream benefits. Further, as part of project sorting (see Section 5.1.1), points are awarded to those Candidate Projects that lack negative downstream impacts.

5.4 Impacts of Plan Implementation

Negative impacts that may be associated with the Plan Projects include (1) short-term, site-specific impacts related to site grading and construction, and (2) long-term impacts associated with project operation. For the purposes of this IRWMP, impacts are discussed at a screening level below.

Project-specific and/or programmatic environmental compliance processes (consistent with CEQA and, if applicable, the National Environmental Policy Act) will evaluate the significance of the impacts. Under CEQA, impacts determined to be significant must be mitigated to a level of non-significance (unless the lead agency makes findings of overriding consideration). The IRWMP itself does not lead to the implementation of any specific project. It has been determined that the IRWMP itself is exempt from CEQA. The following provisions of the State CEQA Guidelines apply:

- Statutory Exemption (15262 for Feasibility and Planning Studies)
- Categorical Exemption (15306-Information Collection)

CEQA review of specific projects will provide an evaluation of impacts in much greater detail than discussed below:

- Aesthetics. Projects that include construction activities and new infrastructure have the potential to affect aesthetics. However, it is likely that projects would be constructed in areas that are already disturbed, or would include mitigation measures that would return disturbed areas to their pre-construction conditions.
- Air Quality. Short-term air quality impacts could result from construction of Plan Projects. However, through the CEQA process potential air emissions would be minimized through application of BMPs identified by the air quality management district or mitigation measures.
- Biological Resources. Short-term biological impacts could result from construction activities as well as non-native plant removal. Most of these negative effects would be avoided or minimized through mitigation efforts related to CEQA. Additionally, the IRWMP includes preservation of ecosystem health as one of its objectives. Thus, if implemented, Plan Projects could result in overall benefits to biological resources.
- Cultural Resources. Impacts to cultural resources (historical, archeological, and paleontological resources) could result from construction activities from Plan Projects. As part of the CEQA process it will be necessary to develop mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these potential impacts.
- Geology and Soils. Plan Projects with the potential to impact geologic resources would be required to undergo geological feasibility studies which would specify the appropriate engineering standards the contractor would have to comply with during construction. Compliance with these standards would mitigate project site geological and soil impacts.
- Hydrology and Water Quality. It is anticipated that impacts to hydrology and water quality would be generally beneficial because in the long-term Plan Projects are intended to improve water supply reliability and water quality. For short-term erosion or sedimentation, project-specific BMPs would be identified as part of the NPDES permitting process.

A number of Plan Projects proposed in this IRWMP are groundwater recharge projects using either storm water or recycled water. Because recycled water generally contains

more salts than other water sources in the Region, recharge with recycled water could increase the salinity of the local groundwater. There is also concern that groundwater recharge with storm water and recycled water will result in decreased flow in the Santa Clara River. These issues merit particular analysis in project specific CEQA documentation.

- Land Use and Planning. The Plan Projects were evaluated as to their compatibility with other planning documents for the Region, including local and regional General Plans. Therefore, no significant land use changes or inconsistencies with policies are anticipated.
- Noise. Noise impacts could result from construction activities from some of the proposed projects. However, through the CEQA process most of these activities would be minimized through mitigation efforts and no long-term noise impacts are expected.
- Population and Housing. No adverse impacts to population and housing are anticipated. IRWMP implementation would help to meet the water demands of the existing and anticipated future population.
- Public Services and Utilities. Many of the Candidate Projects are intended to enhance water supply, water quality, and improve storm water management and flood control. These types of projects would benefit the utilities and service systems in the Region.
- Recreation. One of the objectives of the IRWMP is to preserve and enhance water-dependent recreation. Therefore, impacts to recreation from IRWMP implementation are likely to be beneficial.
- Transportation and Circulation. Transportation and circulation could be temporarily impacted during construction of some of the Plan Projects. Construction can temporarily increase traffic congestion due to transportation of equipment and trips by workers. Construction of projects located near roadways can result in temporary lane closures and detours. However, through the CEQA process most of these activities would be avoided or minimized and no long-term transportation and circulation impacts are expected.

5.5 Institutional Structure for Plan Implementation

While the structure and approach used to-date have been successful in creating the IRWMP, the RWMG discussed whether the MOU that formed the RWMG and facilitated broad agreement approach would work well to implement and update the IRWMP after it is adopted. Several potential options to lead the collaboration with the Stakeholder group, and help implement the IRWMP were discussed within the RWMG.

A Governance Subcommittee was formed to explore options and prepare a recommendation for how to establish an effective governance structure to implement the IRWMP. The Subcommittee was comprised initially of a subset of the RWMG group. The Subcommittee identified and prioritized objectives for a new governance structure, as well as recommended roles within the new structure, which are discussed below.

The Governance Subcommittee first identified the purposes that a governance structure would be designed to fulfill for the benefit of IRWMP implementation, and subsequently identified which group (e.g., RWMG, Stakeholders, etc.) would best govern each of those efforts:

- Provide focused leadership for implementing and updating the IRWMP (RWMG in lead, with input from Stakeholders).
- Track and report progress in meeting IRWMP goals (RWMG and Stakeholders).
- Identify potential sources of outside funding and assist local entities to compete for those funds (RWMG, Stakeholders, and other sources of information).
- Provide leadership to focus cooperation for broad regional planning and implementation efforts such as (RWMG with input from Stakeholders):
 - regional water recycling
 - regional water quality preservation
 - regional water conservation programs
 - regional data and information management
- Select a contracting agency for any State or Federal grant funds obtained for implementation of the IRWMP (RWMG to select Grantee from among its members in accordance with applicable grant requirements, once the RWMG is formalized).

The Governance Subcommittee next identified the following factors that must be provided within a new governance structure to successfully accomplish these purposes and serve the recommended roles:

- Staff dedicated to provide leadership in the following areas:
 - Initiate actions
 - Collaborate with others
 - Call public/stakeholder meetings, set agendas, and lead meetings
 - Prepare background documents for IRWMP updates
 - Identify, select, and apply for appropriate funding opportunities
 - Oversee update of the IRWMP
- Capability to gather, compile and manage data and information.
- Ability to execute and manage contracts.
- Ability to receive and process financial transactions and meet Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- Expertise to make a valuable contribution of services to IRWMP preparation.
- Ability to obtain funds to contribute to IRWMP preparation.

- Ability and willingness to serve as a point of contact for IRWMP related information.
- Willingness to support process facilitation and outreach.

5.5.1 Roles and Responsibilities of Each Group Involved

The roles and responsibilities of the various participants envisioned to carry out the broad purposes of the governance structure are described below.

5.5.1.1 Stakeholder Group Roles and Responsibilities

The Stakeholder group is an integral group of participants in the IRWMP process. This group includes members of the RWMG as well as an extensive mix of other municipal and regulatory, environmental, private, and land use planning agencies that represent all areas of the Upper Santa Clara River Region. The Stakeholder group has met periodically since February 2007 to allow for discussion of issues facing the Region and to develop the IRWMP. The purpose of the Stakeholder group is to help identify regional objectives, identify strategies to meet regional objectives, as well as to provide advice and feedback to assist with the development or updating of the IRWMP. The Stakeholder meetings are governed by a set of agreed-upon ground rules and operating procedures that fostered full participation, as identified in Sections 1.3.3.1 and 1.3.3.2 of this IRWMP.

Stakeholder meetings are led by a professional facilitator with no direct association or stake in the outcome of any actions considered within the IRWMP. Materials for the IRWMP discussed in each meeting have been developed by a consultant team in cooperation with RWMG members and Stakeholders and made available for review and comment by the Stakeholders. The following is a list of roles and responsibilities for the Stakeholder group.

1. Attend and participate in stakeholder meetings.
2. Be an agency/organization with an interest in a watershed related issue.
3. Offer suggestions for meeting IRWMP objectives.
4. Propose and/or sponsor projects.
5. Provide input on the project prioritization framework development.
6. Make recommendations regarding project ranking within the process outlined in the project prioritization framework.
7. Review and comment on all versions of the IRWMP.
8. Represent each agency/organization having a single vote at a Stakeholder meeting.
9. Be able to show support for the IRWMP (e.g., adopt it [if the Stakeholder meets the requirements for adoption as set forth in the funding guidelines], sign a resolution in support of it, or submit a letter of support to the RWMG for inclusion in the adopted IRWMP).

5.5.1.2 Participating Stakeholders

The Inaugural RWMG identified a universe of potential stakeholders by listing any agency, group or party that had a local interest in water. Contacts for these candidate stakeholders were determined and written invitations to the first Stakeholder meeting were sent. Subsequent letters were sent to any entity that expressed interest or that may have been missed in the first

mailing. After that time, notifications by e-mail and by website were the methods used to keep the Stakeholder group informed of meetings and updates. The list of invited Stakeholders is on the original sign-in form (Appendix B). The list has been revised to add newcomers and to delete those that chose not to participate. Participating Stakeholders included:

- Agua Dulce Town Council
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
- Building Industry Association
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Castaic Area Town Council
- City of Santa Clarita
- Lake Elizabeth Mutual Water Company
- LACDPW
- LACFCD
- Los Angeles RWQCB
- NRCS
- NCWD
- RMC Water and Environment
- Santa Clarita Valley Environmental Coalition
- Santa Clarita Valley Well Owners Association
- Sierra Pelona Mutual Water Company
- Town Council of West Ranch
- US FWS
- University of California Cooperative Extension
- Valley Crest Tree Company
- Agua Dulce/Acton Country Journal
- Atkins Environmental
- CDFG
- DWR
- CLWA
- County of Ventura
- Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Los Angeles County Supervisor's Office
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
- The Nature Conservancy
- Newhall Land and Farming Company
- Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment
- SCVSD
- SCWD
- Town Council of Acton
- US ACE
- USFS- Angeles National Forest
- VWC
- VCRC

5.5.1.3 Local Project Sponsors' Roles and Responsibilities

Local Project Sponsors are those IRWMP Stakeholder agencies or entities having Candidate Projects that are included in the IRWMP database. Information on each of the Candidate Projects and a summary list of all Candidate Projects is maintained at www.scrwaterplan.org

("Projects" tab). The database is intended to be a comprehensive list of projects that, when completed, will aid in advancing the IRWMP's regional objectives. It is envisioned that the Local Project Sponsors will have the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Provide project-specific information for the database that may aid in advancing the IRWMP's regional objectives.
2. Seek opportunities to integrate, where possible and practical, Candidate Projects in the database in order to most-efficiently achieve the regional objectives. This process may be facilitated at Stakeholder meetings, but Local Project Sponsors are also encouraged to seek these opportunities outside of that forum.
3. Provide updated project-specific information for the database as necessary to reflect major project milestones (e.g., CEQA completion, 100% design, construction underway, construction complete, and project completion). Although this particular role is not a requirement, it is in the best interest of the Local Project Sponsors to keep the database current, so the most updated information is used to evaluate projects using the project prioritization framework as outside funding sources become available.
4. Participate in Stakeholder meetings to educate others about the Local Project Sponsor's project(s) in the database. This happens naturally as a result of casual collaboration with other Local Project Sponsors but may also be in the form of presentations made at Stakeholder meetings.
5. Identify a point person for each project who will provide in a timely manner to the RWMG and/or consultant, requested information for projects selected for inclusion in a grant application.
6. Identify a point person for each project who will provide in a timely manner to the Grantee and/or consultant, requested information for projects selected for funding through a funding agency.
7. Comply with grant requirements, as identified by the funding agency, in order to qualify for grant funding.

5.5.2 Successor Regional Water Management Group

The Government Subcommittee recommends that concurrently with the adoption of the IRWMP, the RWMG begin the process to enter into a new MOU to oversee the preparation of a grant submittal package, revise the IRWMP to be consistent with any new requirements and to formalize the membership of a Successor RWMG. This Successor RWMG will perform, at a minimum, the same functions of the Inaugural RWMG for any needed IRWMP updates. The Successor RWMG would have these responsibilities for a term to be determined in the MOU.

5.5.2.1 Successor Regional Water Management Group Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities

1. Total membership of the RWMG may be up to 11 entities and comprised of agencies/organizations whose primary mission is consistent with one or more of the IRWMP three main objectives (i.e., water supply, water quality, and resources stewardship).

2. The RWMG will include at least three agencies, two of which have statutory authority over water resources. Any member of the Inaugural RWMG may elect to become a founding member of the Successor RWMG.
3. RWMG membership within each of the three main regional objectives (i.e., water supply, water quality, and resources stewardship) will be re-evaluated every three years.
4. The RWMG will strive to ensure balanced representation across the IRWMP's objectives, as well as geographic diversity across the Region.
5. RWMG members will be recommended by the Stakeholder group to achieve the balance described above. The founding members of the RWMG will select additional RWMG members, for a total of up to 11 members, from a list of nominees recommended by the Stakeholders.
6. The RWMG should annually select or reaffirm a Chair and a Vice-Chair to conduct meetings.
7. In the event a clear consensus cannot be reached each RWMG member would have a single vote at RWMG meetings.
8. Successor RWMG members must have authority to enter into a legal agreement to form a RWMG (e.g., MOU, joint powers authority, or other legal document) and will seek legal counsel to prepare a formalized governance document that will provide for the IRWMP's governance and implementation of the regional objectives.
9. The RWMG members will execute a new MOU after initial adoption of the IRWMP to reflect an ongoing governance structure to implement the IRWMP.
10. Members of the RWMG would be expected to contribute either some level of financial or in-kind services towards IRWMP preparation/update and would need to allow for considerable staff time during normal working hours to work on plan preparation and to attend meetings.
11. RWMG members would commit to all of the responsibilities and activities of a Stakeholder.
12. Review and comment on all versions of the IRWMP and any grant application(s). RWMG will decide on the disposition of conflicting comments.
13. Help to determine project priorities and maintain prioritized project lists.
14. Provide oversight to the IRWMP and resolve significant issues among the Stakeholder group.
15. RWMG will direct the Chair to call Stakeholder meetings as needed and will consult on a periodic or as needed basis with the Stakeholder group.
16. Provide outreach to local entities and communities to ensure adequate input from all Stakeholders.

17. Hire consultant(s) as needed (e.g., to update IRWMP, prepare grant application, aid in performing Grantee responsibilities, provide Stakeholder facilitation services, etc.).
18. RWMG will monitor IRWMP progress toward achieving objectives and decide whether significant changes in conditions warrant update and subsequent re-adoption of the IRWMP.
20. RWMG will re-adopt the IRWMP a minimum of every five years, or within one year of one or more of the following conditions: (1) significantly changed conditions impacting objectives, (2) achievement of a regional objective requiring development of an additional regional objective, or (3) need to set a new regional objective.
21. Identify and pursue funding opportunities.
22. Select a Grantee from within the RWMG members.
23. Based on results of the project prioritization process and Stakeholder input, RWMG will make a final decision on project suite submitted for funding to any funding agencies.
24. Represent the Region's needs to the State including sustaining an open dialogue with the funding agency regarding progress on the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP implementation and continuing to provide feedback on project progress with cooperation from the Local Project Sponsors.

5.5.2.2 RWMG Chair Roles and Responsibilities

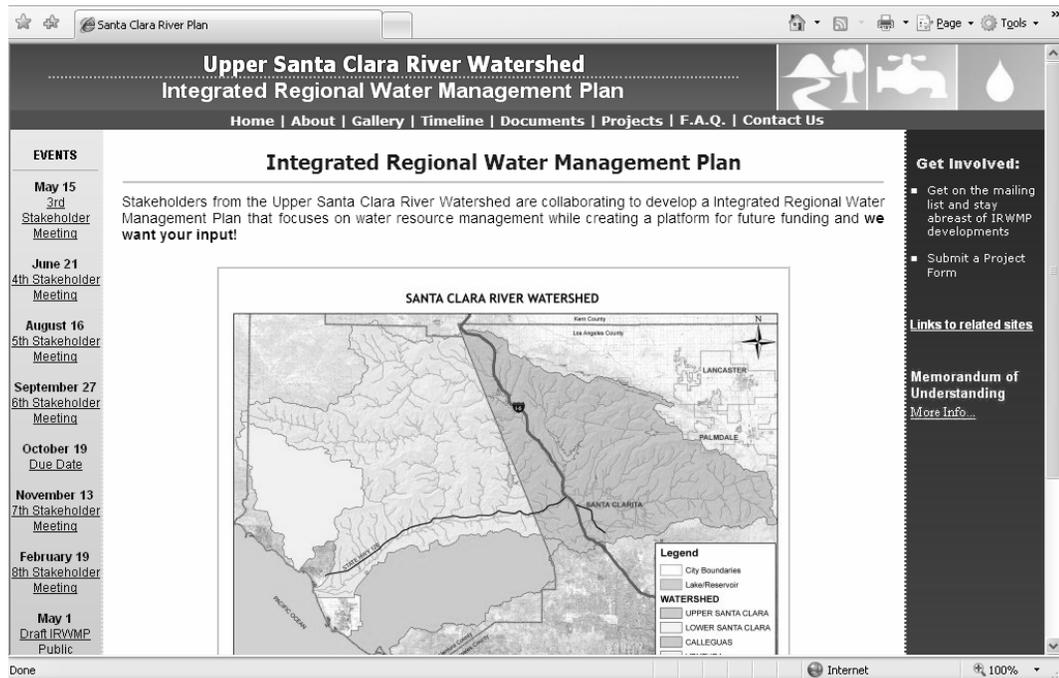
1. Call and attend RWMG, RWMG subcommittee, and Stakeholder meetings, and prepare and distribute agendas.
2. Act as primary liaison between Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP Region, RWMG, Stakeholders, other IRWMP Regions, and funding agencies.
3. Be selected or reaffirmed annually by RWMG.

5.5.2.3 RWMG Vice-Chair Roles and Responsibilities

1. Assume role of Chair in the absence of the Chair.
2. Assist Chair when needed.

5.5.2.4 Grantee Roles and Responsibilities

1. Apply for grant funding on behalf of the IRWMP Region.
2. Provide administration of any grant funds to help implement the IRWMP.
3. Work with Local Project Sponsors to solicit feedback on the grant administration process and help to resolve any disputes if needed.



The IRWMP website is an important tool for facilitating communication

4. Ensure effective communication between the funding agency and the Local Project Sponsors.
5. Maintain an open dialogue with the funding agency regarding progress on the Upper Santa Clara River IRWMP implementation and continue to provide feedback on project progress with cooperation from the Local Project Sponsors included in the successful grant application.

5.5.3 Future Formalized Governance Structure

5.5.3.1 IRWMP Term

The term of this IRWMP will be 20 years from initial adoption, with updates and subsequent re-adoption by the parties described below, occurring a minimum of every five years within that 20 year timeframe, unless one of the following events triggers re-adoption prior to the scheduled five-year interval:

- Significant change in conditions as defined by the RWMG with input from the Stakeholders.
- Achievement of an objective which necessitates setting a revised or replacement regional objective.
- The need, as determined by the RWMG with Stakeholder input, to set new regional objectives.

5.5.3.2 IRWMP Adoption

The decision of which entities should appropriately adopt the IRWMP is directly related to the intent of the IRWMP's governance structure. As stated earlier, the Successor RWMG's membership is intended to ensure balanced representation across the IRWMP's three main regional objectives (i.e., water supply, water quality, and resources stewardship), as well as geographic diversity across the Region. Given this balanced representation, it is therefore appropriate that all the Successor RWMG entities with governing bodies adopt the IRWMP. Additionally, given the benefits to all Stakeholders in the Region of achieving the regional objectives set forth in this IRWMP, it is further appropriate that any stakeholder (including Local Project Sponsors) with an interest in this Region's watershed issues also be encouraged adopt the IRWMP, provide a resolution in support of the IRWMP or provide a letter in support of the IRWMP, whichever is appropriate based on the type of entity.

Because the IRWMP is envisioned to "live through time" regardless of the makeup or turnover of the RWMG, a change in RWMG membership would not trigger re-adoption of the IRWMP. Additionally, modifying or updating the IRWMP in order to qualify for funding through a funding agency would not automatically trigger re-adoption of the IRWMP.

5.5.3.3 Formalized Governance Structure Document and Term

The current MOU (as described above, and shown in Attachment A) will need to be revised/replaced by the Successor RWMG in order to accomplish the items described in detail above (e.g., identifying the successor RWMG as supplemented by the recommendations of the Stakeholder group, implementing the IRWMP, managing the grant application/administration process, paying for consultant(s), making any required changes to the Plan necessary to meet grant funding guidelines, and updating the IRWMP as necessary). The term of the formalized governance document is envisioned to be five (5) years. The formalized governance document may be revised and readopted earlier than five (5) years by the agreement of parties. The document will allow for the replacement of RWMG members without triggering re-adoption of the governance document.

The RWMG membership will be reevaluated on a three (3) year cycle for each objective category (water supply, water quality, and resources stewardship) to verify that an adequate number of agencies/groups whose primary duty is related to each particular objective are represented on the RWMG. This would occur in different years for an objective so that the focus in any particular year would be on one specific objective. This would also allow for the opportunity to add new representatives or replace less active RWMG members if necessary to better meet the IRWMP objectives.

Although it is impossible to bind an as-of-yet unseated Successor RWMG, it is nevertheless the intent of this IRWMP that the Successor RWMG members seek legal counsel to prepare a formalized governance document that will provide for the IRWMP's governance and implementation of the regional objectives as described above, by incorporating the spirit and intent of this section, including as many of the details of this section as is advised.

Table 5.1-1. Prioritization Step 1

Running Total of Projects	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1		1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria				Total Rank	
	Project Name		Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts	Compatible with Other Planning Documents		Score by: Number of Secondary Criteria
High													
1	VWC-1	Water Quality Improvement Program	•	•	•	•	•	5	•	•	•	3	1
2	CLWA-4	Large Landscape Efficiency Improvement Program	•	•	•	•		4	•	•	•	3	2
3	Santa Clarita-1/USFS-1/LADPW-12 (LACFCD)	Santa Clara River, San Francisquito Creek Arundo and Tamarisk Removal Project	•		•	•	•	4	•	•	•	3	2
4	SCVSD-2	Ultraviolet Treatment at the Water Reclamation Plants	•		•	•	•	4	•	•	•	3	2
5	SCVSD-3	SCVSD Self-Generating Water Softeners (SRWS) Public Outreach and Rebate Program	•		•	•	•	4	•	•	•	3	2
6	SCVSD-1/ NCWD-2/ SCWD-1	Feasibility Study for East Santa Clara River Wetlands and Groundwater Recharge Project	•		•	•	•	4	•	•	•	3	2
7	Santa Clarita-3	Discovery Park & Nature Center	•		•	•	•	4	•	•	•	3	2

Running Total of Projects	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1		1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria			Total Rank		
	Project Name		Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts		Compatible with Other Planning Documents	Score by: Number of Secondary Criteria
8	CLWA-5	Customer Recycled Water Incentive Program	•	•	•		•	4	•	?	•	2	8
9	LADPW-13/City of Santa Clarita	Acquisition of Land in the Flood Plain of the Upper Santa Clara River			•	•	•	3	•	•	•	3	9
10	RMC-1/City of Santa Clarita	Acquisition of river channel and major tributaries for watershed protection			•	•	•	3	•	•	•	3	9
11	NCWD-1	Wellhead Treatment for NC 10		•	•	•		3	•	•	•	3	9
12	CLWA-1	Recycled Water Program, Phase II	•		•		•	3	•	?	•	2	12

Running Total of Projects	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1		1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria				Total Rank	
	Project Name		Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts	Compatible with Other Planning Documents		Score by: Number of Secondary Criteria
Medium													
13	LADPW-10	South Santa Clara River Rubber Dam No. 2			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
14	LADPW-11	South Santa Clara River Rubber Dam No. 3			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
15	LADPW-15	South Santa Clara River Rubber Dam No. 4			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
16	LADPW-2	Newhall Creek In-River Spreading Grounds			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
17	LADPW-3	Placerita Creek Off-River Spreading Grounds			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
18	LADPW-4	Santa Clara In-River Spreading Ground No. 1			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13

Running Total of Projects	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1		1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria			Total Rank		
	Project Name		Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts		Compatible with Other Planning Documents	Score by: Number of Secondary Criteria
19	LADPW-6	Santa Clara Off-River Spreading Ground			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
20	LADPW-7	SCR Rubber Dam No. 1			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
21	LADPW-9	South Santa Clara River Rubber Dam No. 1 and Spreading Ground			•	•	•	3		•	?	1	13
Low													
22	LADPW-8	Santa Clara River Spreading Ground			•	•	•	3			?	0	22
23	LADPW-1	Lower San Francisquito Spreading Grounds			•	•	•	3			?	0	22
24	LADPW-16	Upper San Francisquito Spreading Grounds			•	•	•	3			?	0	22
25	LADPW-5	Santa Clara In-River Spreading Ground No. 2			•	•	•	3			?	0	22
26	NCWD-3	Removal of the sewer trunk line from the Santa Clara riverbed				•	•	2	•	•	•	3	26

Running Total of Projects	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1		1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria			Total Rank		
	Project Name		Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts		Compatible with Other Planning Documents	Score by: Number of Secondary Criteria
27	CLWA-2	Electrolysis and Volatilization for Bromide Removal & DBP Reduction			•	•		2	•	•	•	3	26
28	CLWA-3	Feasibility of Using Electrolysis and Volatilization for Chloride Removal			•	•		2	•	•	•	3	26
29	SCWD-2	Consolidation of Water Mutuals		•		•		2	•	•	•	3	26
30	LADPW-14	Acton Master Drainage Plan		•			•	2		•	?	1	30
31	VWC-2	Provide funding to implement innovative and cost-effective water conservation programs	•					1	•	•	•	3	31

Running Total of Projects	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1		1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria				Total Rank	
	Project Name		Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts	Compatible with Other Planning Documents		Score by: Number of Secondary Criteria
Pending Further Development													
32	SCOPE-1	Santa Clara River Floodplain Acquisition			•	•	•	3	•	•	•	3	32
33	CHC-1	Santa Clarita Canyons Cleanup				•	•	2	•	•	?	2	33
34	SCOPE-2 (no sponsor)	Upper Santa Clara River Recycled Water Sanitation Plant Expansion			•		•	2	•			1	34
35	LADPW-17	Hasley Canyon Road Water Main, Pump Station and Turnout		•				1	•	•	•	3	35
36	LADPW-18	Del Valle Road Water Main		•				1	•	•	•	3	35
37	LADPW-19	Crown Valley Road 16-inch Water Main		•				1	•	•	•	3	35
38	LADPW-20	New Pump Station to North Tank		•				1	•	•	•	3	35
39	Santa Clarita-2	Water Quality Education Program				•		1	•	•	•	3	35

	USCR IRWMP Prioritization Step 1	1) Meets Regional Objectives (Primary Criteria)					2) Secondary Criteria			Total Rank	
	Project Name	Reduce Water Demand	Improve Operational Efficiency	Enhance Water Supply	Improve Water Quality	Promote Resource Stewardship	Score by: Number of Primary Criteria	Lacks Conflict with Other Regional Goals	Lacks Negative Downstream Impacts		Compatible with Other Planning Documents
Running Total of Projects											

Acronyms used to describe project sponsors

CHC	Community Hiking Council
CLWA	Castaic Lake Water Agency
LADPW	Los Angeles Department of Public Works
NCWD	Newhall County Water District
Santa Clarita	City of Santa Clarita
SCOPE	Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment
SCVSD	Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District
SCWD	Santa Clarita Water Division
RMC	Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
USFS	United States Forest Service
VWC	Valencia Water Company

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