

# Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

## Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program

### Request for Sub-Regional Project Concept Submittals



The Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Coordinating Committee (CC) is soliciting project concepts for inclusion in the Bay Area’s Round 3 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) implementation grant application to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The CC anticipates release of the DWR’s Round 3 Proposal Solicitation Package (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). In order to effectively put together a grant proposal in that window, the CC is soliciting and vetting project concept proposals well in advance.



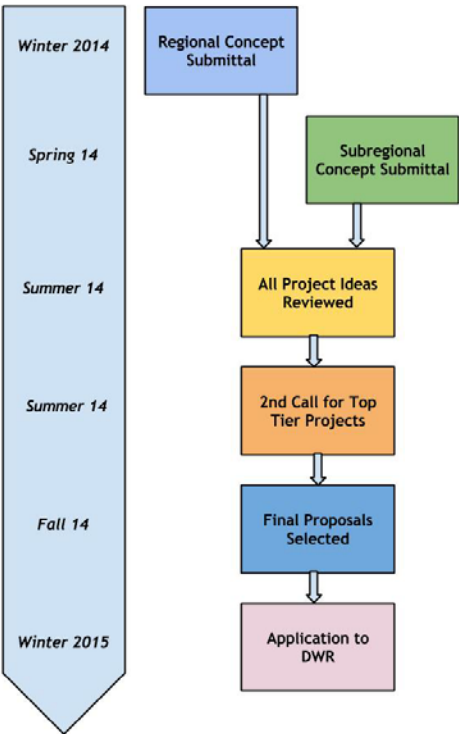
This request for project concepts concerns **sub-regional project submittals**; a separate regional project request was issued in January 2014. Sub-regional projects include any local project that can meet the eligibility requirements discussed below. Additional guidance will follow on potential regional and subregional allocations, as well as scoring criteria for selecting 2<sup>nd</sup> call projects. 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 sub-regional) in 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 IRWM planning and implementation. The Bay Area was allocated \$138 million, of which about \$65 million was awarded in previous grant funding rounds, leaving up to \$73 million available to the Bay Area in Round 3. The Round 3 funding availability will not be confirmed until the state’s 2014/15 fiscal year budget is in place.

Project Selection Process/Schedule - IRWMP Rd 3



IRWM grants are managed within DWR's Division of IRWM by the Financial Assistance Branch. The program's goal is managing water resources in a collaborative effort and seeks to have regions work across jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries. Prop 84 gives preference to IRWM grant proposals that:

- 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,
- Address statewide priorities.

DWR will issue a specific Round 3 PSP to explain application process and allocation of funds. 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. Project proponents may also want to review the Round 2 PSP (available at [http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/ImplementationGrants/Imp\\_PSP\\_Round2\\_2012\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/ImplementationGrants/Imp_PSP_Round2_2012_FINAL.pdf)), because it provides information on typical DWR grant application and agreement requirements. More information on DWR's approach and process may be found at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/>.

### **Eligibility**

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.

Projects proposed for inclusion in the Round 3 application must be within the Bay Area IRWM region (Bay Area region) and/or bring plan-specified benefits to the region (see Guidelines Section III C.2). The Bay Area region boundary is the same as the boundary of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and includes all or portions of the nine counties that ring the San Francisco Bay and lower Delta area. The Bay Area region was further divided into four sub-regions: North, South, East, and West to represent the diversity of needs around the Bay and to allow for more locally targeted outreach through the sub-regional process. There are also the following functional areas that have common water management concerns: water

supply-water quality, wastewater–recycled water, flood protection–storm water, and watershed-habitat. A map showing the region and sub-regions can be found at:

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

**In addition, project proponent’s concept proposals will have to adequately address each of the following eligibility 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](http://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 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.<sup>1</sup> Projects whose primary benefit is to a disadvantaged community (DAC) may qualify for a match waiver, however the project proponent 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. Prop 84 implementation grant funds are intended for implementation projects rather than planning studies.
- 5. Benefit/Cost Analysis:** Proposals should estimate how good a benefit cost ratio could be provided the project and the basis for the estimated ratio (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 previously ranged from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per project,

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

depending on the scale. Proponents must indicate their ability to pay an equitable share of the regional application cost.

- 7. Collaboration:** Proposals must demonstrate the support of relevant participants and their consistency with the priorities of regional and/or sub-regional plans and frameworks.
- 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 sub-regional projects of \$1 million and above.

## **Submittal Procedure**

### **Dates**

All submissions must be received electronically by **5:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**, at [projects@bairwmp.org](mailto:projects@bairwmp.org).

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

### **Contents**

Proposals should include the following 5 components and address all the eligibility factors listed above (*please do not include additional materials beyond these, including 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. Discuss regional and/or sub-regional coordination. Indicate the project proponent's ability to help pay for the regional grant application.

**Project Narrative:** *Maximum of 5 pages.* Provide a description of the project, the physical benefits of the project, the location of the project (including the sub-region in which the project is located), where the project's benefits will accrue, how the project helps achieve the Bay Area IRWMP goals and objectives, and how the project achieves multiple benefits. Discuss whether the project is in the Bay Area IRWMP. Also, discuss where the project provides benefits to a DAC.

**Preliminary Budget:** *Maximum 1 page.* Break down by key project elements and include proposed and secured matching funding sources. Discuss the benefit/cost analysis.

**Timeline:** *Maximum 1 page.* Include milestones for design, CEQA and permitting. Be clear when the project is scheduled to start and when the project is scheduled to be completed.

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

## Questions

For all inquiries, contact [projects@bairwmp.org](mailto: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](http://nbwatershed.org/library/NBWA_Handbook_2012-1221.pdf)