

Chapter 14 *Project Application, Development, and Review*

14.0 Introduction

This chapter describes the processes by which projects implementing this Plan are identified, developed, reviewed, and selected for Plan inclusion.

14.1 Project Application Process

The project application process followed the initial identification of regional issues and conflicts as well as goals and objectives and resource management strategies, as described in sections 12.4 Integration of Issues, Goals, and Objectives into Project Development Process and 13.5 Integrating Resource Management Strategies into Project Application, Development, and Review. This sequenced approach makes it possible for project sponsors to demonstrate through the application process how their proposed projects would implement key elements of the IRWMP, as well as avoid project impacts and maximize project benefits. It also allows for strategic considerations for Plan implementation (e.g., integrating projects, project alternatives).

The formal project application process for this update began following the establishment of the foundational components of the planning process listed above. The project applications (referred to as the Project Solicitation Form) were distributed by the project team via the stakeholder email distribution list and by posting on the Yuba County IRWMP website. A project development workshop was convened in early November 2013 to: 1) provide an overview of the project development timeline (see **Table 14-1**); 2) review the Project Solicitation Form (see **Appendix 14-2**); 3) allow project proponents the opportunity to briefly present the projects they intended to submit to be considered for Plan inclusion; and 4) discuss project integration opportunities.

Ultimately, 60 project applications were submitted to the Yuba County IRWM region by 15 project sponsors. Over the course of the IRWMP update, additional applications were submitted via email to the Yuba County IRWM group utilizing the application materials described in 14.1.1. In the future, the Yuba County IRWM group intends to issue a periodic call for projects to provide regional stakeholders the opportunity for newly identified projects to be included in the IRWMP. The project applications will be available online, and projects will be accepted for review as they are received.

Dates	Activities
October 2013	Project sponsors begin to hold independent conversations with other stakeholders in pursuit of forming project partnerships
November 1, 2013	Consulting project team distributes Project Solicitation Form materials to stakeholders via email distribution list and posts form to Yuba County IRWM website
November 7, 2013	Project development and integration workshop
December 13, 2013	Project applications due (for existing and new projects alike, to ensure consistent materials for all projects in the IRWMP)
November 2013 - January 2014	Consulting project team conducts extensive circuit-riding to assist in filling out forms; facilitate integration; brainstorm options for multi-stakeholder, multi-objective projects; gather input on review criteria; and assist in clarifying process for getting projects to 'ready to proceed' status.
January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary project list presented to RWMG at meeting • Process for project review identified • Draft project review criteria developed • Partnership confirmation and project integration occurs
April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project list finalized • Process for project review criteria refined and approved • Final project descriptions distributed for RWMG review
May 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost/benefit questionnaire and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories completed for projects • Project sponsors make project presentations at RWMG meeting • Project review conducted and projects confirmed for IRWMP inclusion at RWMG meeting
June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft project chapter completed and distributed to RWMG for review
July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RWMG comments received for draft project development chapter • Project development chapter refined

14.1.1 Project Application Materials

14.1.1.1 The Project Solicitation Form

The Project Solicitation Form (see **Appendix 14-2**) serves as the primary project application for the Yuba IRWM region. The form was developed in accordance with DWR 2012 Guidelines, paying particular attention to A-L Review Factors as outlined in the Plan Standard for project application, review, and selection. Project applicants are required to demonstrate the following:

- how the project addresses the regionally identified issues;
- how the project contributes to the IRWMP goals and objectives;
- how the project measures its outcomes (additional information about project performance measures can be found in Chapter 17 *Plan Performance and Monitoring*);
- how the project is related to resource management strategies;
- how the project meets statewide priorities;
- technical and scientific feasibility of the project;
- specific benefits to critical DAC/Tribal water issues and environmental justice considerations;
- project costs and financing (additional information about project financing can be found in Chapter 15 *Finance*);
- project status and anticipated schedule for implementation;
- contribution of the project in adapting to the effects of climate change; and
- contribution of the project in reducing GHG emissions as compared to project alternatives.

Completed Project Solicitation Forms for all Yuba County IRWMP projects can be found in **Appendix 14-1**.

14.1.1.2 The Economic Feasibility Questionnaire

To demonstrate economic feasibility for projects as required by Review Factor H in the 2012 Guidelines, each project sponsor completed a questionnaire (developed by ECONorthwest, a professional consulting firm) as part of the application process. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) stipulates that as part of the project review process, the economic feasibility of a project should be considered.

According to ECONorthwest, conversations with DWR staff indicate that, under this review standard, the guidelines specify that economic feasibility “be a part of how the region evaluates projects.” However, DWR staff further indicated that the department doesn’t “want to dictate how regions choose to use the economic information.” Further, staff was clear that DWR “won’t hold [IRWMPs] to a specific methodology,” and specifically, a project-level cost/benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis is not required to satisfy Factor H.¹

IRWMP groups have had difficulty developing economic feasibility criteria for the early project review process used to bring projects into the IRWMP. These challenges include the following:

- lack of quantifiable information about the project’s benefits and costs at the early stage of development while being reviewed for acceptance into the IRWMP;
- lack of resources among project proponents to develop robust information at the level needed to conduct any kind of comprehensive economic analysis; and
- lack of technical sophistication among project proponents to complete a quantified assessment of the economic feasibility of their projects.

With this in mind, ECONorthwest developed a streamlined approach that is simpler than a full cost/benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis to be applied to project-level evaluations as part of the project selection process. Because other factors focus on project costs, the questions in the Project Solicitation Form focus on economic benefits.

The simplified set of criteria, firmly grounded in standard economic practice, is considered to satisfy the Factor H review standard. Specifically, the questions would do the following:

- rely on preliminary information that is readily available to project proponents at a conceptual project design phase;
- emphasize qualitative versus quantitative assessments; and
- help project proponents and IRWMP managers begin to think about strategies to address the more detailed economic analysis required for the Implementation Grant application.

Refer to **Appendix 14-3** for Economic Feasibility Questionnaires for Yuba County IRWMP projects.

14.1.1.3 GHG Emissions Quantification Inventory

In the Project Solicitation Form, project sponsors are asked to describe how each project mitigates for GHG emissions as well as the process by which the project proponents considered GHG emissions reduction among project alternatives. Yuba County IRWM region project sponsors are well aware of the need to reduce the emissions associated with their projects. Refer to the Chapter 11 *Climate Change*, section 11.6.2, for a more in-depth discussion of project alternatives and design considerations to reduce GHG emissions.

¹ ECONorthwest, “Questions to Support Future Evaluation of Cost Benefit of Projects for Project Review Process” (April 25, 2014).

In accordance with DWR guidelines, projects are required to calculate GHG emissions associated with project implementation/construction. All Yuba County IRWMP projects that progressed to a level of readiness that supports a viable GHG quantification completed inventories found in Appendix 14-4.

14.1.2 Updating Existing Projects from the 2008 Yuba County IRWMP

Several projects that had been included in the original Yuba County IRWMP (2008) remain active in the region. However, to assure that the RWMG received consistent information for all projects, the group determined that project sponsors were required to use the newly developed project solicitation materials for new *and* already identified 2008 projects. This requirement is of particular importance since the Project Solicitation Form and complementary documents were designed to be compliant with the DWR 2012 Guidelines. Additionally, in order for all projects to stand on an equal footing in the project review process, the RWMG needs consistent information when applying the project review criteria and when selecting projects for Plan inclusion as well as for emergent funding opportunities.

14.2 Project Review Process

As described in **Table 14-1**, the initial project submission deadline for the Yuba County IRWMP Update was December 13, 2013. Following the submission of projects, the consulting project team assembled the preliminary project list and distributed it to stakeholders in advance of the January 15, 2014, RWMG meeting. At that time, stakeholders had an opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the list and ask any questions pertaining to the identified projects.

Between the January and May RWMG meetings, the consulting team collaborated with individual stakeholders to refine and complete all project application materials and to discuss potential opportunities for project integration and coordination with other project proponents and stakeholders. In addition to individual conference calls and ongoing communication with project sponsors, the consulting team also convened a technical assistance workshop to aid project proponents in the completion of GHG quantification inventories and economic feasibility questionnaires.

Following this refinement process, all project solicitation forms were posted to the Yuba County IRWMP website in advance of the May RWMG meeting, where project sponsors made project presentations to the RWMG and confirmed the list of projects to be included in the Yuba County IRWMP. See **Table 14-2** for a complete list of approved Yuba County IRWMP projects and the project review criteria each project fulfills.

14.2.1 Establishment of a Revised Project Review Criteria

In January 2014, the RWMG studied the project review criteria that had been applied to the original 2008 IRWMP in addition to the project review factors found in the DWR 2012 IRWM Guidelines. Through this process, the region revised the project review criteria. The criteria were finalized and unanimously confirmed at the April 2014 RWMG meeting. The project review criteria were then applied to the project list which was confirmed at the May 2014 RWMG meeting.

14.2.2 A Revised Approach to Project Ranking

Through a consensus decision, the RWMG determined that they would not rank or prioritize projects. It is the view of the group that ranking projects sets up a de facto project selection process for funding purposes. The RWMG confirmed that the role of the IRWMP project review process is to collaboratively develop projects for Plan inclusion (not for funding) that as a complete suite would effectively implement the IRWMP. The RWMG further asserted that ranking would create unnecessary competition and conflict among project proponents. Instead, the RWMG decided that they would apply the project review criteria to all of the projects (including conceptual projects) and, in doing so, work to get as many projects as possible to an enhanced status of readiness. Therefore, an explicit objective of this approach aims to build regional capacity to advance water resources and watershed management projects toward effective implementation of the IRWMP.

Another factor affecting the RWMG's decision to forego project ranking is the region's ongoing interest in diversifying its funding of projects beyond DWR's Implementation Grant programs. By maintaining a list of unranked projects, the region is able to maximize its responsiveness to the specific priorities of different and varied funding programs. In other words, project selection would occur when an appropriate funding opportunity arises. Upon careful review of the requests for proposals or proposal solicitation packages, the projects most suited to the priorities and preferences of distinct funding sources would be selected.

14.2.2.1 Strategic Considerations and Project Integration

The Yuba County RWMG addressed project integration throughout the IRWMP Update project development process. While the projects on the current list have not been integrated, the region determined that project integration could occur when developing a suite of projects in response to a funding request and that the following measures of integration could be employed:

- projects meet multiple Yuba County IRWMP priorities (goals, issues, objectives) and provide multiple benefits;
- project integration within and across like projects employing key resource management strategies;
- geographic integration (within a hydrologic system and across watersheds);
- partnership integration (multiple partners for each project, collaborative in design and implementation, federal/state/local, and government/NGO/private sectors are all represented); and
- integration of outcomes or performance measures.

14.3 Project Selection for Yuba County IRWMP Inclusion

At the May 2014 meeting, Yuba County IRWM region project proponents made project presentations to the RWMG. At that time, stakeholders had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions about the presented projects and to voice any concerns or perceived conflicts associated with the proposed projects. Additionally, the RWMG confirmed each project's alignment with the Yuba County IRWMP's project review criteria to affirm each project's contribution toward the successful implementation of the Plan.

At the close of the project presentations, the RWMG unanimously approved all of the projects for inclusion in the Yuba County IRWMP without exception. The following **Table 14-2** includes the complete list of approved Yuba County IRWMP projects and the project review criteria each project fulfills. For detailed project descriptions, see **Appendix 14-1**. Per DWR Guidelines, prior to a project's inclusion in a grant application, the project sponsor must adopt the IRWMP.

14.4 Procedures for Communicating Selected Projects

Projects developed through the IRWM process are made available to interested parties via two venues: posting of selected projects and project materials on the Yuba County IRWMP website, and via email to the full distribution list that includes the RWMG and interested stakeholders.

Table 14-2. Yuba County IRWMP Project List and Project Review Criteria													
PROJECT OVERVIEW				PROJECT STATUS	PROJECT REVIEW CRITERIA								
Code	Title	Sponsor	Total Budget		Criterion 1 Meets multiple objectives	Criterion 2 Supports integration/ multiple RMSs	Criterion 3 Technically and/or scientifically feasible	Criterion 4 Assists region in adapting to climate change	Criterion 5 Assists region in reducing GHG emissions	Criterion 6 Addresses specific benefits to DACs	Criterion 7 Regional/ Inter-regional benefit(s)	Criterion 8 Funding match/ DAC waiver	Criterion 9 Economic feasibility
AR-01	Yuba Gold Fields Integrated Flood Management, Habitat, and Recreation Project	American Rivers	\$75M	Concept	X	X		X	X		X		
BYLT-01	Yuba Land Conservation Easements	Bear Yuba Land Trust	\$5M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% match	X
BYLT-02	Yuba Watershed Forest and Fuels Project	Bear Yuba Land Trust	\$1,455,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	25% match	X
CCSD-01	Camptonville Water System Improvement Project (Phase II)	Camptonville Community Service District	\$664,300	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC waiver	X
WTLD-01	Citywide Storm Drain Improvement Project	City of Wheatland	\$360,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% match	X
WTLD-02	Dry Creek Levee Improvement Project	City of Wheatland	\$6.8M - \$16.2M	Ready	X		Feasibility study pending	X			X	25% match	X
WTLD-03	North Stormwater Detention Basin Rehabilitation	City of Wheatland	\$300,000	Ready	X	X	X	X			X	25% match	X
WTLD-04	Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study	City of Wheatland	\$150,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% match	X
WTLD-05	Stormwater Program Mgmt - Equip Purchase	City of Wheatland	\$590,000	Ready	X		X	X	X		X	25% match	X

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WTLD-06	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement	City of Wheatland	\$4M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% match	X
WTLD-07	Wheatland Water Supply Reliability	City of Wheatland	\$425,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% match	X
WTLD-08	Well System Monitoring Rehabilitation	City of Wheatland	\$210,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% match	X
MLD—01	Marysville Ring Levee Project	Marysville Levee District	\$90.4M	Ready	X	X	X	X		X	X	65% federal 30% local	
NYWD-01	Challenge Water Storage Tank Replacement	North Yuba Water District	\$911,500	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC waiver	
NYWD-02	Dobbins Oregon House Canal Improvement Project	North Yuba Water District	\$6,778,000	Ready	X	X	X	X		X	X	DAC waiver	
NYWD-03	Forbestown Ditch Improvement Project	North Yuba Water District	\$4,650,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC waiver	X
NYWD-04	Forbestown Water Storage Tank and Pipeline Replacement	North Yuba Water District	\$1,269,100	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	
NYWD-05	New York Flat Road Water Transmission Main	North Yuba Water District	\$1,556,250	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	
NYWD-06	Rackerby Water Storage Tank Replacement	North Yuba Water District	\$911,500	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X

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OPUD-01	Recycled Water Distribution System	Olivehurst Public Utility District	\$3,352,987	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	
OPUD-02	Olivehurst Water Main Replacement	Olivehurst Public Utility District	\$2,388,166	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	
RD784-01	Acquisition of Landside Urban Levee Maintenance Corridors	RD 784	\$5.5M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
RD784-02	Chestnut Pump Station Reconstruction	RD 784	\$2.5M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
RD784-03	Edgewater Detention Basin and Pump Station 5 Improvements	RD 784	\$3.5M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
RD784-04	Pump Station 1 Reconstruction	RD 784	\$500,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	25% Match	X
RD784-05	Pump Station 2 System Improvement	RD 784	\$525,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
RD784-06	Pump Station 10 Improvements	RD 784	\$3.7M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
RD817-01	FSRP LAN29 Critical Repair Project - Right Bank Bear River Set-back Levee	RD 817	\$7.8M	Concept	X	X		X			X	Currently pursuing cost share partners	
RD817-02	Dry Creek Levee Feasibility Study	RD 817	\$797,000	Ready	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	

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RD2103-01	Bear River and Dry Creek Levee Feasibility Study	RD 2103	\$1.2M	Ready	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
SYRCL-01	Daguerre Point Dam Fish Passage Improvement	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$1M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	30% Match	X
SYRCL-02	Water Conservation Education	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$40,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
SYRCL-03	Yuba River Recreation Projects	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$400,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	TBD	X
SYRCL-04	Yuba Salmon Education	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$75,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	27% Match	X
SYRCL-05	Yuba Salmon Habitat Restoration	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$1.5M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	31% Match	X
SYRCL-06	Lower Yuba Environmental Flows	South Yuba River Citizens League	\$175,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	34% Match	X
SEI-01	Robust Decision Support for Yuba IRWMP	Stockholm Environmental Institute	\$480,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	50% Match	X
SCRCD-01	Hydrilla Eradication and Canal Lining	Sutter County RCD	\$308,200	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	25% Match	X

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TRLIA-01	Gold Fields Levee	Three Rivers Levee Improvement Agency	\$69M	Ready	X	X	X	X		X	X	56.5% Match	X
YC-01	Yuba County Airport Drainage Improvements	Yuba County	\$3.6M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	25% Match	X
YC-02	Linda Drainage Improvements	Yuba County	\$5,625,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver or 25% Match	X
YC-03	Olivehurst Drainage Study	Yuba County	\$15M-\$20M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver or 25% Match	X
YC-04	Olivehurst Pump Station	Yuba County	\$25,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	DAC Waiver	X
YC-05	Comprehensive Water Sustainability Project	Yuba County	\$1,488,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	None identified	X
YC-06	Comprehensive Stormwater & Wastewater Sustainability Project	Yuba County	\$44,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	None identified	X
YCWA-01	Groundwater Model Project (Phase 2)	Yuba County Water Agency	\$750,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	25% Match	X
YCWA-02	Irrigation Water Measurement Implementation	Yuba County Water Agency	\$580,700	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% Match	X
YCWA-03	New Bullards Bar Outlet Capacity	Yuba County Water	\$37.23M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	25% Match	X

	Increase	Agency											
YCWA-04	North Area Irrigation Water Reuse	Yuba County Water Agency	\$350,000	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% Match TBD	X
YCWA-05	South Yuba Canal Fish Screen	Yuba County Water Agency	\$10.83M	Ready	X	X	X	X	X		X	25% Match	X

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YCWA-06	Agricultural Water Conservation Evaluation	Yuba County Water Agency	\$500,000	Concept	X		X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-07	Forecast Coordinated Operations	Yuba County Water Agency	\$1.5M	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-08	Groundwater Monitoring Program	Yuba County Water Agency	\$250,000	Concept	X			X			X	TBD	
YCWA-09	Long-term Water Supply Sustainability Study	Yuba County Water Agency	\$500,000	Concept	X	X		X			X	TBD	
YCWA-10	Narrows II Powerhouse Intake Extension	Yuba County Water Agency	\$5M	Concept	X	X		X			X	TBD	
YCWA-11	New Bullards Bar Reservoir Reoperation Manual	Yuba County Water Agency	\$500,000	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-12	New Colgate Powerhouse Tailwater Depression	Yuba County Water Agency	\$6.2M	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-13	Regional Feather River Diversion Feasibility Study	Yuba County Water Agency	\$500,000	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-14	Regional Flood Management Agency	Yuba County Water Agency	\$500,000	Concept	X		X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-15	Subsidence Monitoring	Yuba County Water Agency	TBD	Concept	X		X	X			X	TBD	

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YCWA-16	Surface Water Measurement Program	Yuba County Water Agency	\$500,000	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-17	Lower Yuba River Accord Implementation	Yuba County Water Agency	\$5M	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-18	Lower Yuba River Accord Implementation - Fisheries Actions	Yuba County Water Agency	TBD	Concept	X	X	X	X			X	TBD	
YCWA-19	Yuba County Levee Project	Yuba County Water Agency	\$750M	Concept	X			X			X	TBD	