Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP
Proposition 50 Grant Proposal, Step 2

Attachment 12: Program Preferences

Attachment 12 must be no more than 10 pages in length using a minimum 10-point type font. Submit a discussion on how the Proposal assists in meeting the Program Preference(s) described in Guidelines, Section II.E. The discussion must identify the specific Program Preference(s) that the Proposal will meet; the certainty that the Proposal will meet the Program Preference(s); and the breadth and magnitude to which the Program Preference(s) will be met. Meeting the Program Preference(s) identified by the applicant will become a condition of the grant agreement in the event that the Proposal is awarded grant funding.

Implementation of the projects outlined in this proposal and described in the IRWMP meets five of the six Program Preferences, as summarized and discussed in detail below.

- ✓ 1. Include Integrated Projects with Multiple Benefits
- ✓ 2. Support and Improve Local and Regional Water Supply Reliability
- ✓ 3. Contribute Expeditiously and Measurably to the Long-Term Attainment and Maintenance of Water Quality Standards
- ✓ 4. Eliminate or Significantly Reduce Pollution in Impaired Waters and Sensitive Habitat Areas, Including Areas of Special Biological Significance
- ✓ 5. Increase Safe Drinking Water and Water Quality Projects that Serve Disadvantaged Communities
- ✓ 6. Include Groundwater Management and Recharge Projects that are Located 1) in San Bernardino or Riverside Counties; 2) Outside the Service Area of MWD; and 3) Within one mile of Established Residential and Commercial Development.

The table below summarizes the program preferences that are met by each of the projects in the proposal.

Project No.	Project	1.Integrated Projects w/Multiple Benefits	2. Local/Regional Water Supply Reliability	3. Water Quality Standards	4. Impaired Waters/ Sensitive Habitats	5. Disadvantaged Communities	6. GW/Recharge Outside of MWD Service Area
C-1	Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Project, Hueneme Outfall Rehabilitation (Brine Line)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
C-3	Camarillo Groundwater Treatment Facility (Camarillo GWTF)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
C-7	VCWWD1Recycled Water System, Phase II (VCWWD1 Recycled Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
C-10	Calleguas Creek Watershed Arundo/Tamarisk Programmatic EIR, EA, Permits and Pilot Removal Project (Calleguas Arundo Removal Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
C-11	Simi Valley Tapo Canyon Water Treatment Plant (TCWTP)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
SC-1	El Rio Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project, Phase 7 (El Rio GCEP)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a
SC-2	Oxnard Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project, College Park Phase (Oxnard GCEP)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
SC-3	Fillmore Integrated Water Recycling and Wetlands Project, Phase II-A (Fillmore Recycled Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓		n/a
V-1	Ventura River Watershed Protection Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a
V-2	San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation	✓	✓				n/a
V-6	Senior Canyon Water Company Automation Upgrades Project (Senior Canyon Upgrades)	✓	✓	✓			n/a

Include Integrated Projects with Multiple Benefits

The projects within Ventura County are integrated in the following ways:

a. There are strong relationships between projects.
b. They address common regional issues related to increasing local water supplies and improving water quality to improve water supply reliability.
c. The projects individually and collectively offer multiple benefits to address issues relative to water supply, water quality, habitat, flood control, and recreation.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Brine Line (C-1) is a cornerstone project integral to the execution of the desalters in particular, but also necessary for overall salt management in the Calleguas Creek Watershed by removing salts associated with wastewater dischargers that are currently occurring to surface waters. The Brine Line will provide brine disposal for the Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and potentially expansion of the TCWTP (C-11), as well as many other brackish groundwater desalters described in the IRWMP. These projects cannot be implemented without the Brine Line, since the Brine Line provides the sole mechanism for brine disposal in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. Each of these projects also provides water supply, water quality, and habitat benefits.

In conjunction with other existing and proposed recycled water projects, the VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) will reduce demand on potable water, thereby reducing the Calleguas Creek Watershed's dependence on imported water and increasing the reliability of the local water supply.

The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) addresses concerns identified in the IRWMP as critical for habitat restoration and water quality improvement, most notably, the programmatic permitting and environmental compliance efforts. Implementation will augment the desalting efforts of many other projects within this Proposal and the IRWMP. The watershed-wide scope and programmatic permitting approach utilized in the Calleguas Arundo Removal Project are important to achieve multiple benefits of efficient permitting and environmental clearance to maximize arundo and tamarisk removal in the Watershed.

Overall, the coordination and collaborative efforts of the stakeholders allows for the implementation of projects that benefit the entire Calleguas Creek Watershed, not just one agency's service area or one population, and provide water supply, water quality and habitat benefits.

Santa Clara River Watershed

The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2), the two septic system elimination projects, are integrated in that they both construct sewers that will discharge to the City of Oxnard wastewater treatment plant and enable the elimination of existing septic tanks. These projects also integrate with the Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment (GREAT) Program, a cooperative, multi-agency water resources project that will develop and distribute a new water resource, through the treatment of secondary-treated effluent to produce a high-quality recycled water. The two GCEPs provide additional recycled water supply for groundwater recharge (to combat seawater intrusion), as an alternative water source to agricultural users, and for industrial processes and landscape irrigation within the Santa Clara River Watershed. Both the El Rio and Oxnard GCEPs also provide water supply and water quality benefits.

The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) is related to the two GCEPs in that it also provides recycled water and eliminates direct discharge to the Santa Clara River with resulting water quality improvements. It too has both water supply and water quality benefits.

All three Santa Clara River Watershed projects provide multiple benefits of improving surface water and groundwater quality and providing additional water supply that reduces demands on imported supplies.

Ventura River Watershed

The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is integrated with both the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) and the Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6). The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project is integrated with the other Ventura River Watershed projects by providing a watershed-wide structure and planning tool through which to coordinate and address issues such as groundwater

and surface water management and water quality. Another integration between the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project and the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation is that they both have groundwater monitoring components in the Ojai Valley, in different locations, that will improve overall groundwater management and hydrogeologic understanding. The surface water monitoring of the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project could also provide additional information with regard to watershed response to precipitation events. The San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation integrates with the Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6) in that Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company will benefit from the groundwater monitoring and recharge activities. The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is identified in the WCVC IWRMP as essential for implementation and coordination of many other IRWMP projects in the Ventura River Watershed, specifically those involving water supply, water quality, groundwater management, habitat and wetlands restoration.

The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project is the key initial step in the Ventura River to develop and implement a comprehensive integrated watershed planning and management tool that will benefit all of the Ventura River Watershed community, including its diverse group of stakeholders. Furthermore, the watershed management approach is an important, fundamental tool, especially since issues such as water supply, water quality and habitat and wetlands restoration must be addressed at the watershed level, in conjunction with more detailed local work.

The San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) will provide multiple integrated benefits, including augmented local groundwater supplies, local and regional water supply reliability, restoration of upstream fish habitat in the San Antonio Creek Watershed, augmentation of dry-period flows within the lower reaches of San Antonio Creek and the Ventura River for riparian and fish habitat, and better understanding of Ojai Basin hydrology. Essentially, the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) will make optimum use of locally available water supplies by harvesting surplus stream flows from San Antonio Creek and storing the water within the Ojai Groundwater Basin for extraction during dry periods.

This conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources will ensure that the maximum water supply is obtained from all local sources in a manner that is compatible with riparian and fisheries demands. Moreover, the installation and operation of the depth discrete, clustered, monitoring well, in conjunction with the groundwater monitoring to be performed as part of the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project, will together provide valuable information about the hydrogeology and aquifer response of the Ojai Basin.

Further, the improvement of fish passage upstream of the point of diversion will provide additional fish habitat that is presently inaccessible because of the existing diversion infrastructure and the low-flow road crossing. Finally, the additional recharge and higher water tables that will result from the operation of the spreading grounds should cause additional discharge into the lower reaches of San Antonio Creek and the Ventura River during dry periods when stream flows are most needed for riparian and fish habitat.

The Senior Canyon Upgrades is integrated with the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project and the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation to further a comprehensive approach to meeting the Ventura River Watershed's water supply needs, especially during a long-term drought.

The Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas MWD) is considered the backup water supplier for most of the Ventura River Watershed. Casitas MWD provides supplemental water, from Lake Casitas, a 250,000 acre-foot reservoir, to fourteen public and private water agencies that mostly rely on groundwater sources. Casitas MWD also supplies water to the Golden State Water Company, a partner in the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation. In all, over 65,000 people and hundreds of agricultural customers depend on Casitas MWD's water supplies.

Water demands on Casitas MWD's surface water increase dramatically during drought conditions when Casitas MWD's customers begin running out of their groundwater sources. In 1999, Casitas MWD began to release additional water from Lake Casitas down the Ventura River to assist the endangered Southern Steelhead. This has contributed to the current water supply concerns. Casitas MWD completed a peer reviewed supply and demand study in December 2004, which indicated that Casitas MWD had an insufficient water supply to meet water demands during a historical 21-year drought period. Casitas MWD has developed a comprehensive water conservation program to address this annual water

supply deficit. This plan has adopted many small projects rather than any single large project as a solution to the existing water supply deficit within the Watershed. The Senior Canyon Upgrades is a critical part of this plan, which will be augmented by the additional groundwater made available by the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation.

Integration Across Watersheds

Section 3 of the WCVC IRWMP provides a detailed discussion of the integration of the projects outlined in this proposal, which is also a Program Preference. Each project has multiple benefits, including local water supply augmentation, demand reduction, groundwater and surface water quality improvements, groundwater management, and habitat and wetlands restoration efforts as described more thoroughly in Attachments 10 and 11.

The projects that develop local water supplies are integrated in their benefit to either reduce existing SWP demands or prevent future demands. These projects include the brackish groundwater desalter projects (Brine Line (C-1), Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11)), recycled water projects (VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) and Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3)), groundwater recharge project (San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2)), groundwater quality protection projects (El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-1)), arundo removal projects (Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) and Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1)), and automation upgrades project (Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6)).

The projects that specifically address salts issues in the watersheds are integrated in their benefit to improve water quality and achieve TMDLs. These projects include the brackish groundwater desalter projects (Brine Line (C-1), Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11)), recycled water projects (VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7and Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3)), and arundo removal projects (Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) and Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1)).

The projects that specifically address nutrient issues in the watersheds are also integrated in their benefit to improve water quality and achieve TMDLs. These projects include the Brine Line (C-1), recycled water projects (VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) and Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3)), and groundwater quality protection projects (El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-1)).

The projects that either create habitat or improve existing habitat are integrated in their benefits to native and sensitive habitats in Ventura County. These projects include the brackish groundwater desalter projects (Brine Line (C-1), Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11)), recycled water projects (VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) and Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3)), arundo removal projects (Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) and Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1)), projects that preserve instream flows for the Southern Steelhead (Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1), San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2), and Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6)), and other aspects of the Ventura River Watershed Protection Plan

In addition, the arundo removal implementation project in the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is integrated with the Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) in the Calleguas Creek Watershed and, through the WCVC, the projects will provide information-sharing to improve arundo/tamarisk removal.

Support and Improve Local and Regional Water Supply Reliability

Improving local water supply reliability is a Program Preference, as well as one of the five objectives identified in the WCVC IRWMP. As such, the projects have been selected to maximize the beneficial use of available local water sources and thus improve water supply reliability. All eleven projects have a direct relationship with improving local and regional water supply reliability. In particular several groundwater desalter projects have been incorporated (Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11)) to increase the use of groundwater that would otherwise not be available for potable use due to poor quality. The San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) facilitates increased groundwater use by enhancing recharge. Furthermore, inclusion of several recycled water projects (VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) and Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3)) will enable recycled water to be used for non-potable applications, reducing the demand for potable water and improving water supply reliability. These and the other projects are discussed in more detail below.

These projects also have significant regional water supply reliability benefits. They will reduce the Region's dependence on imported water. Reducing imported water demand maximizes the supplies of both Southern California water and State Water Project (SWP) water.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Brine Line promotes development and improves reliability of local and regional water supplies by enabling local water agencies to develop new water sources that cannot currently be used due to poor water quality. The Brine Line will provide a means for disposal of brackish groundwater desalting brine. Without a mechanism for disposal, groundwater desalters cannot be built and brackish groundwater remains unused. The Brine Line provides the ability to develop new local potable supplies by treating brackish groundwater currently unsuitable for potable use.

Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas MWD) and other water purveyors in the Watershed are taking proactive measures to implement water supply enhancement projects to maximize beneficial use of local water from the Watershed. Increased local supply development offers benefits, not just to local resources and habitat, but to the Bay-Delta ecosystem, where Calleguas MWD's imported water supply originates. The more local groundwater that can be used, the less imported water is needed.

In addition, the Brine Line will make a blend of tertiary treated wastewater effluent (Title 22 recycled water) and desalting brines available to a wider geographic area of potential non-potable water users. The use of this non-potable water source will help reduce groundwater pumping and imported water use by reusing Brine Line flows for wetlands restoration, agricultural irrigation, and game preserves.

The Camarillo GWTF (C-3) is anticipated to provide approximately 7,600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of treated groundwater for potable use. The VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) improves the reliability of local and regional water supplies by enabling the use of recycled water in lieu of groundwater or imported water for non-potable use.

The TCWTP (C-11) will provide for the potable use of up to 1,000 AFY of local groundwater supply and reduce reliance on imported water supplies from the SWP. The local groundwater produced from the TCWTP will provide an independent source of water supply for VCWWD No. 8 and improve the reliability of its supply, especially during droughts and emergencies.

The regional water supply reliability will also be improved as the corresponding reduction in Camarillo's, VCWWD1's, and VCWWD8's demand for imported SWP supplies increases SWP availability to Calleguas MWD and other Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) member agencies.

The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) improves reliability of local and regional water supplies by reducing the consumptive use of water by removing non-native vegetation with excessive water consumption rates.

Santa Clara River Watershed

The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) will complete the program of eliminating septic tank pollution in the Oxnard Forebay, and therefore improve reliability of local groundwater supplies in the area by removing nitrate, an existing source of water quality contamination that is exacerbated during drought conditions.

The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) also augments local water supply by providing a non-potable water source.

Ventura River Watershed

The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will provide additional coordination to promote improvement of reliable local water supplies through the development of a comprehensive watershed management tool for the Ventura River. Without this project, individual short-term projects may be implemented but will lack the benefit of the synergies made possible with their integration in the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project. The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project provides the structure and the development of watershed management tools for creating, and enhancing new local potable supplies within the Ventura River Watershed.

Water purveyors in the Watershed are taking proactive measures to implement water supply enhancement projects to maximize beneficial use of local water from

the Watershed. A coordinated water management effort is especially important in light of the proposed removal of the Matilija Dam. Increased local supply development offers benefits, not just to local resources and habitat, but to the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Currently, the Ventura River Watershed does not import any SWP water, although it has an entitlement and has lost local supplies for preservation of the Southern Steelhead. The more local groundwater and surface water that can be used, the less any future demand will be made on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

By recharging stormwater flows that would otherwise be lost to the Watershed and keeping water tables as high as possible during all hydrologic periods, the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) will help to sustain sufficient water supplies through anticipated drought periods. The higher water tables will also allow greater production from Basin wells, which will reduce demand upon Casitas MWD's supplies, and thus foster water supply reliability for all of Casitas MWD's service area. Furthermore, the promotion of Southern Steelhead habitat and sufficient dry-period artesian flows into San Antonio Creek will help to reduce the threat that the fisheries agencies will be compelled to order Casitas MWD to further reduce its diversions from the Ventura River. This result will also foster the regional water supply reliability for all communities served by Casitas MWD. Increased local water supply development offers valuable benefits to address reliability of service to customers during drought conditions as well as protect water releases for the endangered Southern Steelhead.

The Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6) will result in direct benefits of conserving 42 AFY or more of water ordinarily lost to seepage, evaporation, and downstream releases due to a lack of storage capacity, water quality issues, and untimely response to flow changes due to the nature of a manual operating system. The Senior Canyon Upgrades improves reliability of local and regional water supplies by enabling a local water agency to fully utilize their existing water sources that cannot currently be used due to poor instrumentation and controls. Without proper automation, Senior Canyon's water sources would continue to diminish and an even greater reliance on Casitas MWD's limited water supply would occur.

Contribute Expeditiously and Measurably to the Long-Term Attainment and Maintenance of Water Quality Standards

Another key objective of the IRWMP is salt removal and management and TMDL compliance. This objective is specifically linked to long-term attainment and maintenance of water quality standards. Currently, Calleguas Creek has established TMDLs for salts, nutrients, metals, and pesticides. The WCVC IRWMP includes projects in the Calleguas Creek Watershed, such as the Brine Line (C-1) and groundwater desalters Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11), to implement TMDLs that will improve management of salts and other constituents to enhance water quality in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. The Upper Santa Clara River has TMDLs for salts with several other TMDLS in the Watershed under development. The removal of the discharge from the Santa Clara River as occurs with the implementation of the Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3), also facilitates meeting the TMDL. Although, the Ventura River Watershed does not have existing TMDLs, impaired water bodies (i.e., listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters) have been identified and TMDLs will need to be developed in the near future.

Implementation of these projects is critical to the expeditious and measurable attainment and maintenance of water quality standards (TMDLs).

Calleguas Creek Watershed

Thirty separate pollutants, including salts, have been listed on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters for Calleguas Creek and its tributaries. For each of these pollutants, a TMDL must be developed to result in compliance with water quality standards. The Brine Line is critical to the implementation of TMDLs that will improve management of salts and other constituents to enhance water quality in the entire Watershed. This objective is specifically linked to the long-term attainment and maintenance of water quality standards.

A water quality monitoring plan is being implemented as part of the WCVC IRWMP to measure the benefit of the projects on water quality.

It is estimated that at the full implementation of the desalter projects in the Calleguas Creek Watershed, over 44,000 tons of salt will be exported annually by disposing of desalter brines and tertiary treated wastewater effluent outside of the Watershed, of which approximately 10,100 tons, almost 25 percent, will be exported by the projects in this Proposal. Without the Brine Line, salt concentrations in surface waters and groundwaters within the Calleguas Creek Watershed would continue to build up.

Specific estimates of salt removal from all desalter projects in the Calleguas Creek Watershed can be found in Table 1. Estimates of salt exports by project are provided in the following table, with projects contained in this Proposal in bold.

TABLE 1
CALLEGUAS CREEK WATERSHED DESALTER SALT REMOVAL ESTIMATES

Project Number	Project Name	Estimated Salt Export at Full Implementation of Brine Line
C-1	**Brine Line**	**Conveyance for Salt Removal**
C-2	Renewable Water Resources Management Program for the Southern Reaches of the Calleguas Creek Watershed (RWRMP)	14,000 tons/year
C-3	**Camarillo Groundwater Treatment Facility**	**8,100 tons/year**
C-4	South Las Posas Basin Regional Desalter	10,100 tons/year
C-5	Somis Desalter	4,000 tons/year
C-6	West Simi Desalter	6,100 tons/year
C-11	**Simi Valley Tapo Canyon Water Treatment Plant**	**2,000 tons/year**
	Total	44,300 tons/year

Reductions in other constituents are also anticipated, but have not been quantified. Exporting salts outside the Calleguas Creek Watershed will help to achieve TMDL requirements for salts and related constituents. In addition, the Brine Line will aid in the implementation of desalting facilities within the Calleguas Creek Watershed, which will extract groundwater from the basin, allowing space to be made available in the aquifer for recharge with higher quality stormwater flows.

The VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) will result in the reuse of about 250 AFY of recycled water that would otherwise be discharged into groundwater or to the Arroyo Las Posas as effluent from the Moorpark Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWTP). The reuse of this recycled water is estimated to remove approximately 180 tons/year of salt with resulting improvements in water quality in the Arroyo Las Posas. The Calleguas Arundo, Removal Project (C-10) will also facilitate salt removal.

Santa Clara River Watershed

At least 164 lbs of pollutants per household per year are introduced into the groundwater in the Oxnard Forebay through the septic systems currently used by the residents. By eliminating the septic tank systems, which introduce nitrates and other contaminants into the groundwater, the El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) will expeditiously and measurably contribute to the long-term attainment and maintenance of water quality standards. Assuming 164 lbs per household per year and a total of 452 households, a total of 74,128 lbs of pollutants per year will be removed permanently from the Santa Clara Watershed as a result of these two projects.

As discussed earlier, the Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) facilitates compliance with the Upper Santa Clara River TMDL through removal of the wastewater discharge to the river and beneficial reuse of the effluent. The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) is estimated to avoid the discharge of approximately 180 tons/year of salt from the Santa Clara River.

Ventura River Watershed

Several reaches of the Ventura River and its tributaries were added to the 303(d) list in 2002 for the following impairments: Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, Nitrogen, Low Dissolved Oxygen, Fish Barriers, Algae, Pumping/Water Diversion and Trash. In some sub-watersheds, high total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations impair the use of water for agriculture. The Watershed's water quality problems are for the most part non-point source-related.

Pollutants on the 303(d) list will be targeted for reduction first. Action items identified with the development and implementation of the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) are intended to

result in on-the-ground projects that will benefit water quality and the Watershed ecosystem.

The Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6) will improve water quality management by building automation and treatment facilities that will assist Senior Canyon to meet present and future water quality drinking water standards and improve reporting requirements.

Eliminate or Significantly Reduce Pollution in Impaired Waters and Sensitive Habitat Areas, Including Areas of Special Biological Significance

The WCVC IRWMP meets this Program Preference through the implementation of the Brine Line (C-1), treatment facilities (Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11)), recycled water projects (VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) and Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3)), septic elimination projects (El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2)), and restoration projects (Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10), Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3), and Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1)). These projects will improve water quality throughout the entire County, benefiting all habitat areas, including sensitive areas.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The result of implementing the Brine Line, along with the Camarillo GWTF and TCWTP, is significant to salt pollutant reduction to the impaired surface waters of the Calleguas Creek Watershed. In particular, the Brine Line will improve the quality of water entering Mugu Lagoon, the largest coastal wetlands in Southern California, by removing salts and other constituents from the Watershed upstream of the lagoon. Mugu Lagoon discharges tidal outflow to Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) No. 24 (Point Mugu to Latigo Point). The surface waters of Calleguas Creek provide a valuable freshwater source to Mugu Lagoon. By removing salts that discharge to Calleguas Creek and its tributaries, the Brine Line Camarillo GWTF, and TCWTP reduce the salinity of Calleguas Creek thus benefiting riparian and wetlands habitat, as well as the Lagoon. Furthermore, the Brine Line mitigates the impacts from point source pollution by limiting point source discharges to the Watershed, thus minimizing the impacts resulting from non-point source (NPS) discharge entering Mugu Lagoon.

The result of implementing the Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) is significant sediment pollutant reduction and increased water availability to the impaired surface waters of the Calleguas Creek Watershed. In particular, removing arundo will improve the quality of water entering Mugu Lagoon by decreasing salts, reducing the volume of eroded sediments, and increasing the availability of surface and subsurface water upstream of the lagoon. The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project will also result in reduced salts from the removal of tamarisk plants since they capture salts in the surface soil, increasing its salinity. Replacement with native species also improves stormwater retention and treatment, which will benefit the impaired waters of Calleguas Creek and its tributaries.

The VCWWD1 Recycled Project further reduces the impairment of surface waters by avoiding the discharge of treated recycled water (and associated salts) to the surface waters of the Calleguas Creek Watershed and putting them to beneficial use. In order to reduce the salts in the recycled waters, measures are included in the implementation of the Camarillo GWTF (C-3) to reduce the use of salt-based water softeners.

Santa Clara River Watershed

The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) will reduce the pollution to the impaired waters of the Santa Clara River by beneficially reusing the wastewater effluent and avoiding the surface water discharge.

The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) will significantly reduce pollution to the impaired groundwater of the Oxnard Forebay by converting existing septic systems, which discharge significant quantities of nitrogen and other contaminants to the Forebay, to sewer systems. The RWQCB has identified the Forebay as impaired for nitrogen and issued an order prohibiting septic system discharge by January 2008.

Ventura River Watershed

Several reaches of the Ventura River were added to the 303(d) list in 2002 for the following impairments: Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform, Nitrogen, Low

Dissolved Oxygen, Fish Barriers, Algae, Pumping/Water Diversion and Trash. In some sub-watersheds, high TDS concentrations impair the use of water for agriculture. The Watershed's water quality problems are, for the most part, NPS-related.

A number of studies have been done for the Ventura River Watershed for specific projects. However, the studies have not been done in such a way as to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Watershed and has impeded progress on the development and implementation of projects that would protect and enhance water impairments and protect sensitive habitat areas. The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is intended to more specifically identify impairments through surface water quality monitoring and identify additional projects that could further improve water quality and reduce impairments. The arundo removal component will facilitate salt removal and sediment load reduction to the Ventura River, which is home to 26 special status plant and animal species.

Pollutants on the 303(d) list will be targeted for reduction first. Action items identified with the development and implementation the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project are intended to result in on-the-ground projects that will benefit water quality and the Watershed ecosystem.

Increase Safe Drinking Water and Water Quality Projects that Serve Disadvantaged Communities

The Guidelines define disadvantaged communities as those where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI (or 80 percent of $47,493 or $37,994). Although neither Ventura County as a whole nor any of the three Watershed areas are disadvantaged communities based on the 2000 Census data and by the definition in the Guidelines, there are several census tract areas that have significantly lower incomes than the areas around them. Based on a review of the MHI data from the 2000 Census, it is estimated that approximately 16.5 percent of the households in the Calleguas Creek Watershed earn less than $34,999.

It also should be noted that the statewide MHI is considerably lower than the Ventura County MHI of $59,666. Therefore, given the higher than statewide MHI in this area, which also results in higher housing and other local costs, the actual MHI which would be considered disadvantaged in Ventura County is in actuality likely to be higher than the statewide MHI.

The implementation projects in the IRWMP are not limited to the more affluent areas of the County, nor do they disproportionately burden the less affluent areas. Therefore, while the projects are not targeted at disadvantaged communities, very few of which exist in the County based on the definition in the Guidelines, the IRWMP has broadly distributed benefits to the entire County and all of its residents.

However, in the Santa Clara River Watershed, the unincorporated area of El Rio is considered a disadvantaged community, based on the MHI of $24,000. The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) will directly assist this disadvantaged community and help improve the quality of the local groundwater, which is currently the sole source of water for the community. Without grant funding, bearing the costs of a new sewer collection system would be a financial burden for the community.

Pursuant to the IRWMP Implementation Grant Guidelines, 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI is $37,994 (Census 2000) households whose annual MHI is below this income are considered disadvantaged. There are two areas within Ventura County within the City of San Buenaventura (Ventura), Census Tracts 002300 and 002400 which are disadvantaged communities. The minority population (mostly low-income and Hispanic) in these Census Tracts comprises approximately 28.3 percent of the total population in the Ventura River watershed whose residents will benefit from the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1).

Homeless individuals live in the lower Ventura River among stands of arundo in camps. Homeless in the riverbed are susceptible to injury or death by flood flows if they are not moved before the seasonal arrival of floodwaters. Campfires are common and often result in wildfires that injure individuals and cause property damage. Removal of arundo proposed for the implementation of the overall Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will directly affect these individuals. While arundo removal may not eliminate homeless camps or the impacts of these individuals on the Ventura River ecosystem, the removal may result in some individuals seeking public assistance.

In addition, agriculture is the top industry in Ventura County, providing a crop value of over $1 billion per

year, and it is documented that agricultural workers have lower incomes (approximately $17,000/year in 2003 according to the Ventura County Reporter, 2006) than other members of the workforce. Since many of the agricultural workers are undocumented, it is difficult to estimate their population; however, approximately 20,000 workers, out of an estimated 432,000 people in the workforce in Ventura County, were associated with agricultural activities (Ventura County EDD, 2000). Therefore, the projects in this proposal will also increase safe drinking water and water quality projects to individuals not necessarily identified and defined through the census process.

Include Groundwater Management and Recharge Projects that are Located 1) in San Bernardino or Riverside Counties; 2) Outside the Service Area of MWD; and 3) Within one mile of Established Residential and Commercial Development

The IRWMP projects do not meet this Program Preference, as the region is located in Ventura County. The projects are thus outside of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and some are within the Metropolitan service area. However, the projects do include groundwater management within the Ventura River, Santa Clara River, and Calleguas Creek Watersheds.

Certainty, Breadth and Magnitude of Meeting Program Preferences

The certainty that the projects discussed above will meet the respective Program Preferences is high. In most cases, the projects meet all the Program Preferences other than Program Preference 6, which is geographically not applicable. Several of these projects have some phases already completed or, through the IRWMP process, the projects have received financial support from stakeholders and agencies, thus improving the certainty of meeting the program preferences.

The breadth and magnitude of meeting the preferences varies with the preference, but is generally excellent. Preference 1-Integrated Projects with Multiple Benefits is met in all three watersheds by all 11 projects, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Preference 2-Local/Regional Water Supply Reliability is met by all 11 projects across all three watersheds, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Preference 3-Water Quality Standards is met in all three watersheds by 10 of 11 projects, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Preference 4-Impaired Waters/Sensitive Habitats is met in all three watersheds by 9 of 11 projects, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Preference 5-Disadvantaged Communities is met directly in two watersheds and indirectly in the other watershed, which indicates fair breadth and magnitude. Preference 6-GW/Recharge Outside of MWD is not met by any of these projects because the projects are not in San Bernardino or Riverside Counties.