



**Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWMP
 Proposition 50 Grant Proposal, Step 2
 Attachment 13: Statewide Priorities**

Attachment 13 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 Statewide Priority(ies) as described in Guidelines, Section II.F. Present the Statewide Priorities discussions separately. The discussion must identify the specific Statewide Priorities that the Proposal will meet; the certainty that the Proposal will meet the Statewide Priority(ies) and the breadth and magnitude to which the Statewide Priority(ies) will be met. Meeting the Statewide Priority(ies) 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 IRWMP projects is consistent with all eight Statewide Priorities as summarized and discussed in detail below.

- ✓ 1. Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes
- ✓ 2. Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development
- ✓ 3. Implementation of RWQCB Watershed Management Initiative chapters, plans, and policies
- ✓ 4. Implementation of SWRCB's Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan

- ✓ 5. Assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives
- ✓ 6. Implementation of recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force, or state species recovery plan
- ✓ 7. Address environmental justice concerns
- ✓ 8. Assist in achieving the goals of CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The table below summarizes the Statewide Priorities that are met by each of the projects in the proposal.

Project No.	Project	1. Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes	2. Implementation of TMDL	3. Implementation of RWQCB WMI	4. Implementation of SWRCB's NPS Pollution Plan	5. Assist in meeting Delta WQ Objectives	6. Implementation of recommended floodplain management, desalination, and recycling task forces	7. Address environmental justice concerns	8. Assist in achieving the goals of CALFED Bay-Delta Program
C-1	Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Project, Hueneme Outfall Rehabilitation (Brine Line)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
C-3	Camarillo Groundwater Treatment Facility (Camarillo GWTF)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
C-7	VCWWD1 Recycled Water System, Phase II (VCWWD1 Recycled Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
C-10	Calleguas Creek Watershed Arundo/Tamarisk Programmatic EIR/EA, Permits and Pilot Removal Project (Calleguas Arundo Removal Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
C-11	Simi Valley Tapo Canyon Water Treatment Plant (TCWTP)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
SC-1	El Rio Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project, Phase 7 (El Rio GCEP)	✓		✓	✓			✓	
SC-2	Oxnard Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project, College Park Phase (Oxnard GCEP)	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓



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SC-3	Fillmore Integrated Recycled Water and Wetlands Project, Phase IIA (Fillmore Recycled Project)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
V-1	Ventura River Watershed Protection Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
V-2	San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation	✓		✓		✓		✓	
V-6	Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company Automation Upgrades Project (Senior Canyon Upgrades)	✓				✓		✓	
Summary of Overall Program		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Reduce Conflict Between Water Users or Resolve Water Rights Disputes, Including Interregional Water Rights Issues

As discussed in further detail in Section 2.0 of the WCVC IRWMP, most of the Calleguas Creek and a portion of the lower Santa Clara River Watersheds are underlain by groundwater basins managed by the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA). The Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP) for this area is currently being updated by the FCGMA. The Tapo-Gillibrand Basin, located within the Calleguas Creek Watershed, and the Upper and Lower Ventura River Basins are not currently governed by a groundwater management agency, nor is a GWMP in place. However, a GWMP is being prepared. Groundwater management in the Piru-Fillmore Basins, within the Santa Clara Watershed, is governed by a GWMP, prepared by United Water Conservation District. The Ojai Basin in the Ventura River Watershed has a groundwater management agency and GWMP. Thus, certain aspects of groundwater rights are regulated. However, not all groundwater basins are managed by a central governing body, nor are all issues resolved within the managed basins.

Potable water demands are largely met with State Water Project (SWP) water in the Calleguas Creek Watershed. SWP entitlements and policies are structured and imported water entitlement issues should be minimal due to the contracts already in place. The Santa Clara and Ventura River Watersheds rely heavily on local groundwater and surface water supplies, although portions of the Santa Clara River receive SWP water.

Although there is a diversity of supply, water supply and quality remain challenging issues in Ventura County, as they are in all of Southern California. Reducing dependence on imported water and more efficiently managing local resources will help avoid or reduce future water resource conflicts. In particular, Ventura County faces challenges associated with competing interests (agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental) and groundwater and surface water allocations.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

By providing a disposal mechanism for brine and treated wastewater, the Brine Line (C-1) facilitates improved management of local resources that will in turn help avoid or reduce future water resource conflicts.

The Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and the TCWTP (C-11) will provide approximately 5,000 AFY of local groundwater



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for potable use and correspondingly reduce the demand and dependency on imported water supplies from the SWP. Thus, these two projects can lead to reducing conflicts or resolving water rights disputes in the future.

By providing an alternate source of water, namely recycled water, the VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) will help avoid or reduce future water resource conflicts. The VCWWD1 Recycled Project, upon completion of all phases, will provide approximately 1,680 AFY of recycled water to offset imported water and groundwater demand. Phase II, for which funding is being sought, will deliver approximately 250 AFY of recycled water.

By removing arundo and tamarisk, the Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) will promote improved natural channel processes and lower water-consuming native vegetation, helping to avoid or reduce future water resource conflicts. Zembell and Hoffman (2000) estimates that 3.8 AFY is reclaimed from the removal of one acre of arundo. This estimate is lower than the 5.62 to 20.71 AFY/Ac estimate from other sources. The pilot project is approximately 10 acres in area with an arundo density of approximately 50 percent to 75 percent. Thus, this project has the potential to reclaim from 19 to 38 AFY of water. Through watershed-wide permitting, the project has the potential to reduce watershed water demands by 20,000 AFY based on the 5,400 acres of Calleguas Creek that are estimated to be impacted by arundo. Continued uninterrupted growth of arundo and tamarisk will further impair the natural processes necessary for groundwater recharge and water conservation.

The local water supply development and water quality improvements that will result from the projects in the Calleguas Creek Watershed will help to reduce the conflict between water users and avoid potential future water rights disputes.

Santa Clara River Watershed

The hydrogeology of the Oxnard Forebay Basin area allows rapid movement of water from the ground surface to the underlying aquifer system, and then to the aquifer systems of the Oxnard Plain Basin area. Due to this characteristic, the Oxnard Forebay is the key area for recharge of the regional aquifers, and an area of great concern for groundwater contamination. Numerous agencies are directly affected by the Oxnard Forebay, including United Water Conservation District (UWCD); the FCGMA; the Cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, and San Buenaventura; Channel

Islands Beach Community Services District; Naval Base Ventura County; approximately 18 mutual water companies; Calleguas MWD; Pleasant Valley County Water District, and the County of Ventura. Numerous conflicts over water supply or water quality have arisen among the various water purveyors over the past forty years. The FCGMA was formed in 1984 to prevent a lawsuit over water rights to the groundwater of the Oxnard Forebay and Oxnard Plain Basins. In the early 1990s, the City of Oxnard sued UWCD over rising nitrate levels in its wells, rendering some unusable.

The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) both address the key issue of water quality in the Oxnard Forebay and will help the region reduce its dependence on imported water, by improving the water quality and reliability of local resources. Together, the two projects will help eliminate approximately 70,000 lbs per year of nitrate from the groundwater basin. Although there are no pending water rights disputes in the Oxnard Forebay, there is an established history of conflict, and these two projects will help avoid future conflicts.

By providing an alternate source of water, namely recycled water, the Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) will help avoid or reduce future water resource conflicts. This project, upon completion of both phases, will provide approximate 240 AFY of recycled water to offset potential future imported water demand. The initial phase of the project for which funding is being sought will deliver 150 AFY.

The local water supply protection and water quality improvements that will result from the projects in the Santa Clara River Watershed will help to reduce the conflict between water users and avoid potential future water rights disputes.

Ventura River Watershed

The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is critical as a first step to facilitating improved management of local resources throughout the Watershed. The potential demolition of Matilija Dam and resulting loss of water storage is a significant concern in the Watershed. By addressing supply and water quality issues, the project will help avoid or reduce any future water resource conflicts.

By improving groundwater recharge activities, the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) will reduce potential future water resource conflicts by maximizing the availability of local water supplies. This will help provide sufficient supplies to meet all reasonable and beneficial water demands. Water demands within the Ojai Valley exceed local



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groundwater supplies by a ratio as high as 2:1. Local surface water supplies delivered from Lake Casitas presently make up the difference. The Ojai Groundwater Basin is a shallow basin, which may be dewatered and fill relatively quickly. As demonstrated by past droughts, without additional recharge from improved facilities, wells within the Basin may be dewatered during dry periods. This, in turn, may cause conflicts between users based upon alleged water rights seniority. A principal concern among Basin groundwater users is the prospect that groundwater supply shortages could result in the initiation of litigation over Basin groundwater rights, which, in turn, would likely result in the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees that would not add any additional water to the local water supply. Reduced water availability from the Basin may also result in conflict between water users in the Ojai Valley, Casitas Municipal Water District and Casitas' other customers.

The Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6) will help reduce conflict by improving the efficiency of water use. Due to the limited water supplies available in this area and the identification of a projected shortfall, more efficient use of existing supplies is critical to help avoid future conflict. In addition, the system does not currently have adequate safeguards to ensure compliance with California Department of Health Services (CDHS) requirements. The project will address these shortcomings in the Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company system, and potentially avoid the conflicts that could result from non-compliance with CDHS water quality requirements.

The local water supply development and water quality improvements that will result from the projects in the Ventura River Watershed will help to reduce the conflict between water users and avoid potential future water rights disputes.

Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads That Are Established or Under Development

The WCVV IRWMP is strongly supportive of this statewide priority in that it has incorporated TMDL compliance into one of its objectives. Most of the projects for which funding has been sought specifically address one or more TMDLs that are established or under development.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Brine Line (C-1) is critical to implementation of TMDLs. 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. By disposing of desalter brines and tertiary treated wastewater effluent outside of the Calleguas Creek Watershed, the Brine Line will remove up to 42,300 tons of salt annually at build-out of the Brine Line and associated desalter facilities. 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 (C-3 and C-11) within the Calleguas Creek Watershed, which will reduce additional salt loadings to, or remove salt from, the Calleguas Creek Watershed to help meet TMDLs. In addition, these facilities will extract groundwater from the basin, making space available in the aquifer for recharge with higher quality stormwater flows. The WCVV IRWMP discusses additional projects associated with the Brine Line and its efforts to remove salts.

Further space for recharge may be made available by reclaiming water through the VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) that would otherwise be discharged through percolation ponds.

The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) will be beneficial to implementation of the chloride TMDL and vital to the success of the sediment TMDL. This project will reduce the salt load by removing salt-producing arundo and tamarisk throughout the Calleguas Creek Watershed. Reducing the salt loading will help to achieve TMDL requirements for salts. Arundo and tamarisk infestations of riparian corridors promote erosion by diverting flows into unprotected banks. Reducing the sediment load in Mugu Lagoon is vital to the success of the sediment TMDL and replacing arundo and tamarisk with native vegetation will play a key role in this process. Continued uninterrupted growth of arundo and tamarisk will further impair the Watershed by adding to the salt loading and continuing to contribute to uncontrolled erosion.

Santa Clara River Watershed

Portions of the Santa Clara River have been added to the 2002 303(d) list for a number of impairments. The Santa Clara River Estuary and Beach has been listed for coliform and DDT in fish tissue and a portion of the river upstream of the estuary is listed for chlorides, ammonia and coliform. Two small lakes in the Watershed have also been listed for eutrophication, trash, dissolved oxygen (DO), and pH problems.



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Currently there are only two TMDLs (chloride and nutrients) that have been established for the Santa Clara River Watershed. The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) will assist in TMDL compliance by reducing the amount of chloride and nutrients discharged to the Santa Clara River from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. An earlier phase (for which funding is not being sought) will construct a tertiary treatment facility to treat effluent to unrestricted Title 22 standards. Phase II-A (for which funding is requested) will construct a recycled water distribution system to convey the tertiary treated effluent for beneficial use. Thus, the Fillmore Recycled Project will eliminate discharges of effluent to the Santa Clara River, helping to achieve the TMDL.

Although there is not an established TMDL for nitrogen in the Santa Clara River Watershed, portions have been 303(d) listed for nitrite and nitrate. Due to rising concerns of high levels of nitrogen in the Oxnard Forebay, a significant source of groundwater for the Region, a Basin Plan Amendment has been developed which requires removal of all septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay. Both The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) have been developed to meet the objectives of this Basin Plan Amendment.

Ventura River Watershed

Several reaches of the Ventura River and its tributaries were added to the 2002 303(d) list 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, non-point source (NPS)-related.

Since TMDLs have not yet been developed, due to the lack of enough locally derived data to make an adequate baseline assessment, the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is critical for addressing pollution concerns and starting the TMDL development process. In effect, this project is the crucial first step in evaluating the need for TMDL limits. Without the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1), it would be very difficult to assess the needs of a sustainable water quality plan by the RWQCB. One of the main functions and goals of the project is to collect and interpret water-related surface and groundwater data. Water quality and supply and habitat health will be measured, monitored and modeled as part of the overall project. Once the existing levels of various constituents are known and

established, then the necessary volume reductions of specific chemicals and compounds can be estimated for future TMDL limitations and goals.

In the meantime, the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will target those pollutants on the Ventura River 303(d) list for reduction first. Action items identified as part of the process are intended to result in on-the-ground projects that will benefit water quality and the Watershed ecosystem.

Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, Plans, and Policies

The WCVC IRWMP has been prepared in coordination with the Los Angeles RWQCB Watershed Management Initiative (WMI). The IRWMP supports this statewide priority in that it considers the three watersheds in Ventura County as a region and addresses water supply, water quality, and habitat issues on a holistic County-wide basis. In addition, the IRWMP has been prepared through a collaborative process with a variety of local stakeholder groups, including RWQCB staff, through the WCVC, CCWMP Steering Committee and other committees, and, previously, the VCIRWMP Group.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The IRWMP includes numerous projects, such as the Brine Line (C-1) and desalters (C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, and C-11, although only C-3 and C-11 are included in this application for funding), to implement Calleguas Creek TMDLs that will enhance management of salts and other constituents and improve water quality in the entire Watershed. The RWQCB's October 2004 WMI report indicates that TMDLs for chloride, nutrients, organics, metals, toxicity, boron, sulfate, TDS, pesticides, PCBs, and sediment bound organics are either adopted or in process for the Calleguas Creek Watershed. The Brine Line (C-1) is critical to implementation of the TMDLs by reducing both NPS and point source pollution discharge. A reduction of up to 42,300 tons of salt per year is expected through implementation of the overall Brine Line. The Brine Line provides a means for the removal of salt that would otherwise be cycled and concentrated back into the groundwater. The Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11) will also reduce additional salt loadings to, or remove salt from, the Calleguas Creek Watershed to help meet TMDLs.



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The VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) supports the implementation of the salts TMDL by reducing the tertiary treated effluent discharged into Arroyo Las Posas, which is tributary to Calleguas Creek, and the surrounding groundwater basin. Beneficial use of the recycled water will reduce the salts loading to surface water.

The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) is critical to implementation of the TMDLs by reducing both NPS and point source pollution discharge. It provides a means for reducing the salt loading and erosion of potentially pollutant-laden sediments that would otherwise continue to enter the water cycle.

Santa Clara River Watershed

The Santa Clara River chapter of the WMI identifies two major non-point sources of groundwater contamination: agriculture and migrating groundwater. The Oxnard Forebay is a prime groundwater recharge area that is impacted by nitrogen discharges, mainly from densely populated communities using septic systems, and agricultural areas. The RWQCB undertook a study of septic systems in the area during FY98/99; in August 1999 the RWQCB adopted a Basin Plan Amendment to prohibit septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay. The amendment immediately prohibits the installation of new septic systems or the expansion of existing septic systems on lot sizes of less than five acres. Discharges from septic systems on lot sizes of less than five acres must cease by January 1, 2008.

The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) will construct a conventional sewer collection system to facilitate the abandonment of the approximately 1,400 residential and 200 commercial septic systems currently discharging into the Oxnard Forebay. The phases for which grant funding is sought are El Rio GCEP, Phase 7, which is estimated to connect 202 homes, and Oxnard GCEP, College Park Phase, which is planned to connect 250 homes.

The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) is also consistent with the Santa Clara River Chapter of the WMI, in that it will reduce loadings of several 303(d) listed constituents for the Watershed. Furthermore, the Fillmore Recycled Project will allow the City of Fillmore to comply with their Time Schedule Order (TSO) issued by the Regional Board, which has been prompted by the 303(d) listings.

Ventura River Watershed

According to the Los Angeles RWQCB, "the watershed . . . has been degraded, particularly in the lower areas

by both non-point and point sources." The WMI Chapter for the Ventura River identifies eutrophication (excessive nutrients) as a major source of water quality problems for the Ventura River Watershed, especially in the estuary/lagoon. The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will serve as the first comprehensive approach to addressing the specific RWQCB-identified topic of conformance with its watershed management initiative.

In addition, water quality is also an important issue in this Watershed, as groundwater is used for both domestic and irrigation purposes. Diversions and dams have been constructed throughout the river, diminishing flow in the main stem, and restricting both fish passage and groundwater recharge. According to the RWQCB, "reduced water supplies affect water quality and thus beneficial uses, particularly with regards to the endangered Steelhead trout". The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will serve as the first comprehensive approach and implementation of addressing this specific RWQCB-identified concern. Furthermore, the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) will directly increase groundwater recharge and supplies, thereby improving overall groundwater quality.

Implementation of the SWRCB's Non-Point Source Pollution Plan

The WCVC IRWMP helps meet this statewide priority by reducing NPS pollution. Most of the projects for which funding has been sought address NPS pollution by removing salts that could flow from groundwater into surface waters, or eliminating septic system discharges.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The Calleguas Creek Watershed has experienced salt accumulation in soils and water supplies from historic and ongoing point and NPS pollution from urbanization and agriculture. Most of the groundwater in the Watershed contains high levels of TDS, chloride, sulfate, and boron resulting from the use of imported surface water and high TDS local groundwater supplies, fertilizer use in agricultural activities, and discharges from wastewater plants. Continued use of water from these basins for domestic and agricultural irrigation needs and the resulting recharge to the basin is further concentrating salts. Each cycle of use adds salts to the Watershed, while little or no salt is exported, resulting in ongoing salt accumulation. High groundwater levels discharge poor water quality as a NPS discharge to Calleguas Creek contributing to



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impairments that have resulted in implementation of a TMDL on Calleguas Creek and its tributaries. The Brine Line (C-1), in conjunction with the Camarillo GWTF (C-3), TCWTP (C-11), and other desalters, address NPS pollution by removing existing NPS impairments and reducing further NPS discharges.

The VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) addresses NPS issues by providing beneficial reuse of non-potable water, which would otherwise be percolated as secondary treated effluent. Beneficial reuse of recycled water rather than percolation results in reduced salinity levels into the groundwater.

The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) addresses NPS pollution issues with a watershed-wide approach and facilitation of arundo and tamarisk removal, which will improve natural habitat function to filter surface pollutants, reduce chlorides produced by arundo and tamarisk, and reduce erosion caused by the presence of arundo and tamarisk in the watercourses.

Santa Clara River Watershed

The NPS pollutants discharged from septic systems affect not only the groundwater in the Oxnard Forebay, but the waters downstream as well. The Oxnard Forebay is an area of high infiltration, and includes constructed infiltration areas adjacent the Santa Clara River, which flow to the underlying Hueneme and Fox Canyon aquifers.

The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) will eliminate discharges from most septic systems into the Oxnard Forebay groundwater which is used as a drinking water supply. In particular, these projects address NPS of nitrates, and other nutrients.

Ventura River Watershed

The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will integrate the appropriate NPS Control Management Measures as developed by the SWRCB.

Assist in Meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives

As a result of the County's current dependence on approximately 130,000 AFY of imported surface water from the SWP (and the Delta), increased development of local groundwater supply and recycled water through the implementation of this WCVC IRWMP will reduce dependence on the SWP, particularly in times of drought and other water shortages. By reducing the County's dependence on the SWP, additional supplies will remain within the Delta by which to better meet

Delta Water Quality Objectives. In addition, protection of existing groundwater and surface water resources will prevent future dependence on the SWP.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

Calleguas MWD is currently dependent on approximately 130,000 AFY of imported surface water from the SWP (and the Delta). Most of this is used within the Calleguas Creek Watershed, although a portion is used in the Santa Clara Watershed. The Brine Line (C-1) will enable increased development of underutilized local groundwater supplies and will reduce dependence on the SWP, particularly in times of drought and other water shortages. By reducing the Watershed's dependence on the SWP, additional supplies will remain within the Delta by which to better meet Delta Water Quality Objectives.

The Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11) will enable the potable use of the local brackish groundwater supply and reduce purchases of imported SWP water supply by up to 4,000 AFY, initially with additional reductions in the future. Similarly, the VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) will deliver recycled water for non-potable uses, partially displacing imported water demands. These projects will provide some conjunctive use capability as they can be operated at higher rates during the higher demand summer months and in periods of drought or emergency when imported supplies are less available. The reduction in reliance on imported SWP supplies will allow for a corresponding increase in supplies that can remain in the Delta and contribute to meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.

The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) will reduce dependence on the SWP by increasing the amount of surface water and groundwater available for beneficial uses. The amount of water that could be reclaimed from the removal of one acre of arundo has been estimated at 3.8 acre-foot of water by Zembell and Hoffman (2000). The proposed pilot project is expected to reduce water demand by 19 to 38 AFY while arundo eradication in the entire Watershed could make available up to 20,000 AFY of water. By reducing the Watershed's dependence on the SWP, additional supplies will remain within the Delta, which will better meet the Delta Water Quality Objectives. Continued uninterrupted growth of arundo and tamarisk would continue to transpire valuable water resources.

Santa Clara River Watershed

Approximately 50 percent of the municipal and industrial water supply for the cities of the Oxnard



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Plain area is imported from the Bay-Delta, via the SWP. The water supply for the unincorporated area of El Rio is currently groundwater pumped from the aquifer in the Oxnard Forebay and supplied by water companies. The El Rio GCEP (SC-1) and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2) will help to ensure the reliability and improve the groundwater quality. If either the reliability or quality is impaired, there may be greater potential for future dependence on SWP, particularly in times of drought and water shortages. Increasing dependence on the SWP will reduce supply within the Delta. Protecting the reliability and quality of the water in the Forebay will lessen the potential for any additional demand on water in the Bay Delta, facilitating the achievement of Delta Water Quality Objectives.

The City of Fillmore is within the service area of UWCD, which has an existing, but largely unused, entitlement for SWP water. By providing recycled water in lieu of potable water, the Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) will help defer and potentially eliminate the need for future supplemental water from the Delta via UWCD. The additional supplies that remain within the Delta will allow for the Delta to better meet its water quality objectives.

Ventura River Watershed

The Ventura River Watershed currently does not import any surface water from the SWP (and the Delta). However, unless water quality issues are addressed within the Watershed, there is the real potential future need for Delta water. Both the City of Ventura and Casitas MWD have SWP entitlements. If necessary, these agencies can construct the necessary delivery infrastructure and call upon their entitlements to provide additional water supply. The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) will help to prevent potential future demand on the Delta and its sensitive ecosystem. The project will result in positive ecological, water supply and water quality benefits to the Bay-Delta system by avoiding the need to act on the Watershed's SWP entitlement.

Similarly, Casitas MWD is considering connecting to the SWP to address its current water supply deficit. However, projects such as the San Antonio Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation (V-2) and Senior Canyon Upgrades (V-6), will allow Casitas MWD to meet its dry year supply requirements, delaying or eliminating the need to import state water. By preventing the need to use SWP water, additional supplies could remain within the Delta. This will allow the Delta to better meet its water quality objectives.

Implementation of Recommendations of the Floodplain Management Task Force, Desalination Task Force, Recycling Task Force, or State Species Recovery Plan

DWR has led the formation and implementation of task forces for floodplain management, desalination, and recycled water. Each task force has prepared reports documenting the results of its efforts. The WCVC IRWMP includes groundwater desalination, recycled water, and floodplain management projects that help implement the recommendations of the various task forces.

Calleguas Creek Watershed

The desalination task force has recognized challenges in brine disposal as a barrier to more widespread implementation of brackish groundwater desalting. The Brine Line (C-1) facilitates brackish groundwater desalting and enables the disposal of brine from groundwater desalters, which is consistent with the recommendations of the desalination task force. The Camarillo GWTF (C-3) and TCWTP (C-11) both provide desalination of brackish groundwater which is consistent with the desalination task force recommendations.

The recycling task force has recognized challenges in creating a source of water that can be efficiently used by customers. The VCWWD1 Recycled Project (C-7) will facilitate the use of normally unused wastewater as an efficient non-potable water supply, which is consistent with the recommendations of the recycled water task force.

The floodplain management task force recommends flood management approaches for ecosystem restoration and agricultural conservation as well as nonstructural approaches, restoration, and conservation of agriculture and natural lands. The Calleguas Arundo Removal Project (C-10) addresses both of these recommendations by using a watershed-wide approach and facilitating invasive plant removal, which will restore habitat and protect agriculture from flood damage caused by the establishment of arundo and tamarisk.

Santa Clara Watershed

The recycling task force has recognized challenges in creating a source of water that can be efficiently used by customers. The Fillmore Recycled Project (SC-3) will facilitate the use of normally unused wastewater effluent as an efficient non-potable water supply, which



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is consistent with the recommendations of the recycled water task force.

Ventura River Watershed

The Floodplain Management Task Force recommends that, "decision makers should gather information and data beyond Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to better assess reasonably foreseeable floods." The Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1) is that first step to gathering the information and analyzing the data in an effort to better assess flood risks. Without the project, this much-needed analysis cannot and would not be done. This lack of critical information allows for the continued potential of loss of life and/or property from flood events. The draft "Ventura River State of the Watershed Report" (see Attachment 8) points to the seasonal (and at times catastrophic) winter floods that can significantly alter the path of the river channel, topography of the floodplain and delta, and location of estuarine wetlands. Major floods occur in the Watershed irregularly with the potential for more than one flood in any given year. Floods that cause extensive damage have historically occurred once every 12 years, on the average.

In addition, the Task Force recommends that, "a Multi-Objective-Management approach to flood management projects should be promoted. Flood management programs and projects, while providing for public safety, should maximize opportunities for agricultural conservation and ecosystem protection and restoration, where feasible." This recommendation reflects one of the major fundamental objectives of the Ventura River Watershed Protection Project (V-1). The project will bridge the gap that has developed as a result of piecemeal efforts by local stakeholders and federal and state agencies. Past efforts have tended to focus on particular issues, including specific pollutants or specific water uses, and have not resulted in an integrated watershed management approach. Consequently, significant gaps in previous efforts to protect the Watershed from cumulative impacts have remained.

Address Environmental Justice Concerns

According to the EPA, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice will be achieved when

everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

In the development of the WVCV IRWMP, public stakeholder groups participated in the decision-making process at the committee meetings and a large number of community and public outreach activities have been offered, as documented on the CCWMP and WVCV IRWMP websites. There are a few communities in the region that are disadvantaged according to the definition in the Guidelines that benefit from the projects in this proposal, as described in greater detail below.

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 could 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, the El Rio GCEP (SC-1) will facilitate the abandonment of the septic systems in the Oxnard Forebay and therefore eliminate them as a source of pollutants that are currently threatening the water quality in the disadvantaged community of El Rio.

The El Rio community is considered a disadvantaged community, but does not fall into a specific disadvantaged census tract. Ventura County conducted an income survey in accordance with established guidelines to document the median



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household income level. The income survey covered the Strickland Tract and El Rio Community (ZIP Code 93036), using the forms and methodology approved by the SWRCB and U.S Department of Agriculture. Surveys were sent to 1,301 residential parcel owners within the project boundaries. A respondent return of 75 percent goal was required, and a 75.8 percent return was obtained. Per the survey, the Median Household Income (MHI) in the El Rio community was \$24,000/year, and the El Rio community was deemed a disadvantaged community. The SWRCB has accepted the MHI for the community as reflected in the funding of two Proposition 13 grants, and the approval of a Small Communities Grant. Additionally, the residents of the community were represented by the El Rio Municipal Advisory Council in the decision making process regarding aspects of the project. Public meetings were also held to inform residents and allow them to voice concerns.

In addition, agriculture is the top industry in Ventura County, providing a crop value of over \$1 billion per year. 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). Clean and abundant water benefits all of these residents.

Assist In Achieving One or More Goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

With a vested interest in the ongoing CALFED program, agencies within Ventura County have been closely monitoring the process and, in developing the IRWMP, has clearly demonstrated its commitment to undertake local projects that reduce Ventura County's dependence on SWP water and address salts issues in the Watersheds. These activities are consistent with three of CALFED's primary objectives and are critical to the success of the program. The four CALFED objectives are:

1. Ecosystem Quality
2. Water Supply
3. Water Quality
4. Levee System Integrity

The IRWMP meets the first three objectives by reducing the use of imported water, which improves

both ecosystem and water quality in the Bay-Delta and provides additional water supply for the state.

The WCVI IRWMP represents a CALFED solution that is physically outside of the Bay-Delta, but one that results in positive ecological, water supply, and water quality benefits to the Bay-Delta system through reduced SWP water use. Furthermore, the IRWMP meets the CALFED Watershed Program Objectives of facilitating coordination/collaboration, integration with other CALFED elements, and defining how Watershed processes relate to CALFED goals and objectives.

Attachment 16 of this proposal provides a detailed discussion of how each of the individual projects meet CALFED goals and objectives.

Certainty, Breadth and Magnitude of Meeting Statewide Priorities

The certainty that the projects discussed above will meet the respective Statewide Priorities is high. In many cases, the projects, such as the Brine Line (C-1), El Rio GCEP (SC-1), and Oxnard GCEP (SC-2), are phased projects where phases have already been completed or through the IRWMP process, the projects have received financial support from stakeholders and agencies, thus improving the certainty of meeting the priorities.

The breadth and magnitude of meeting the priorities varies with the priority, but is generally good to excellent. Priority 1 is met in all three Watersheds by all 11 projects, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Priority 2 is met by seven projects across all three watersheds, which indicates good breadth and magnitude. Priority 3 is met in all three watersheds by 10 of 11 projects, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Priority 4 is met in all three watersheds by 8 of 11 projects, which indicates good breadth and magnitude. Priority 5 is met directly in two watersheds and indirectly in the third by 9 of the 11 projects, which indicates excellent breadth and magnitude. Priority 6 is met by all three watersheds by 7 of 11 projects, which indicates good breadth and magnitude. Priority 7 is met directly in two watersheds by two projects. Priority 8, similar to Priority 5, is met directly in two watersheds and indirectly in the third Watershed by 9 of 11 projects, indicating good breadth and magnitude.