



## **Section 6 Regional Priorities and Implementation**

### **6.1 Prioritization Framework**

The regional description discussed in Section 3, the planning area objectives discussed in Section 4, and the strategies discussed in Section 5, provided the foundation for the development of four main ranking categories. The four ranking categories developed are Regional Compliance, State Objectives, Regional/Local Objectives and Project Factors.

The category Regulatory Compliance describes the regulatory requirements that are relevant to the NOC WMA region. These include compliance directives issued from the State as well as Federal agencies such as the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The ranking determined for the Regulatory Compliance category is 18%.

The Project Factors category describes the critical aspects of a project. These aspects were determined to be the most important characteristics of a project to be considered for prioritization in the plan. The ranking determined for Project Factors is 24%.

The Regional/Local Objectives were evaluated and decided upon by the stakeholders and reflect issues of concern important for the entire North OC WMA. The ranking determined for Regional/Local Objectives was the highest of all with 38%

The State Objectives are derived from Chapter 2 of Proposition 84. California has a number of plans which lists water resources objectives for the state. Listed objectives are usually tailored to the focus of the state agency that produced the plan. This NOC WMA Plan uses the state objectives listed in Proposition 84 because since that is the most comprehensive list of state water resources objectives from the plans that were reviewed. The category of State Objectives includes priorities identified by the State. The ranking determined for State Objectives category is 20%

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Table 6-1 shows the general ranking categories that will be utilized to prioritize projects and the percentages determined by the NOC WMA Stakeholders

Table 6-1	
Ranking Categories	
Regulatory Compliance	17%
State Objectives	20%
Regional/Local Objectives	39%
Project Factors	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Tables 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4 show each ranking category with the specific components that were selected as important factors for project prioritization by the NOC WMA Stakeholders. The percentages were determined by compiling the rankings given by each member of a sub committee and calculating a total percentage.

Table 6-2	
Regulatory Compliance Components	
Addresses Mandatory Water Use Reduction	18%
Addresses National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Requirements	28%
Protects Endangered and/or Threatened Species	18%
Addresses 303 (d) listed Waterbodies and TMDLs	27%
Addresses Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions	9%

Table 6-3	
Project Factors	
Environmental Review	13%
Permits Secured	11%
Required Supporting Studies Complete	13%
Matching Funds Secured	16%
Operation & Maintenance Costs and Responsibilities Identified	14%
Promotes Multi-Agency Collaboration	16%
Included in Master Planning Document for Organization	8%
Demonstrates Organizational Capacity	10%



Table 6-4	
State Objectives	
Water supply reliability, water conservation and water use efficiency	7%
Storm water capture, storage, cleanup, treatment, and management	9%
Removal of invasive non-native species, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands	5%
Non-point source pollution reduction, management, and monitoring	5%
Groundwater recharge and management projects	7%
Containment and salt removal through reclamation, desalting, and other treatment technologies and conveyance or reclaimed water for distribution to users	4%
Water banking, exchange, reclamation, desalting, and improvement of water quality	4%
Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood management programs	8%
Watershed protection and management	11%
Drinking water treatment and distribution	7%
Ecosystem and fisheries restoration and protection	7%
Is "Integrated" with Other Projects (Section 75026 (b)(1) of Prop. 84, Chapter 2)	7%
Integrates Water Management with Land Use Planning (Section 75026 (b)(2) of Prop. 84, Chapter 2)	4%
Resolves Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or Between Regions (Section 75026 (b)(3) of Prop. 84, Chapter 2)	4%
Contributes to the Attainment of One or More of the Objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (Section 75026 (b)(4) of Prop. 84, Chapter 2)	5%
Addresses Critical Water Supply or Water Quality Issues for Disadvantaged Communities within the Region (Section 75026 (b)(6) of Prop. 84, Chapter 2)	5%



Regional/Local Objectives	
Protect and Enhance Water Quality	18%
Enhance Water Supply	14%
Promote Flood Management	9%
Enhance and Maintain Wetlands/Coastal Areas and Wetland Functions	11%
Manage Runoff and Its Related Impacts from Existing and Future Land Uses	11%
Maximize Funding from State and Federal Sources	6%
Promote and Support Public Education Programs and Available Information	9%
Reduce Invasive Species and Enhance and Maintain Habitat	10%
Promote Environmental Justice	4%
Enhance Recreational Opportunities in the Watershed	9%

### **6.2 Project Listing and Description**

The projects list is shown as Appendix A to this document and is not listed in this section. The projects were compiled from all interested stakeholders. The project list was developed through intense effort and collaboration to ensure projects listed are the priority for each stakeholder.

### **6.3 Impacts and Benefits**

The intent of this standard is to document potential impacts and benefits of implementation of the WMA Plan and to clearly communicate those impacts and benefits to stakeholders. In the development of a WMA Plan, it is important that participants understand the potential benefits gained or impacts by implementing a regional plan. The list of implementation projects will change as the NOC WMA region planning effort matures. This impact and benefit analysis will serve as a benchmark as the Plan is implemented and Plan performance is evaluated.

### **6.4 Plan Performance and Monitoring**

Each implemented project in the IRWM Plan will include a Project Monitoring and Performance Plan and a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) where water quality monitoring is performed. The Performance Plan will address how the project will result in measurable improvements in water supply, water quality, watershed condition, capacity for effective watershed management, and other measurable benefits.

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In addition to State-compatible data measurements, individual projects will establish other indicators of success as applicable. The following list shows the methods of project monitoring and performance measuring that are either already being implemented within the Region or will be implemented with the WMA Plan:

- ◆ Increased community awareness and participation
- ◆ Increased watershed partnerships
- ◆ Improved water quality measurements
- ◆ Acres of wetland restored
- ◆ Feet of stream channel stabilization
- ◆ Photo documentation

Each Project Monitoring and Performance Plan will meet the following:

1. Identifies the baseline water quantity available to the water supplier, and/or characterizes the baseline water quality of the water body impacted.
2. Describes the manner in which the proposed activities are implemented (if applicable).
3. Determines the effectiveness of the water or watershed restoration or management activities in increasing water supply, preventing or reducing pollution, improved water quality, conserving water, providing public access, or other water management strategies.
4. For stream restoration, environmental and habitat protection and improvement, wetlands enhancement and creation projects, and other similar projects, determines, to the extent feasible, the changes in the pattern of flow in affected streams, including reduction of flood flows and increases in spring, summer, and fall flows that result from the implementation of the project.
5. Determines, to the extent feasible, the economic benefits resulting from changes determined pursuant to paragraph (4) or (5) above.
6. Other project-appropriate environmental monitoring that will provide data important to the accumulation of information regarding the status of the Bay-Delta system as a whole.