# PROGRAM PREFERENCES

Projects in this Proposal have multiple benefits that address the Human Right to Water and IRWM Program Preferences including CALFED objectives and Statewide Priorities. How the Proposal furthers the Human Right to Water and meets the preferences to "Effectively Integrate Water Management Within a Hydrologic Region" and be "Part of an IRWM Plan that Helps the Region Reduce Reliance on the Delta," are described below. Information for each project follows. This Proposal benefits DACs but does not meet DWR's definition of addressing a critical water supply or water quality need of a DAC. There are no Native American tribes recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Region.

## THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

The goal of furthering the Human Right to Water is met by any of the following:

- Addressing drinking water contamination and improving drinking water quality
- Improving drinking water infrastructure needed to maintain and improve water quality
- Improving infrastructure needed to ensure an adequate drinking water supply
- Improving the affordability of drinking water delivered to disadvantaged areas
- Removing barriers to clean water in public spaces

The projects in this Proposal further the Human Right to Water in multiple ways. The Water Wise Incentive Program gives customers the means to reduce water use and thereby reduce their water bills – improving water affordability. Water saved by the Water Wise Incentive Program enhances the water reliability of the Ventura River Watershed. There are several disadvantaged communities within the WCVC area – one of the largest concentrations is in the Casitas Municipal Water District service area (WCVC 2014 IRWM Plan, p. 3-87), this community will benefit from the Water Wise Incentive Program. The Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company Desalter and the Moorpark Desalter both address salt contamination in drinking water. These projects provide the infrastructure needed to preserve groundwater as a drinking water source and ensure adequate drinking water supply. The other two projects in the proposal, Camrosa Recycled Water Pipeline and the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition Restoration, free up water supplies that improve the Region's water supply reliability.

## EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE WATER MANAGEMENT WITHIN HYDROLOGIC REGION

The projects in this Proposal integrate water management within the Region. The Water Wise Incentive Program directly relates to, and benefits, compliance with the Ventura County MS4 Permit by reducing urban runoff. The Camrosa Recycled Water Pipeline will deliver non-potable water to agriculture in-lieu of pumping from the stressed southern Pleasant Valley groundwater basin. The project matches water quality to use, takes advantage of existing infrastructure from multiple agencies, and creates a beneficial use for reclaimed water. The Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company Desalter and the Moorpark Desalter integrate water supply augmentation with improved water quality through salt management. These projects illustrate the importance of Regional cooperation and integration as both projects rely on infrastructure built and operated by neighboring agencies – including the Salinity Management Pipeline (SMP). The Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition Restoration is a prime example of integrative water management. By removing 30 to 50 acres of arundo, this project prevents water losses of 800 AFY thereby making additional supplies available for beneficial uses in the Santa Clara River Watershed in addition to enhancing riparian system health, improving water quality, and restoring habitat. As a suite, this Proposal integrates water use efficiency, conveyance, recycled water, water quality, salinity management, pollution prevention, economic incentives, and ecosystem restoration.

## PART OF AN IRWM PLAN THAT HELPS THE REGION REDUCE RELIANCE ON THE DELTA FOR WATER SUPPLIES

All projects in this Proposal are part of the WCVC IRWM Plan, a plan that helps the Region reduce reliance on the Delta. The first objective of the WCVC IRWM Plan is to reduce dependence on imported water and protect, conserve, and augment water supplies. Three of the five projects in this Proposal occur in areas that can receive imported water (approximately 70% of imported water delivered to Ventura County is State Water Project (SWP) water), benefit local water supplies, and therefore offset or avoid SWP demand.

## Project 1. WATER WISE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Include Regional Projects/Programs.** The Program is broad-reaching and will result in water savings in the service areas of Ventura Water, the City of Santa Paula and Casitas Municipal Water District, thus serving the majority of the Ventura River Watershed. The Program will act as a model for other water providers in the Region.

**Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between Regions.** Drought has drastically decreased the Region's water supply, including within the Program area. Mandatory conservation and overuse penalties may occur in the near future. By reducing demands by 2,350 AFY, this Program relieves local water supply pressure, prevents forced curtailments, and eases potential conflicts over limited local water supplies.

**Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED.** The three participating agencies, Ventura Water, City of Santa Paula and Casitas Municipal Water District do not receive imported water. While water demand reductions would benefit local supplies, the Program would not directly address CALFED objectives.

**Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning.** Landscape irrigation is the largest Regional water demand. This Program directly integrates water management with land use planning by facilitating conversion of over 1 million square feet of turf to ocean friendly gardens and improving landscape water use efficiency.

**Address Statewide Priorities of:**

Drought preparedness: This Program directly addresses drought preparedness by achieving an immediate, yet long-term reduction in water use, by up to 2,350 AFY, which enhances water supply reliability and the ability to meet demands during drought conditions.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: This Program directly focuses on increased water use efficiency by providing rebates for turf removal, irrigation devices, and rain harvesting materials to save up to 2,350 AFY.

Climate change response actions: Reducing outdoor water demands will improve local water supply reliability, which is threatened by more severe and frequent droughts given climate change. Demand reductions also result in reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions related to water production and transport.

Expand environmental stewardship: Improving outdoor water use efficiency and reducing irrigation runoff helps improve regional watershed health. Additionally, the turf conversion component will promote use and awareness of native plants, and related water conservation outreach can promote environmental stewardship.

Practice integrated flood management: By increasing outdoor water use efficiency and providing rebates for rain harvest devices, as well as promoting ocean friendly landscaping, this Program will reduce urban runoff and contribute to enhanced integrated flood management.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: Urban runoff from irrigation impacts water quality by transporting and concentrating pollutants. Reducing irrigation demands and the resultant runoff can help protect water quality. Additionally, reducing water demands on local sources can improve water quality, such as in Lake Casitas, where low lake levels have resulted in impaired water quality conditions.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: By reducing water demands, water supplies can be freed up to improve reliability of access to safe, clean, affordable water for all. Prior to this program, the western portion of Ventura County did not have conservation rebates; this program will benefit all customers of Ventura Water, the City of Santa Paula, and Casitas Municipal Water District.

**Breadth and Magnitude of Program Preference and Statewide Priority Achieved**

The certainty of achieving the above preferences is high assuming funding is made available for implementation. Water savings achieved by implementing programs like Water Wise are well documented.

## PROJECT 2. CAMROSA RECYCLED WATER PIPELINE

**Include Regional Projects/Programs.** This Project is a cooperative effort to provide recycled water from the City of Camarillo Sanitation District (CamSan) to agricultural users within the Camrosa service area. By enabling use of recycled water in-lieu of groundwater pumping, the Project will improve conditions across the southern portion of the Pleasant Valley Basin.

**Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between regions.** The Pleasant Valley Basin has been experiencing significant declines in recent years and is threatened by seawater intrusion. The

Basin is an important water supply for multiple users. Enabling recycled water to be used in-lieu of groundwater will help reduce competition and reduce water-related conflicts.

**Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED.** The Project will primarily offset local groundwater and does not directly address CALFED objectives.

**Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning.** This Project will benefit agriculture which is an important land use function in Ventura County. By increasing the reliability of water for this sector, this Project will help sustain this local land use.

**Address Statewide Priorities of:**

Drought preparedness: This Project improves supply reliability by enabling beneficial use of up to 500 AFY recycled water in-lieu of declining groundwater supplies.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: This Project enables beneficial use of up to 500 AFY recycled water that would otherwise be discharged to the SMP for ocean disposal.

Climate change response actions: This Project enables more efficient, beneficial use of an existing water supply - surplus recycled water. Using this supply requires less energy than pumping the same amount of groundwater thereby reducing overall energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Expand environmental stewardship: Using recycled water in-lieu of groundwater will improve groundwater basin conditions and will help improve overall health of the Calleguas Creek Watershed.

Practice integrated flood management: This priority does not apply.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: Using recycled water in-lieu of groundwater will protect groundwater quality in the southern portion of the Pleasant Valley Basin, which is threatened by seawater intrusion from declining groundwater water levels.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: Providing a new, alternative water supply for agriculture will help relieve pressures on the groundwater basin, which serves as a source for multiple beneficial uses including drinking water. As such, this Program indirectly contributes to the Human Right to Water Policy by improving reliability of access to safe, clean, affordable water for all.

**Breadth and Magnitude of Program Preference and Statewide Priority Achieved**

For the above preferences, the certainty of achievement is high given the demonstrated success of other Camrosa Projects, including the Proposition 84, Round 1 Round Mountain Desalter.

## PROJECT 3. PLEASANT VALLEY MUTUAL WATER COMPANY DESALTER

**Include Regional Projects/Programs.** The Project makes use of the SMP, which is a regional effort to facilitate use of underused groundwater resources and shows inter-agency collaboration with the City of Camarillo by making use of the City's brine line. In addition, collaboration with Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) has broad implications as the Agency manages the majority of the groundwater basins in the Region.

**Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between Regions.** The Project will help avoid the need for increased water imports, thereby reducing conflicts related to competition for imported water. The Project has resulted in enhanced communication between FCGMA, PVMWC and other groundwater pumpers in the Pleasant Valley Basin, which may result in stronger collaborative efforts between these agencies in the future. In addition, high levels of salinity have been a major issue in the Calleguas Creek Watershed for several years. This Project will improve salt and nutrient management in the Calleguas Creek Watershed through the export and avoidance of salts thereby helping to reduce strain related to water quality impairments.

**Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED.** The project helps avoid increased demands for imported water which is drawn from the Delta thereby helping address the first three CALFED objectives: Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply.

**Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning.** This preference does not apply.

**Address Statewide Priorities of:**

Drought preparedness: By enabling PVMWC to continue to meet water demands with local groundwater resources, the Project will improve local water supply reliability and the ability to meet demands with local water

sources during drought. This is crucial for increasing drought preparedness particularly since imported water supplies are becoming increasingly unreliable.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: This Project enables PVMWC to continue using local groundwater thereby increasing local water supply reliability and reducing dependence on imported water.

Climate change response actions: Improving local water supply reliability is crucial in preparing for and adapting to climate change. The Project will enable PVMWC to continue using local groundwater resources rather than depending more on imported water, which would require more energy and emit more greenhouse gases.

Expand environmental stewardship: The Project helps improve salt and nutrient management of the Calleguas Creek Watershed by exporting and avoiding imports of salts thereby improving watershed health.

Practice integrated flood management: This priority does not apply.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: The Project will enable PVMWC to provide drinking water that meets secondary drinking water standards and helps improve salt and nutrient management of the Calleguas Creek Watershed by exporting and avoiding imports of salts thereby protecting water quality.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: The Project will help PVMWC meet secondary drinking water standards while utilizing its least costly water source – groundwater. The Project improves reliability of access to safe, clean, affordable water across the PVMWC service area and directly addresses the Human Right to Water Policy.

**Breadth and Magnitude of Program Preference and Statewide Priority Achieved**

There have been multiple studies documenting the feasibility and effectiveness of this project. The certainty of achieving the above preferences is high assuming funding is made available for implementation.

## PROJECT 4. MOORPARK DESALTER PHASE 1

**Include Regional Projects/Programs.** This Project also makes use of the SMP, which is a regional effort to facilitate use of underused groundwater resources. In addition, the Project can help increase aquifer storage capacity and improve salt and nutrient management of the Las Posas Groundwater Basin, which is depended upon by multiple groundwater pumpers.

**Effectively Resolve Significant Water-related conflicts within or between regions.** The Project will provide up to 2,500 AFY of a new potable water supply thereby helping to reduce dependence on water imports and potentially related conflicts. In addition, this project is located within the Calleguas Creek Watershed where high salinity is limiting beneficial uses of the groundwater. This Project will improve salt and nutrient management in the Watershed through the export and avoidance of salts thereby helping to reduce local strain related to water quality impairments.

**Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED.** By providing up to 2,500 AFY of a new potable water supply, the project helps reduce dependence on imported water from the Delta thereby helping address the first three CALFED objectives: Water Quality, Ecosystem Quality, and Water Supply.

**Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning.** This preference does not apply.

**Address Statewide Priorities of:**

Drought preparedness: This Project will provide up to 2,500 AFY of a new water supply thereby increasing local water supply reliability and the ability to meet demands with local water sources during drought conditions. In addition, the Project will free up aquifer storage capacity to facilitate replenishment of the basin.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: The Project will enable production of 2,500 AFY potable water from currently unusable brackish water from the local shallow aquifer and within safe yields. This Project will thereby increase local water supply reliability and reduce dependency on and usage of imported water by up to 2,500 AFY.

Climate change response actions: The Project will enable production of 2,500 AFY from a currently unusable water source, which will improve local water supply reliability and reduce dependence on imported water and related high energy requirements and greenhouse gas emissions.

Expand environmental stewardship: The Project helps improve salt and nutrient management of the Calleguas Creek Watershed by exporting and avoiding imports of salts and will facilitate replenishment of the basin by higher quality surface waters thereby improving watershed health.

Practice integrated flood management: This priority does not apply.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: The Project helps improve salt and nutrient management of the Calleguas Creek Watershed by exporting and avoiding imports of salts. In addition, the Project will increase storage capacity to facilitate replenishment of the basin with higher quality stormwater runoff and other surface water sources thereby contributing to improved water quality.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: By providing a new water supply, this Project directly improves access to safe, clean, affordable water for all users of the Las Posas Basin and directly address the Human Right to Water Policy.

**Breadth and Magnitude of Program Preference and Statewide Priority Achieved**

Pilot studies have documented the effectiveness of this Project. The certainty of achieving the above preferences is high assuming funding is made available for implementation.

## PROJECT 5. SANTA CLARA RIVER STEELHEAD COALITION RESTORATION

**Include Regional Projects/Programs.** This Project is part of a large-scale effort by the Coastal Conservancy to eliminate arundo from the Santa Clara River (SCR) Watershed and improve water resources and habitat, and expands on the UC Santa Barbara SCR Restoration project funded by Proposition 84 Round 2. The Santa Clara River has great regional significance as the longest natural-flowing river remaining in Southern California, and the water conserved by the Project has wide-reaching benefits for multiple Santa Clara River water users.

**Effectively Resolve Significant Water-Related Conflicts within or between Regions.** Arundo infestations are causing significant water losses across the Region. Along the SCR arundo infestations are reducing groundwater availability of the Fillmore, Santa Paula, and Oxnard Plain groundwater basins. The arundo removal and ecosystem restoration project will save up to 800 AFY and lessen groundwater overdraft and reduced river flows thereby helping to reduce or resolve water-related conflicts between urban and agricultural users and environmental demands.

**Contribute to Attainment of One or More Objectives of CALFED.** While this Project will benefit local supplies, it would not directly address CALFED objectives.

**Effectively Integrate Water Management with Land Use Planning.** This Project is intrinsically tied to land use planning. Improving the health of the SCR helps maintain equilibrium of the riparian system and its natural ability for flood control and conveyance. Riparian restoration increases bank stabilization and improves erosion control thereby reducing the need for engineered flood control. In addition, arundo is highly flammable, hence its removal has implications for wildland urban interface interactions, providing enhanced protection to human developments.

**Address Statewide Priorities of:**

Drought preparedness: By removing invasive plants that consume excessive volumes of water compared to native vegetation, this Project will help save 800 AFY and contribute to increased local supply availability.

Use and reuse water more efficiently: The Project will contribute to more efficient use of local water supplies by removing water-intensive invasive vegetation to save up to 800 AFY.

Climate change response actions: The Project will help increase climate change resilience along the SCR, a critical wildlife migration corridor, by removing invasive species that are degrading riparian habitats and making the ecosystem more vulnerable to climate change impacts. In addition, the project will conserve up to 800 AFY.

Expand environmental stewardship: This Project will significantly enhance riparian habitat and improve instream function of the SCR through arundo removal and restoration of up to 50 acres.

Practice integrated flood management: By restoring riparian habitat along the SCR, this Project will increase bank stabilization and improve erosion control thereby helping to maintain natural flood control and reduce flood risks associated with invasive species on a long-term basis.

Protect surface water and groundwater quality: By removing arundo and other invasive plants that have numerous negative water quality impacts, including increased water temperatures, changes to nutrient flows and enhanced erosion, this Project will result in significant improvements to water quality along the SCR.

Ensure equitable distribution of benefits: By reducing water consumption by invasive plants, water supplies can be freed up to improve reliability of access to safe, clean, affordable water for all, and this project thereby helps to address the Human Right to Water Policy.

**Breadth and Magnitude of Program Preference and Statewide Priority Achieved**

The certainty of achieving the above preferences is high assuming funding is made available for implementation.