

Draft Integration and Prioritization Methods

Actions within the Sacramento River West Bank Integrated Project were integrated and prioritized according to a stakeholder-mediated process that was led by Yolo County and the City of West Sacramento. This separate process for the Sacramento River West Bank Project was necessary because of the unique issues and geography of the project area, where the main water management concerns relate to potential flooding by the Sacramento River. This process also provided communities along the Sacramento River an additional opportunity for participation, where there had been limited involvement in the overall IRWMP process.

The integration and prioritization process consisted of the following five steps:

1. *data collection*: collect sufficient information from public agencies about potential actions to allow integration and prioritization;
2. *integration*: combine individual actions into integrated actions when a substantial improvement in meeting IRWMP objectives would be obtained;
3. *prioritization*: develop an initial prioritization of actions based on their potential to meet IRWMP objectives, Proposition 50 Program preferences, and Statewide Priorities;
4. *stakeholder and public participation*: obtain stakeholder- and public input on integration and prioritization and adjust integration and prioritization of actions as needed based on this input; and
5. *implementation*: develop a strategy for implementing the Sacramento River West Bank Integrated Project.

Step 1. Data Collection

Information was collected on actions that had been suggested by agency representatives, the WRA and the public. Although brief descriptions and information about the relevant water management categories and geographic area were collected, these data were generally not sufficient to allow meaningful integration and prioritization of actions. The following additional information was solicited from agencies that originated the actions, or from the most appropriate agencies when actions were suggested by the public:

- Project goals and objectives
- Related IRWMP objectives
- Project benefits
- Impacts of not implementing the project
- Estimated project cost
- Available matching funds
- Project timing
- Project readiness

Step 2. Integration

Actions were evaluated for their potential to be integrated with other actions. Actions were combined into clusters of multi-objective integrated projects that:

1. Complement other actions that would more likely meet one or more IRWMP objectives in combination than individually.
2. Relate geographically with other actions that would be implemented in the same area, in close proximity to each other, or in some other spatially related way, e.g., along the same water way.
3. Increase public and agency support. Actions that in combination would result in greater public and/or agency support than individually, e.g., individual actions may each be supported by different segments of the public or by different agencies.
4. Improve efficiency by using fewer resources when implemented in combination than individually.
5. Reduce conflict through combinations where independent implementation would lead to greater conflict, e.g., individual actions may each benefit opposing interests.
6. Reduce adverse impacts through combinations that would have fewer or smaller adverse impacts than individually, e.g., one action may compensate for the impacts of another, or the combination of actions result in a net benefit.
7. Improve the likelihood of funding through combinations that would better match grant funding criteria than individual actions, e.g., the integrated action may fit the selection criteria for Proposition 50, 84 or other grant programs better than the individual component actions.

For example, a levee improvement project, an aquatic habitat enhancement project and a river recreation project could be integrated if they were planned in the same area. Submerged (“instream”) woody material which provides shelter for juvenile salmon could be included in the levee design. River recreation improvements, including a boat ramp or river access trail, could be included in the levee design. This integration would result in a multi-objective levee improvement project with public safety benefits to residents and businesses living behind the levee, benefits to salmon populations and river ecosystem functions, and benefits for river recreation and access.

Conversely, unconstrained integration of actions could bundle too many individual actions, combine inherently disparate purposes, or link impractical or non-productive implementation elements (e.g., timeframe, mobilization, site impacts, administration,

funding, etc.). Individual actions were not integrated where the resulting project would be unwieldy, trigger a complex and time-consuming web of regulatory compliance, or if too many actions would define a single project or program. This consideration was used in some cases to limit the number of actions that were combined.

Not all actions were integrated into clusters. Some actions already had multiple objectives and integration was not necessary. Other actions did not meet the integration rationale for combination with other actions and remained separate.

Step 3. Prioritization

After actions were integrated, when appropriate, the resulting integrated actions and remaining individual actions were prioritized. These criteria are similar to those used in other IRWMPs, notably the North Coast IRWMP and the Bay Area IRWM. Three categories of criteria were used for prioritization:

- **Responsiveness to the Yolo County IRWMP Objectives** – The WRA felt that it was important that the proposed actions would meet one or more Yolo County IRWMP objectives;
- **Preferences of the Proposition 50 Chapter 8 Program** – The Proposition 50 program funded the development of the IRWMP, and the program’s project preferences were therefore considered appropriate as prioritization criteria (implementation of projects in the IRWMP could also be eligible for funding under Propositions 84 and 1E, however project preferences under these propositions will not be available until September 2007);
- **Statewide Priorities** – The statewide priorities formulated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) listed in the IRWMP Program guidelines were considered appropriate prioritization criteria because of the regional character of the IRWMP and the funding provided to the program through Proposition 50. For more information on the statewide priorities see “Section 2.2 Statewide Priorities”.

Tables 7-1 to 7-3 show how the objectives, preferences and priorities, respectively, were translated into prioritization criteria. Several criteria occur twice in the prioritization criteria (e.g., IRWMP Objective 8 and Statewide Priority 2). These duplicate criteria were maintained because it was considered desirable to evaluate separate scores for the IRWMP objectives, Proposition 50 Program preferences, and statewide priorities.

Each action was scored according to each of the 27 criteria on a scale of 0 – 3. Scores were assigned as follows:

- “no agreement”: score = 0,
- “low level of agreement”: score = 1,

- “moderate level of agreement”: score = 2,
- “high level of agreement”: score = 3.

The scores for the criteria within each of the three categories were added and then averaged across the three categories. Projects were ranked according to this average score and the top 1/3rd were considered high priority projects, the next 1/3rd moderate priority and the last 1/3rd were considered low priority projects.

A set of other considerations were used to refine the ranking derived from performance measures and level of agreement across oversight programs. Final project prioritization was based upon a set of criteria that consider situational factors unique to the project or localized conditions:

- Total Project Cost
- Lead Agency Capacity for Implementation
- Project Readiness
- Status of Funding
- Project Urgency (including immediacy of need, imminent gain or loss of funding, compelling opportunistic conditions, etc.)
- Total Project Integration (additional consideration for projects which integrate multiple actions)

Step 4. Stakeholder and Public Participation

The method and results of the integration and prioritization process were presented to a group of stakeholders, which included (table: names – affiliation)
Based on the feedback received during and after the meeting with stakeholders the following changes were made....[to come]

The method and results of the integration and prioritization process were also presented at a public workshop held on February 8, 2007 in West Sacramento. Based on the feedback received during and after the public workshop the following changes were made....[to come]

Step 5. Implementation

An initial implementation step is to revisit project priorities in light of issues which were not certain or in consideration of changes that were not anticipated at the time the IRWMP was completed. This step is essential to ensure that implementation is properly aligned with changes in:

- Physical Conditions
- Regulatory Requirements, Limitations or Opportunities
- Funding
- Socio-economic Values
- Emergencies

- Additional Actions For Project Integration

Table 7-1. Relationship between IRWMP Objectives and Prioritization Criteria

	Objectives	Criteria
1	To ensure open and frequent communication with the public.	The action contributes to open and frequent communication with the public.
2	To integrate water resource planning and land use planning.	The action contributes to integration of water resource planning and land use planning.
3	To help disadvantaged communities with basic water infrastructure improvements.	The action contributes to basic infrastructure improvements that benefit disadvantaged communities.
4	To integrate actions to ensure multiple benefits, including recreation and aquatic and riparian ecosystem enhancement.	The action contributes to integration of actions to ensure multiple benefits, including recreation and aquatic and riparian ecosystem enhancement.
5	To provide a reliable and sustainable surface water supply from a variety of sources.	The action contributes to a reliable and sustainable surface water supply from a variety of sources.
6	To manage the county’s ground water resources to provide water purveyors and individual users with a sustainable, reliable, high quality supply of ground water to serve urban, agricultural, environmental and other uses during normal, above normal and prolonged drought periods.	The action contributes to management of the county’s ground water resources.
7	To conjunctively use ground water and surface water to maximize the efficiency, sustainability and value of the county’s surface and ground water.	The action contributes to the conjunctive management of surface and groundwater supplies.
8	To develop state-of-the-art urban and agricultural water use efficiency programs that meet statewide guidelines and that substantially and measurably reduce water use throughout the county.	The action contributes to the development of state-of-the-art urban and agricultural water use efficiency programs.
9	To meet state, federal, or local standards for water quality protection, including Total Maximum Daily Loads, in all surface and ground water resources, working closely with water purveyors, landowners, businesses, citizens, state, federal and local agencies, and non-profit organizations.	The action contributes to meet state, federal, or local standards for water quality protection, including Total Maximum Daily Loads.
10	To develop continuous water quality monitoring, management and protection programs, including institutional capacity, to ensure that	The action contributes to development of continuous water quality monitoring, management and protection programs.

Table 7-1. Relationship between IRWMP Objectives and Prioritization Criteria

	Objectives	Criteria
	water quality continues to meet standards for surface and ground water sources.	
11	To reduce flood risk in all areas of the county within 20 years, taking into consideration resource constraints and environmental impacts.	The action contributes to reduce flood risk in all areas of the county within 20 years.
12	To become a model area for flood management approaches that reduce flood risk, protect and enhance the riparian environment, and improve recreational opportunities.	The action contributes to the area becoming a model area for flood management approaches that reduce flood risk, protect and enhance the riparian environment, and improve recreational opportunities.
13	To develop innovative storm water management requirements, guidelines and best practices that enable the county to meet state and federal permit requirements, reduce the risk of flooding, improve the quality of storm water runoff, and reduce impacts to surface water resources.	The action contributes to development of innovative storm water management requirements, guidelines and best practices.
14	To enhance the aquatic and riparian environment in priority areas, consistent with the emerging Yolo County NCCP/HCP, through ongoing, comprehensive programs with dedicated sources of funding.	The action contributes to enhance the aquatic and riparian environment in priority areas, consistent with the emerging Yolo County NCCP/HCP.
15	To become a model area for integrating agricultural production and habitat conservation through the use of sustainable agricultural water use practices and habitat enhancement incentives that are compatible with agricultural production.	The action contributes to the area becoming a model for integrating agricultural production and habitat conservation.
16	To utilize a variety of tools to achieve a sustainable and effective monitoring, management and reporting process for priority aquatic and riparian habitat areas.	The action contributes to utilization of a variety of tools to achieve a sustainable and effective monitoring, management and reporting process for priority aquatic and riparian habitat areas.
17	To improve and expand water-related recreational programs, facilities, and opportunities.	The action contributes to improvement and expansion of water-related recreational programs, facilities, and opportunities.
18	To become a model area for integrating water-related recreational actions with other actions that meet water management objectives, such as flood management, water supply, and habitat enhancement.	The action contributes to the area becoming a model for integrating water-related recreational actions with other actions that meet water management objectives.

Table 7-1. Relationship between IRWMP Objectives and Prioritization Criteria

	Objectives	Criteria
19	To eliminate or significantly reduce pollution in impaired waters and sensitive habitat areas, including areas of special biological significance.	The action contributes to eliminating or significantly reducing pollution in impaired waters and sensitive habitat areas.
20	To reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues.	The action contributes to reducing conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes.
21	To implement RWQCB Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, plans, and policies.	The action contributes to implementing Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, plans, and policies
22	To implement the SWRCB’s Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan.	The action contributes to implementation of SWRCB’s Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan.
23	To assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.	The action contributes to assisting in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.
24	To implement the recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force, or state species recovery plan.	The action contributes to implementing the recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force, or state species recovery plan.
25	To address environmental justice concerns.	The action contributes to addressing environmental justice concerns
26	To assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.	The action contributes to achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Table 7-2. Relationship between Proposition 50 Program Preferences and Prioritization Criteria

	Program Preferences	Criteria
1	Include integrated projects with multiple benefits.	The action has benefits within benefits multiple water management categories.
2	Support and improve local and regional water supply reliability.	The action contributes to water supply reliability.
3	Contribute expeditiously and measurably to the long-term attainment and maintenance of water quality standards.	The action contributes 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.	The action contributes to the elimination or significant reduction of pollution in impaired waters and sensitive habitat areas, including areas of special biological significance.
5	Include safe drinking water and water quality projects that serve disadvantaged communities.	The action contributes to safe drinking water and water quality in disadvantaged communities.

Table 7-2. Relationship between Proposition 50 Program Preferences and Prioritization Criteria

	Program Preferences	Criteria
6	Include groundwater management and recharge projects that are located 1) in San Bernardino or Riverside counties; 2) outside the service area of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; and 3) within one mile of established residential and commercial development.	<i>Not used, does not apply.</i>

Table 7-3. Relationship between Statewide Priorities and Prioritization Criteria

	Statewide Priorities	Criteria
1	Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues.	The action contributes to reducing conflict between water users or resolving water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues.
2	Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development.	The action contributes to meeting TMDLs.
3	Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Watershed Management Initiative (WMI) chapters, plans, and policies.	The action contributes to implementation of WMI chapters, plans, and policies.
4	Implementation of the SWRCB’s Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Plan.	The action contributes to reducing non-point source pollution.
5	Assist in meeting Delta Water Quality Objectives.	The action contributes to 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.	The action contributes to implementation of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, recycling task force, or state species recovery plans.
7	Address environmental justice concerns.	The action contributes to addressing environmental justice concerns.
8	Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.	The action contributes to achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.