



## NORTH COAST INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

**North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP)  
Policy Review Panel (PRP) & Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) Meeting  
January 19, 10 am – 3 pm, Hampton Inn, 1160 Airport Park Boulevard, Ukiah**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **NCIRWMP POLICY REVIEW PANEL & TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 19, 2012**

*The following items correspond to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (NCIRWMP) agenda for January 19, 2012 and are in agenda order. The items below include background information for agenda items that require additional explanation and in some cases include recommendations for action.*

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### **Strategic Growth Council – Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Application**

**Background:** At the July 2011 PRP and TPRC meeting in Weaverville, staff was directed by the PRP to apply for a planning grant to the Strategic Growth Council Sustainable Communities program for development of a regional plan for energy independence, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, public health and natural resources management consistent with the objectives and approach of the NCIRWMP. Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) is providing the funding to develop the grant application.

Potential planning focus areas approved by the PRP include:

- Continuation/expansion of NCIRWM Planning Process
- Support economic development in disadvantaged communities
- Develop Energy Independence, Climate Mitigation/Adaptation Implementation Framework
- Biomass/Forest & Watershed Health Initiatives
- Develop Regional PACE/Municipal Financing Program
- Link water supply and reliability issues to energy independence and climate change mitigation/adaptation

Staff has received input from PRP members via a series of interviews over the last several months to obtain PRP member ideas and input regarding key application elements and approach.

The Sustainable Communities Grant Program is described on the Strategic Growth Council's website [http://sgc.ca.gov/planning\\_grants.html](http://sgc.ca.gov/planning_grants.html) along with the program guidelines and application directions. The application is due on February 15, 2012.

Below is a summary of the draft approach proposed by staff. Please review for discussion at the January 19 NCIRWMP meeting in Ukiah. After staff receives input and direction, the draft application will be revised and the TPRC will be asked to review the application prior to submittal. A final draft will be available to PRP members upon request.

### **Program Requirements**

The primary goal of the SGC Sustainable Communities Grant program is to develop and implement plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with AB 32 and SB 375, and achieve the following Program Objectives:

- Improve air and water quality
- Promote public health
- Promote equity
- Increase housing affordability
- Promote infill and compact development
- Revitalize urban and community centers
- Protect natural resources and agricultural lands
- Reduce automobile usage and fuel consumption
- Improve infrastructure systems
- Promote water conservation
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation
- Strengthen the economy

Other priority considerations include:

- Proposal demonstrates ongoing collaboration with state, regional and local, public and private stakeholders and community involvement;
- Proposal addresses climate change impacts;
- Proposal demonstrates strategies or outcomes that can serve as best practices for communities across the state;
- Proposal is leveraged with additional resources (in-kind or funds); and
- Proposal promotes equity and serves an economically disadvantaged community

### **NCIRWMP Context Setting**

The draft grant proposal outlines the following key points about the NCIRWMP as a foundation for the application and proposed planning work:

- The NCIRWMP has a strong focus on local autonomy – although planning is taking place at the regional scale to enhance access to financial resources, use limited staffing and other resources more efficiently, and to further common goals, the NCIRWMP respects local control, local knowledge and local approaches to achieving regional objectives. What works for one county may not work for another, and the NCIRWMP is flexible enough to accommodate unique planning and implementation approaches in different areas of the region. The NCIRWMP acts as a synchronizing mechanism between State objectives and local implementation strategies – supporting local communities in achieving State goals in their own unique way.
- The NCIRWMP region makes up over 12% of the landscape of California, and its watersheds, forests and agricultural landscapes provide critically important services to the region, state and nation, including clean water, clean air, timber, agricultural products, carbon sequestration, recreational and commercial fisheries, recreational tourism and biological diversity. The ongoing economic and environmental viability of North Coast ecosystems and communities depends on retaining functioning watersheds, forests and agricultural landscapes through sustainable management. Because of the North Coast reliance on “natural infrastructure” and working landscapes, land use planning in rural areas such as the North Coast will be very different than in urban and rapidly urbanizing areas such as the Bay Area, Southern California and the Central Valley.
- Inadequate, failing or non-existent infrastructure – whether related to water and wastewater, renewable energy, energy transmission, financial infrastructure such as municipal financing, transportation, or communications infrastructure such as broadband – is a major barrier affecting the economic success, public and environmental health of the North Coast region.
- The North Coast needs baseline data regarding the potential for renewable energy, GHG emissions reduction and carbon sequestration in order to make well informed decisions about prioritizing needs, actions and infrastructure investments. In order to finance infrastructure investments, the North Coast requires a strategy and suite of options for long term financing of built and natural infrastructure to sustain North Coast communities.
- The NCIRWMP provides a foundation of seven years of success in regional coordination and cooperation, with a strong and functional governing body (Policy Review Panel) comprised of locally elected officials and Tribal representatives, a Technical Peer Review Committee appointed by Tribes and counties comprised of scientists, planners and engineers to provide technical review and input, and a consistent and experienced staff. Additionally, the NCIRWMP Policy Review Panel has committed to transparency, stakeholder outreach and inclusion in all elements of the NCIRWMP – including dissemination of information via the NCIRWMP website, regular meetings and workshops open to the public, and scheduled meeting time for public input. This foundation is a strong predictor of success in achieving the goals of the SGC Sustainable Planning Grant objectives, and includes substantial matching funds and resources – both from the Sonoma County Water Agency and all seven counties and North Coast Tribes.

## **Work Plan Components**

### **Regional Coordination and Input**

As the NCIRWMP entity responsible for planning, funding applications and outreach coordination – SCWA will communicate with and gather input from regional stakeholders, the PRP and TPRC to inform the planning effort. Outreach and regional coordination will be accomplished via the NCIRWMP website, meetings, workshops, the NCIRWMP conference, one-on-one meetings and phone/e-mail correspondence. Tribes and Counties will perform targeted outreach, and will work with SCWA and its consultants to integrate this information into the planning process.

### **Regional Assessment, Mapping & Analysis: renewable energy, GHG emissions reduction and carbon offset potential**

As the NCIRWMP entity responsible for regional assessment and planning, SCWA and its consultants will lead a regional assessment, mapping and analysis of renewable energy, GHG emissions reduction and carbon offset potential. Sub-contracts to Tribes and counties are proposed to help inform this assessment. The renewable energy assessment/mapping/analysis element will include:

- a) existing renewable energy infrastructure and sites,
- b) potential renewable energy infrastructure and sites,
- c) estimates of megawatt production per site, and
- d) an analysis of barriers (physical, infrastructural, financial, policy, regulatory, economies of scope/scale) that are affecting the development of renewable energy in the region.

Renewable energy sources that will be assessed, mapped and analyzed include biomass, anaerobic digesters, conservation & retrofits, solar, wind, hydro-electric, geo-thermal, and wave. Land cover and land use data will be used in several analyses in different ways (i.e., forest cover data may support analyses of biomass energy potential, GHG emissions associated with catastrophic wildfire potential, carbon sequestration potential and climate adaptation planning).

The assessment/mapping/analysis of GHG emissions reduction potential will include:

- a) the role of forest management in reducing the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire and associated GHG emissions
- b) the current and future potential role of timber, agricultural and protected landscapes in reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and promoting city-centered growth and in-fill,
- c) the potential GHG emissions reductions from modifications of water and wastewater treatment and conveyance,
- d) potential GHG emissions reductions derived from modifications to agricultural and timber harvest practices,
- e) potential GHG emissions reductions derived from changes in transportation infrastructure and policies (e.g., telecommuting)
- f) potential GHG emissions reductions associated with comprehensive broadband infrastructure

The carbon offset potential assessment/mapping/analysis will evaluate the following:

- a) estimated carbon sequestration potential in the region's forest and rangelands, broken out by ownership and land use type (eg, public lands/private lands, residential, working landscapes, etc.)
- b) potential market value of carbon sequestration at the local and regional scale
- c) implications for local and regional AB 32 and SB 375 compliance

### **Innovative Financing for Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy**

Working with Tribes, Counties, economics and financial consultants, the Schatz Energy Lab, Redwood Coast Energy Authority, and the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, the NCIRWMP team will develop an innovative financing plan for energy conservation and renewable energy in the North Coast. This work will tier off of work already accomplished by the NCIRWMP team in the development of the North Coast Energy Independence Program grant to California Energy Commission.

### **Innovative Financing for Disadvantaged Community Water and Waste Water Infrastructure**

The ability of small rural communities and tribal entities to build and maintain water and wastewater systems is essential to the long-term economic and social well-being of the region and sustainability of water resources. There are successful models of North Coast communities that have overcome seemingly insurmountable economic barriers through innovative project development and financing. Working from these models, a project funding and financing blueprint will be developed for local application and dissemination through the channels of the NCIRWMP.

### **Plan Development**

As the NCIRWMP entity responsible for planning, SCWA will lead the development of plans, with proposed sub-contracts to North Coast counties, Tribes and technical consultants. The NCIRWMP planning to be accomplished with funding from SGC will include the following, all of which will be contextualized as part of the larger NCIRWM Plan.

Regional Energy Independence & Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (building on data from Assessment/Mapping/Analysis)

- Integration of Natural and Built Infrastructure (healthy watersheds/functional infrastructure)
- Energy Independence Priorities, Strategies and Actions
  - New construction (water/wastewater, buildings, other infrastructure)
  - Conservation and Retrofits (water/wastewater, municipal and residential buildings and infrastructure)
  - Solar, Biomass, Hydro, Geo-thermal, Wind, Wave, Anaerobic Digestion
  - Policies & Education
- GHG Emissions Reduction Strategies
  - Reducing VMT by retaining viable working landscapes and natural infrastructure
  - Forest management and avoidance of catastrophic wildfire
  - Broadband to reduce VMT and enhance economic development
  - Climate Action Policies and Education

- Carbon Sequestration
  - Retaining functional ecosystems (carbon markets, ecosystem markets, easements)
  - Retaining viable working landscapes (carbon markets, ecosystem markets, Williamson Act)
- Proposed list of projects and ongoing project upload process

#### Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy (building on data from Assessment/Mapping/ Analysis)

- Vulnerable Coastal Infrastructure (sea level rise/storm surge)
  - Wastewater/water supply
  - Roads
  - Communication infrastructure
- Impacts associated with volatile weather
  - Flooding
  - Fires
  - Drought
- Economic Impacts Associated with Climate Change
  - Agriculture
  - Timber
  - Recreational tourism
  - Fisheries
- Public Health Impacts Associated with Climate Change
- Impacts to ecosystems and species
  - Sea level rise/storm surge (wetlands, estuaries)
  - Volatile weather and changed climatic conditions
  - Habitat connectivity
  - Species dispersal
  - Fire/drought/floods
- Adaptation Strategies for the North Coast
- Proposed list of projects and ongoing project upload process

#### **Modular Planning Elements/Model Policies**

Development of model policies and planning modules that will assist North Coast counties in meeting the requirements of SB 375 and AB 32, that can be adopted on a voluntary basis and integrated into general plan updates, local climate plans, blueprints and greenprints. These modular planning elements will address the requirements of AB 32 and SB 375 in very specific ways that are relevant to the rural communities of the North Coast, are tailored to the resource based economies of the North Coast, and reflect the unique socio-political diversity of the region.

#### **Contract & Program Administration**

Humboldt County – as the NCIRWMP contracts administrator – will enter into a contract with the SGC and administer sub-contracts to SCWA, Tribes, Counties and others. Humboldt County will be responsible for contract administration and reporting, invoicing and the payment of sub-contractors.

## Budget

Planning Grant Element	Contract Administration (Humboldt)	Planning Lead (SCWA)		Estimated Total	Match (SCWA)
		Technical Consultants	Tribes & Counties		
Contract & Program Administration				<b>\$100,000</b>	\$0
Regional Coordination & Input				<b>\$150,000</b>	\$125,000
Regional Assessment, Mapping & Analysis: renewable energy & carbon offset potential				<b>\$810,000</b>	\$100,000
Innovative Financing for Renewable Energy and Infrastructure				<b>\$230,000</b>	\$50,000
Plan Development				<b>\$710,000</b>	\$75,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$2,000,000</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>

## Other

- It is expected that the planning which is accomplished as a result of this grant will lay the foundation for substantial future funding requests in the areas of water supply, wastewater, renewable energy, habitat restoration, economic viability and other North Coast infrastructure needs.
- Staff has been requested by the Executive Committee to set up meetings with Heather Fargo, John Laird and other agency staff to inform them of our application and provide updates on activities in the North Coast.

## **Proposed NCIRWMP Project Application, Review and Selection Process General Process Description and Preliminary Elements**

**Background:** At the July 21, 2011 PRP and TPRC meeting, the PRP directed the formation of an ad hoc committee comprised of staff and PRP/TPRC members to evaluate the existing approach to project evaluation and ranking and develop a draft proposed approach for consideration at the NCIRWMP meeting to be held January 19, 2012. An ad-hoc committee was formed and includes Supervisor Kendall Smith, Supervisor John McCowen, Kirk Girard, Sandra Perez, Toz Soto, and Wayne Haydon. Two meetings were conducted via conference call. An on-line survey and interviews were conducted of ad-hoc committee members, TPRC members, and project proponents to gather information about the existing process and recommendations for improvement of the process. The interview summary and summary of recommendations can be found at (<http://www.northcoastirwmp.net/docs.php?ogid=1000002175>).

**Recommendation:** The NCIRWMP Project Review Process Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following working draft process which includes:

- Tentative schedule for the development of the Proposed Project Application, Review and Selection Process
- Description of the PRP, TPRC and staff roles in the process
- Proposed multi-step review process description

Additionally specific elements of the NCIRWMP project review process are provided for TPRC and PRP consideration; these include draft conflict of interest guidelines, potential PRP directed project evaluation guidelines, and a proposed process for the inclusion of projects in the NCIRWMP on an on-going basis.

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### **Tentative Schedule for development and approval of the Proposed Project Application, Review and Selection Process**

- January NCIRWMP meeting: Report out of ad-hoc committee actions and summary of survey responses; PRP to consider potential guidelines that the TPRC will use as a basis for project scoring; and discuss and provide direction on elements of the Project Application, Review and Selection Process
- January – April: Ad-hoc committee and staff refine the Project Application, Review and Selection Process based on PRP/TPRC input; develop portions of the application, review and selection process
- April 19<sup>th</sup> NCIRWMP meeting: Report out of ad-hoc committee actions; PRP and TPRC review and provide direction about the final draft of the NCIRWMP Project Application, Review and Selection Process



- April – July: Ad-hoc committee and staff refine the final draft of the NCIRWMP Project Application, Review and Selection Process based on PRP/TPRC input; post to the website for public review and comment; refinements made based on public input
- July 19<sup>th</sup> NCIRWMP meeting: TPRC and PRP review and deliberate, and the PRP makes a decision about the NCIRWMP Project Review and Selection Process

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## **Description of the NCIRWMP Project Evaluation Roles**

### **Policy Review Panel**

The [Policy Review Panel](#) (PRP) is the governing and decision-making body for the North Coast IRWMP (NCIRWMP). The composition of the PRP and decision-making process is defined in Section 5.4 of the NCIRWMP [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings](#) (MoMU). The role of the PRP in the NCIRWMP project review and selection process is to set the policy and framework for the process and to ensure that the process is fair, open and transparent. As the decision-making body, the PRP provides direction about how the project evaluation and selection process aligns with the NCIRWMP priorities by defining project review and selection guidelines (*see PRP Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*). In addition, the PRP approves all projects included in the NCIRWMP and approves the region's highest priority projects for IRWM grant submittals. As defined in the MoMU, the PRP is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act and is committed to transparency and inclusion, supporting input from stakeholders from throughout the region. All NCIRWMP meetings are noticed in advance, open to the public, and all meeting summaries and information are posted on the NCIRWMP website.

### **Technical Peer Review Committee**

The [Technical Peer Review Committee](#) (TPRC) is advisory to the PRP and evaluates and makes recommendations based on technical expertise and scientific data. The composition of the TPRC is defined in the NCIRWMP [MoMU](#) and is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. The role of the TPRC in the project review and selection process is to evaluate projects for technical merit based their professional judgment and expertise, as well as on guidelines developed by the PRP and set by the funding solicitation. The TPRC prepares a draft suite of priority projects for review by the PRP.

### **NCIRWMP Staff**

The role of NCIRWMP staff during the project review and selection process is to facilitate and ensure the integrity of the process. Staff develops and coordinates project application materials; performs outreach and makes information available to the PRP, TPRC and stakeholders; clarifies outstanding issues; makes sure decisions are understood; maintains records; and performs fact checking of state guidelines and criteria as necessary.

## **NCIRWMP Project Application, Review & Selection Process**

The NCIRWMP project application, review and selection process is a multi-step process:

### **1. NCIRWM Plan Projects**

Project proponents upload preliminary project information to the NCIRWMP website on an ongoing basis; project proponents submit a signed MoMU; staff publish eligible NCIRWMP Projects (*see Draft On-Going Project Inclusion Process below*)

### **2. NCIRWMP Project Solicitation, Step 1**

At the direction of the PRP and when there is a funding opportunity, a call for proposals is announced to North Coast stakeholders. Staff develops and makes available Step 1 project application materials based on the NCIRWMP priorities and the funding source solicitation and requirements. The project application materials include an application, detailed instructions and scoring guidelines, all of which are reviewed by the TPRC and PRP and approved by the PRP. Project proponents upload the Step 1 application materials to the NCIRWMP website. A Microsoft Word version of the NCIRWMP Step 1 project application is made available for reference, for application development and for those project proponents that have limited access to the Internet. Staff provides outreach, education and technical assistance via workshops and informal meetings by phone, internet and in person.

### **3. Individual TPRC review of Step 1 NCIRWMP Project Applications**

Staff compiles and provides application materials to the TPRC for review and scoring along with scoring forms. The TPRC individually reviews and scores the NCIRWMP Step 1 project applications for technical merit based on criteria as defined by the funding solicitation, NCIRWMP PRP defined guidelines (*see PRP Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*) and their professional expertise and judgment. TPRC members provide individual scores to staff for compilation. Time allowance for the individual TPRC review of Step 1 project applications is at least 2 weeks depending on the proposal solicitation timeframe.

### **4. Group TPRC review of Step 1 NCIRWMP Project Applications**

Staff compiles all TPRC individual scores to determine an average project score. TPRC members and staff meet to discuss each project and make adjustments to their individual score based on the group discussion. Staff compiles all updated TPRC individual scores to determine an updated average project score. TPRC review meetings are open to the public and project proponents and the agenda includes a thorough review of the NCIRWMP Conflict of Interest Guidelines (*see Conflict of Interest section below*) and Public Input Guidelines, as well as time for comment from the public. All meeting deliberations, project scores, applicant and public input and recusals are recorded. *Public Input Guidelines will be developed for review and approval by the TPRC and PRP during the NCIRWMP meeting in April 2012.*

### **5. TPRC Selection of Draft Suite of NCIRWMP Priority Projects**

During the project review meeting, the TPRC selects a Draft Suite of NCIRWMP Priority Projects and draft budget amounts for each project. The selection is based on technical project scores, project scalability and potential funding allowance, as well as the overall balance of projects based on the PRP's defined guidelines for project selection (*see PRP Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*) and the collective ability of the projects to meet NCIRWMP goals and be competitive for the funding opportunity. All meeting deliberations, public input and Conflict of Interest recusals are recorded.

**6. PRP Review, Consideration and Final Approval of the Suite of NCIRWMP Priority Projects**

During a NCIRWMP meeting, the PRP reviews and makes adjustments to the draft suite of NCIRWMP Priority Projects recommended by the TPRC and approves a final suite of NCIRWMP Priority Projects to forward to the funding entity. The PRP – comprised of elected county officials and elected Tribal representatives – will make their final decision based on TPRC recommendations, PRP guidelines and other factors that they believe represent the best interest of the North Coast region. The NCIRWMP Priority Projects list will be posted to the website and made available to the public. Project review scores and review meeting materials will be made available to the project proponents and as requested, to the general public.

**7. NCIRWMP Priority Project Application Materials, Step 2**

Depending on the source funding solicitation, NCIRWMP Priority Project proponents will be asked to provide additional project information to include in a competitive regional application. Additional information may include, but not be limited to, a detailed work plan, budget, schedule, economic cost/benefits analysis, monitoring & performance measures and technical documentation that support the project. Where feasible, NCIRWMP staff will provide technical assistance to those project proponents who require it.

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## NCIRWMP Conflict of Interest Policy

**Recommendation:** The NCIRWMP Project Review Process Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following draft NCIRWMP Conflict of Interest Policy:

The NCIRWMP Conflict of Interest Policy will follow the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) guidelines and the intent of the guidelines to address obligations under the Political Reform Act's conflict of interest rules. The FPPC guidelines seek to prevent conflicts of interest in two ways - disclosure and recusal.

"No public official at any level of state or local government shall make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his official position to influence a governmental decision in which he knows or has reason to know he has a financial interest." (Political Reform Act; Gov. Code Section 87100)

"Assets and income of public officials which may be materially affected by their official actions should be disclosed and in appropriate circumstances the officials should be disqualified from acting in order that conflicts of interest may be avoided." (Gov. Code section 81002)

During the NCIRWMP project review and selection process, TPRC and PRP members will disclose any potential financial interest in a project. If a TPRC or PRP member has a potential conflict of interest, they will be expected to recuse themselves from making, participating in or in any way influencing a project scoring or selection decision.

In the interest of transparency, TPRC and PRP members will also disclose any history of contribution to the project including input in the grant development or project planning or other involvement that could potentially represent a real or perceived conflict of interest. Once disclosed, the TPRC and PRP member will determine whether these actions are a conflict of interest or prevent an objective review of the NCIRWMP implementation project(s) and will determine if recusal is necessary.

Opportunities for disclosure and reporting will occur during the individual TPRC review of NCIRWMP projects, during the group TPRC project review and during the TPRC and PRP selection meetings. The project score sheets will include a checklist and comment box for TPRC members to disclose potential conflict of interest. Project review score sheets and meeting notes will document any conflict of interest disclosures and recusals. In addition, the TPRC Chair, or his/her designee, will be selected to provide oversight during the project review meetings and act as a facilitator of TPRC discussion should conflict of interest issues arise. The TPRC Chair (or his/her designee) will be supported by staff to ensure the process adheres to the Conflict of Interest Policy established by the PRP.

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## PRP Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection

**Background:** The intent of the following PRP-directed project scoring and selection guidelines is to promote the implementation of NCIRWMP goals while allowing the flexibility to address specific funding source requirements and priorities. These guidelines are in addition to those defined by the NCIRWMP goals & objectives and IRWM Program or other funding source guidelines and scoring criteria.

### Regional Representation

Potential Options:

- a) No county left behind; Tribal projects defined by geographic boundaries of the county they are located in
- b) Potential: TPRC takes into account relative percentage of funding allocation to Tribes and to each County (e.g. balance)
- c) Project selection should not take into account past funding round amounts

### Economically Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Targets

- a) General base target for projects that are located in and benefit DACs (>X% of total funding)
- b) General base target for projects are located in and benefit DACs & Severely DACs (>X% of total funding - severely DACs; >X% of total funding - DACs) \*
- c) Project review should determine whether project will actually benefit DACs

\* Definition for DAC & Severely DAC:

- Department of Water Resources defines “disadvantaged community” as a community with an annual household income that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income
- Department of Health Services defines “Severely disadvantaged community” as a community with an annual household income that is less than 60% of the statewide annual median household income

### Programmatic Integration and Balance of Project Type to effectively implement NCIRWMP goals

NCIRWMP goals: To support local autonomy and encourage cooperation; enhance public health & economic vitality in disadvantaged communities; restore salmon populations; enhance beneficial uses of water; and promote energy independence, emissions reductions and climate change adaptation.

- a) All project types should address NCIRWMP goals and priorities
  - b) Programmatic integration and project type diversity to be achieved at the comprehensive suite of projects level (e.g. small /individual projects not required to demonstrate integration)
  - c) Programmatic integration and project type diversity achieved over time and through multiple rounds of funding
  - d) Prioritize projects that provide multi-benefits (where all else is equal)
  - e) Specific Targets as directed by the PRP to incentivize projects that address specific North Coast priorities, challenges and opportunities (e.g., promote biomass-related projects, effective in-stream flow approaches, energy retrofits, drought or specific funding opportunities)
  - f) Potential: TPRC takes into account relative percentage of funding allocation by project type County (e.g. infrastructure, natural resource, fisheries enhancement, water, energy)
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## On-Going Project Inclusion Process into the NCIRWM Plan

**Background:** Increasingly, funding opportunities for project implementation require or give preference to projects that are included in an IRWM Plan.

**Recommendation:** The NCIRWMP Project Review Process Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following proposed process for including projects on an on-going basis into the NCIRWM Plan.

1. Project proponents complete preliminary on-line project information:
    - Project Name
    - Organization Name, Type & Contact information
    - Project location address (for mapping purposes)
    - Funding Program names
    - Total project cost & Funding request
    - Start/End dates (tentative)
    - Alignment with NCIRWMP Objectives (selection boxes)
    - Project Summary & Goals
    - Project partners
    - Description of benefits (including if/how the project will benefit DACs)
    - Project management strategies/ project elements (selection boxes)
  2. Project proponent submits signed MoMU
  3. Staff reviews project and follows-up with project proponents regarding any eligibility concerns (Urban Water Management Plan, Groundwater Management Plan, proponent type)
  4. TPRC review and accept eligible projects
  5. Staff 'Publish' eligible NCIRWMP Projects; project summary included on website; include project location on interactive map; report to PRP at NCIRWMP meeting
  6. When proposed solicitation is initiated project proponents develop applications (*see NCIRWMP Project Application, Review & Selection Process*).
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## **Project Budget Under-runs and Funding Reallocation Process**

**Background:** In some cases, a NCIRWMP implementation project may complete under budget or otherwise not expend their entire grant allotment. Typically the funding agencies have allowed reallocation of funds to another project *within the suite* of projects included in the grant agreement for additional work toward the project. In previous instances where there has been funding to reallocate, the PRP has reallocated the funding to the projects within county where the under-budget project occurs. The PRP members from that county have in turn determined how to reallocate the money to project(s) within that county.

It is expected that with current and future funding there will be projects that are completed under-budget and/or will have remaining funds to reallocate.

**Recommendation:** The NCIRWMP Project Review Process Ad Hoc Committee recommends the following process for NCIRWMP funding reallocations:

### **Draft NCIRWMP Project Funding Reallocation Process**

1. Project funding reallocation within the County where the funding originated (*only within existing suite of projects in the grant agreement*)
2. PRP members from the County and Tribal region where the funding originated from determine which projects receive reallocation and the amount of funding
3. If the County of origin option is not available (no projects from the County of origin within project suite need additional funding):
  - a. Staff would announce the availability of funds to project proponents within the grant agreement suite of projects; staff would solicit project requests and description of need from eligible project proponents
  - b. Staff would determine eligible projects
  - c. TPRC ad-hoc committee formed (at NCIRWMP meeting if timing allows)
  - d. Ad-hoc committee develops criteria for project reallocation selection
  - e. Ad-hoc committee develops project reallocation option recommendation
  - f. TPRC reviews ad-hoc committee option recommendation
  - g. PRP reviews and approves recommendation at next PRP meeting
  - h. TPRC ad-hoc committee disbanded
4. Future grant applications: During the TPRC and PRP review process, projects are identified to receive priority should additional funding become available; priority given to projects within the County where the funding originated