

NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP
URBAN & MULTIBENEFIT DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT
2021 PROJECT REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS
GUIDELINES






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1. BACKGROUND

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR), is providing \$190 million in grant funding through the [Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program](#) for interim or immediate relief in response to conditions arising from drought across California. The drought relief goal is to address immediate impacts on human health and safety and on fish and wildlife resources, and to provide water to persons or communities that lose or are threatened with the loss or contamination of water supplies. The Final Guidelines/ Proposal Solicitation were released on October 29 and can be found at the following link: [Final 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package](#). According to the Final Guidelines/ Proposal Solicitation, DWR will be accepting applications on a rolling basis and evaluated at set intervals, on an expedited schedule. The current due dates include: 1. November 19, 2021; 2. December 17, 2021; and dates for subsequent rounds will be announced later.

The Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program also established a \$5 million set-aside for each IRWM Funding Area in California, such as the North Coast, to encourage regional proposals to support Tribal, disadvantaged and underrepresented community projects. The regional Underrepresented Communities and Tribal Set-Aside proposal may be submitted during a subsequent funding phase.

During the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Quarterly meeting on October 15, 2021, the Leadership Council directed staff to work with the Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) Co-Chairs and the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc committee to develop and implement a streamlined approach to evaluating potential projects to be included in one or more NCRP regional proposals for the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program funding. Given the expedited schedule of the drought funding, they also authorized the Executive Committee to make the final decision about the priority projects to be included in these NCRP proposal(s) should the submittal due date of the regional application(s) be prior to the next NCRP Quarterly meeting in January 2022. TPRC Co-chairs and NCRP staff developed a timeline, approach and project selection criteria guidance document which was reviewed and approved by the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee on November 10, 2021.

2. ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

According to the Final 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Guidelines, project activities may include planning, design, engineering, acquisition of real property interests, construction and other related implementation activities. Eligible project types include:

- Hauled water
- Installation of temporary community water tanks
- Bottled water
- Water vending machine
- Emergency water interties
- New wells or rehabilitation of existing wells
- Construction or installation of permanent connection to adjacent water systems, recycled water projects that support immediate relief to potable water supplies
- Fish and wildlife rescue, protection, and relocation
- Drought resilience planning (only applicable to Urban Water Suppliers)
- Other projects that support immediate drought response

3. SUBMISSION 1 SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change based on new information and the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Guidelines and schedule.

- Oct 18 - 31: eblast request for information from entities interested in applying for drought funding via the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant regional proposal; due date Oct 31
- Nov 10: Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee approved process and timeline
- Nov 17: notification deadline for local sponsor Applicants requesting technical assistance/support for application development; Eligibility and General Project Information due
- Nov 29: Project Information Form and final project application materials submitted to NCRP staff via email
- Nov 29: TPRC pre-project evaluation conference call meeting to review the NCRP Urban & Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant 2021 Project Review & Selection Process Guidelines
- Nov 30: project application materials provided to the TPRC for review
- Dec 6: due date for preliminary project review scores from the TPRC
- Dec 7, 9 am – 3pm: TPRC Project Review and Scoring meeting to select a portfolio of priority projects as a TPRC recommendation to be presented to the NCRP Executive Committee for final approval.
- Dec 10, 10 am: NCRP Executive Committee meeting to review the TPRC recommendation and make final determination for the final suite of priority North Coast projects for the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Regional Grant Proposal
- Dec 14: Project sponsors submit eligibility materials, if required
- Dec 17: staff submit the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Regional Grant Proposal to DWR

4. NCRP TECHNICAL AND PROPOSAL ASSISTANCE

The NCRP has a long history of providing technical assistance to North Coast Tribal and disadvantaged communities to support and develop projects that promote integrated and multi-benefit outcomes in the region. Based on findings of the [NCRP Disadvantaged Community & Tribal Water & Wastewater Service Providers Needs Assessment Summary](#), the NCRP provided technical assistance to over 20 water systems and nearly half of these projects submitted applications for NCRP Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 funding in 2019. A number of these projects are receiving technical assistance in preparation for the NCRP Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 funding in 2022; some of these projects are good candidates for Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief funding as their system needs are drought related and have been contacted.

Technical assistance and proposal development support will be made available based on relevant need and timing constraints related to the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Applications. Due to the short timeframe for application development for the due dates listed by DWR to date, projects that are beyond the conceptual design level and can reasonably be developed and packaged per the DWR requirements by the deadline will be prioritized for assistance. Projects that meet other technical requirements, but would need further technical support or fall outside the multibenefit drought program guidelines will be considered for future phases of the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant expected to be due early 2022 or Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 funding in 2022.

5. NCRP PROJECT EVALUATION ROLES

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Leadership Council (LC) is the governing and decision-making body for the NCRP. The composition of the LC and decision-making process is defined in the [NCRP Policies & Procedures Handbook, 2021](#). The role of the LC in the NCRP project review and selection process is to set the policy, decision making criteria and framework for the process and to ensure that the process is fair, open and transparent. As the decision-making body, the LC provides direction about how the project evaluation and selection process aligns with the NCRP priorities by defining project review and selection guidelines (*see LC Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The NCRP Executive Committee is a standing committee of the NCRP LC and is comprised of the LC Co-Chairs (one Tribal & one county), Co-Vice-Chairs (one Tribal & one county), and two additional members (one Tribal & one county). The role and decision-making process of the Executive Committee is defined in the [NCRP Policies & Procedures Handbook, 2021](#). On October 15, 2021 the LC authorized the Executive Committee to make the final decision about the priority projects to be included in the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Regional Grant Proposal should the submittal of the regional application(s) need to be made prior to the next NCRP Quarterly meeting in January 2022.

NCRP PROPOSITION 1 AD HOC COMMITTEE

The NCRP LC forms Ad Hoc Committees on an as-needed basis and are comprised of members of the LC and TPRC, as well as NCRP core staff and consultants. Given the expedited timeframe of the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant funding opportunity, the LC directed the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc committee to work with the TPRC Co-Chairs and staff to develop and implement a streamlined approach to evaluate potential projects to be included in one or more NCRP regional proposals for the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program funding. The Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee met on November 10, 2021 to review, discuss and approve the timeline, approach and project selection criteria guidance document which is the basis for the NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines, 2021. The ad hoc committee also directed that the NCRP Guidelines would include relevant project evaluation policies as outlined in the [NCRP Policies & Procedures Handbook, 2021](#).

TECHNICAL PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) is advisory to the LC and evaluates and makes recommendations based on technical expertise and scientific data. The composition of the TPRC is defined in the [NCRP Policies & Procedures Handbook, 2021](#). The TPRC is comprised of technical and agency staff with expertise that includes fisheries, traditional ecological knowledge, ecology, engineering, geology, agriculture, climate change, forest health, watershed planning and management, water infrastructure and energy. The role of the TPRC in the project review and selection process is to evaluate projects for technical merit based on their professional judgment and expertise, as well as on guidelines developed by the LC, Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee and set by the funding solicitation. The TPRC prepares a draft suite of priority projects for review by the Executive Committee. Scoring criteria and evaluation summaries from the TPRC are available for public review. TPRC Co-Chairs facilitate the project review meetings to ensure integrity in the process and presents the draft suite of priority projects to the Executive Committee during the NCRP Executive Committee meeting.

NCRP STAFF

The role of NCRP staff during the project application, review and selection process is to facilitate and coordinate the process. Staff develop and coordinate project application materials; technical assistance and proposal support; performs outreach and makes information available to the Executive Committee, Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee, TPRC and stakeholders; clarifies outstanding issues; makes sure decisions are understood; maintains records; consolidates and summarizes TPRC review of project grant applications, and performs fact checking of state guidelines and criteria as necessary. Per the direction of the LC, staff will support project proponents in developing the application materials where timing allows and in accordance with the source funding proposal process and eligibility requirements.

6. NCRP PROJECT APPLICATION, REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS

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

a) **NCRP Project Information Solicitation**

At the direction of the LC and when there is a funding opportunity, a call for proposals or request for information from entities interested in applying for funding via a NCRP regional proposal will be announced via eblast to North Coast stakeholders. The LC will review and refine the criteria for project scoring and selection based on NCRP goals and objectives, specific regional priorities and funding source requirements and preferences. The LC may direct an ad hoc committee to work with the TPRC Co-chairs and staff to develop NCRP application materials if timing of the source funding requires an expedited approach. Staff will develop and make available Project application materials based on the NCRP priorities and the funding source solicitation and requirements. The project application materials will include an application and a clear description of scoring guidelines and evaluation criteria. A webpage of information and project application materials will be developed; see the [NCRP Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant\(s\) webpage](#) for information about the current funding opportunity. Staff will provide outreach, education and application support via informal meetings by phone, internet platforms and email. Project applicants will provide application materials to NCRP staff via email.

b) **Individual TPRC review of NCRP Project Applications**

Staff will compile and provide application materials to the TPRC for review and scoring along with scoring/evaluation forms. This will include:

- A brief summary description of each project including a project abstract, location, and disadvantaged community status
- A draft determination of the project eligibility
- For projects that received technical assistance, a brief synopsis of the type of technical assistance provided, and who provided it

A TPRC project evaluation conference call meeting will be held prior to the TPRC project review period to discuss the general review process and go over scoring definitions to ensure calibration and clarity. When packaging the project application materials for the TPRC members, a system will be developed to randomize chronology of the project applications that TPRC members review so that project applications are reviewed in different order. The TPRC members will strive to individually review and score the NCRP project applications for technical merit based on criteria as defined by the funding solicitation, NCRP LC defined

guidelines and their professional expertise and judgment. TPRC members will review all projects referred to them unless they recuse themselves due to a potential conflict of interest. TPRC members will provide individual scores to staff for compilation.

c) Group TPRC review of NCRP Project Applications

Staff will compile all individual scores submitted by TPRC members prior to the group TPRC review meeting, to determine an initial average project score; these initial scores are meant to facilitate discussion and will be presented at the TPRC meeting. Please note, the initial scores may not represent all TPRC scores and thus should not be interpreted as an official score. Adhering to a high standard of professional conduct, TPRC members and staff will meet to discuss each project and may adjust their individual scores based on the group discussion. Staff will compile all updated TPRC individual scores to determine an updated average project score. TPRC review meetings are open to project proponents and the public. The agenda at a formally noticed public meeting will include time for comment from the public. All meeting deliberations, project scores, applicant and public input and recusals will be recorded.

d) TPRC Selection of Draft Suite of NCRP Priority Projects

During the project review meeting, the TPRC will select a draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects and draft budget amounts for each project. The selection will be based on a number of factors including: technical project scores; project scalability and potential funding allowance; the overall balance of projects based on the LC's defined guidelines for project selection (*see LC Directed Guidelines for Project Scoring and Selection section*); and the collective ability of the projects to meet NCRP goals and be competitive for the funding opportunity. The TPRC will utilize a cutoff score of 40 and above for inclusion in the regional proposal and may recommend projects to be considered for additional technical assistance in preparation for subsequent phases of the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant or Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 funding in 2022. All meeting deliberations, public input and Conflict of Interest recusals will be recorded in the meeting summary.

e) Executive Committee Review, Consideration and Final Approval of the Suite of NCRP Priority Projects

The NCRP Executive Committee will convene a meeting to present, review and approve the final list of NCRP Priority Projects. During the meeting, the TPRC will provide a summary of the project review process and present their recommended draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects. The Executive Committee will review, may amend and will approve by majority vote a final suite of NCRP Priority Projects. During the Executive Committee's review of the draft suite of NCRP Priority Projects, the TPRC will answer questions and provide information as requested. The Executive Committee – comprised of elected public officials and elected Tribal representatives – will make their final decision based on TPRC recommendations, guidelines and other factors that they believe represent the best interest of the North Coast region. The NCRP 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 to the general public, upon request.

f) NCRP Priority Project Application Materials for Regional Proposal

Depending on the source funding solicitation, NCRP 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: signed MoMU (if not already a signatory), legislative compliance

documentation and technical documentation that support the project. The timeframe to submit this additional information may be very short for expedited funding solicitations. In the event that sufficient additional information for a project cannot be provided within the requested timeframe, that project may not be able to be included in the regional application. Where feasible, NCRP staff will provide technical assistance to project proponents who require it.

Once the regional application has been approved and selected for funding, individual project sponsors will enter into an agreement, with the County of Humboldt, the NCRP regional grant administrator, to implement each project.

7. PUBLIC AND PROJECT PROPONENT INPUT DURING THE PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS

All TPRC project review meetings will be noticed at least 72 hours in advance and will be open and welcoming to the public. A conference call-in number or Zoom link will be provided for project proponents so that they may listen to the meeting and provide input during the public comment period if desired. Staff will mute the audio during breaks and include a statement in the agenda. A time keeper can be assigned to ensure that the break times follow the agenda. The meeting agenda and background materials to be used in the TPRC's decision-making will be posted to the NCRP website 72 hours in advance.

All TPRC meeting agendas include time for public comment, which will typically be limited to 3 minutes for each speaker. Public Comment portions of the meeting are not meant to be interactive and TPRC members will not engage in discussion or debate an issue with any member of the public. Public comment and materials delivered to staff from the public will be published on the NCRP website. Project proponents, interested stakeholders and members of the public will be invited to provide comment:

- on items not on the agenda;
- after the TPRC discusses the projects amongst themselves, but before the TPRC submit their final scores
- after the TPRC develops their draft recommended list at the end of the TPRC review meeting, but before the TPRC submits their final recommendation to the LC

8. NCRP CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

The NCRP 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. Under the FPPC rules, when a member has a conflict of interest with a specific project, that member must publicly disclose the specific nature of the conflict and recuse themselves (i.e., leave the room or remain silent) during discussion of that specific project. 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 NCRP project review and selection process, TPRC, LC and Executive Committee members will disclose any potential financial interest in a project. If a TPRC or LC member has a potential conflict of interest, they will be expected to recuse themselves (i.e., leave the room or remain silent) from making, participating in or in any way influencing a project scoring or selection decision.

In the interest of transparency, TPRC, LC and Executive Committee 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, LC and Executive Committee member will determine whether these actions constitute a conflict of interest or will prevent an objective review of the NCRP implementation project(s) and will determine if recusal is necessary. The LC, Executive Committee or TPRC member may wish to request the advice of their colleagues on the LC or TPRC to make their determination.

Opportunities for disclosure and reporting will occur during the individual TPRC review of NCRP projects, during the group TPRC project review and during the TPRC and Executive Committee 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 Co-Chairs, 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 Co-Chairs, or his/her designee, will be supported by staff to ensure the process adheres to the Conflict of Interest Policy established by the LC.

9. LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DIRECTED GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT SCORING & SELECTION

The intent of the following LC-directed project scoring and selection guidelines is to promote the implementation of NCRP goals while allowing the flexibility to address specific regional priorities and funding source requirements. These guidelines are in addition to those defined by the NCRP goals & objectives and other funding source guidelines and scoring criteria. The LC includes the following preferences and priority considerations in its decision-making process:

Regional Representation

The Executive Committee will make every effort to ensure geographic representation by including projects from each of the seven counties and from the north, central and southern Tribal areas of the North Coast Region, should they be submitted. This guideline will apply only to those projects which are eligible for funding under the NCRP and other state and federal requirements, and which have met the technical criteria established by the Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Committee and evaluated by the Technical Peer Review Committee.

Jurisdictional Notification & Coordination

Where appropriate, project applicants are required to demonstrate that they have notified counties and Tribes re: proposed projects in the proposed project impact area of a particular watershed or relevant area of County or Tribal interest. Project applicants should demonstrate coordination and outreach to potentially interested stakeholders including Tribes in the relevant watershed or project impact area; including source and receiving water areas.

Economically Disadvantaged Community ¹

In an effort to build capacity and extend services to communities that are under-served and/or limited by economic barriers, the TPRC will include screening criteria that will confer additional weight to projects that, in addition to meeting other NCRP criteria, will benefit North Coast disadvantaged communities. The Executive Committee reserves the right to prioritize disadvantaged community projects, based on a project's ability to mitigate threats to public health, watershed health, and the economic and public health benefits that project implementation would bring to these communities. Map layers of disadvantaged communities may be viewed on the NCRP website [Data interactive map](#).

Programmatic Integration & Balance of Project Type to effectively implement NCRP goals

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

- a) All project types should address grant requirements and NCRP priorities, goals and objectives
- b) Programmatic integration and project type diversity will be achieved at the portfolio level - (e.g., small /individual projects not required to demonstrate integration of all priorities, yet they must contribute to a comprehensive suite of projects that achieve a multi-benefit, integrated program)
- c) Programmatic integration and project type diversity will be achieved over time and through multiple rounds of funding
- d) Projects that provide multi-benefits will be prioritized (where all else is equal)
- e) Projects that address specific targets as identified by the LC, including specific North Coast objectives, challenges and opportunities may be prioritized by the LC

10. NCRP PROJECT PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA

All Criteria are scored on a 0 – 10 point basis, with a weighting factor applied where:

- **9-10 points:** the criterion is fully addressed, achieves significant outcomes and is supported by thorough and well-presented documentation & logical rationale
- **7-8 points:** the criterion is fully addressed, achieves significant outcomes but is not supported by thorough documentation or sufficient rationale
- **5-6 points:** the criterion is addressed, achieves moderate outcomes and is supported by thorough and well-presented documentation & logical rationale
- **3-4 points:** the criterion is marginally addressed, achieves moderate outcomes but is not supported by thorough documentation or sufficient rationale
- **1-2 points:** the criterion is marginally addressed, but achieves outcomes that are low in significance
- **0 points:** the criterion is not addressed

¹ Definition for: Economically Disadvantaged Community (DAC): A community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income.

Definition for: Severely Economically Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): A community with an annual household income that is less than 60% of the statewide MHI.

NCRP PROJECT PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA	QUESTION #	WEIGHTING FACTOR	RANGE OF POINTS
<p>ELIGIBILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project sponsor is an eligible grant applicant The project addresses at least one of the NCRP Objectives The project type is eligible for the current funding solicitation NCRP MoMU signatory DWR Eligibility (Urban Water Management, Surface Water Diverter, Groundwater Management, CASGEM, and Stormwater Management Plan compliance) 	<p>Project summary</p> <p>Eligibility form: Q# C</p>		<p>y/n</p>
<p>DROUGHT IMPACTS</p> <p>Drought impacts of the community/area benefiting from the project are clearly described including but not limited to, impacts on water supply, water quality, and lack of flow for in-stream wildlife.</p>	<p>Project form: Q# 5, 11, 12</p> <p>Eligibility form: Q# A. 10</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>0 – 20</p> <p>(0-10 x 2)</p>
<p>PROJECT INFORMATION</p> <p>The project sponsor has demonstrated sufficient capacity to implement the project, including reporting requirements.</p> <p>The project description clearly demonstrates how the project will help alleviate the identified drought impacts</p> <p>The project responds to critical human and/or wildlife emergency²</p>	<p>Project form: Q# 4, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19</p> <p>Eligibility form: Q# A. 2, 6, 7, 8, 9</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0 - 10</p>
<p>PROJECT BENEFITS</p> <p>The project description identifies a primary and other benefits and describes how the project will achieve the claimed benefits.</p> <p>The project directly benefits communities that can demonstrate meeting or significantly contributing to the 15% voluntary water conservation goal included in Executive Order N-10-21³</p>	<p>Project form: Q# 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0 - 10</p>

² According to the Final Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Guidelines, an emergency project is considered a current water supply shortage and/or water quality emergency of a dimension which significantly impacts water supply and, thereby, endangers the public health, safety or welfare of a specific community, region, or a species of concern or a species listed on either the California or Federal Endangered Species Acts.

³ DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief funding priority criterion. In July Governor Newsom enacted [Executive Order N-10-21](#) to “preserve the State’s surface and groundwater supplies and better prepare for the potential for continued dry conditions next year, and to join existing efforts by agricultural water users, public water systems, and governmental agencies to respond to water shortages, I call on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels.”

NCRP PROJECT PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA	QUESTION #	WEIGHTING FACTOR	RANGE OF POINTS
<p>PROJECT BENEFITS TO TRIBAL or DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES</p> <p>The project is located in and benefits a Tribal community. [4 points]</p> <p>The project is located in and benefits an economically disadvantaged community. [2 points]</p> <p>The project also is located in and benefits a severely economically disadvantaged community. [2 points]</p> <p>The project benefits a community facing a Human Right to Water challenge. [2 points]⁴</p>	<p>Project summary</p> <p>Project form: Q# 4, 11, 12</p> <p>Eligibility form: Q# B & D</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0 - 10</p>
<p>PROJECT BUDGET</p> <p>The Financial Need description clearly demonstrates a need for state funds to complete the project</p> <p>The Project Budget describes the additional funds necessary to complete the project on schedule and how they have or will be secured.</p>	<p>Project form: Q# 13, 14, 15</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0 - 10</p>
<p>PROJECT SCHEDULE</p> <p>The schedule demonstrates that the project will be complete by March 31, 2026</p> <p>The project that can commence immediately upon receiving funding due to having completed CEQA and secured other environmental approvals, acquired necessary land or landowner permission, and completed plans and specifications.⁵</p>	<p>Project form: Q# 16, 17, 18, 19, 20</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>0 - 10</p>
<p>TOTAL SCORE</p>			<p>0 – 70</p>

The TPRC will utilize a cutoff score of 40 and above for inclusion in the regional proposal and may recommend projects to be considered for additional technical assistance in preparation for subsequent phases of the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant or Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 funding in 2022.

⁴ Since 2012, California law (Assembly Bill 685) has declared that every person in the state has a right to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water. In 2019, Gov. Newsom signed SB 200 to provide funding to achieve the goal to “provide safe drinking water in every California community, for every Californian.”

In January 2021, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) released its final Human Right to Water Framework and Data Tool (CalHRTW 1.0)—comprised of an [interactive web tool](#) and report, [Achieving the Human Right to Water in California: An Assessment of the State’s Community Water Systems](#). Staff provided score results for water quality, water accessibility and water affordability in the project summary and project description.

⁵ DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant funding priority criterion