

LAKE DON PEDRO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal

Project Consistency with an Adopted IRWM Plan

In 2014 as part of the preparation of the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Plan, the Yosemite-Mariposa RWAC received project proposals from member agencies and organizations, including LDPCSD. The RWAC Project Evaluation Committee completed their review and reported the results of their evaluations at the RWAC meeting on April 23, 2014. In the spring of 2015, a second call for projects was conducted by the Yosemite-Mariposa RWAC in order to update information on previously proposed projects and also identify new projects for consideration for the 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant. The projects received from the various project proponents were vetted for consistency with the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Plan and incorporated into the plan.

All three projects included in this Proposal have been fully vetted and included in the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Plan. Project 1 (Drought Emergency Groundwater Supply Wells) and Project 3 (Service Line Replacement Project) are included as projects proposed by LDPCSD as lead agency. Project 2 (Regional Water Use Efficiency Program) has been included with the project lead agency indicated as the Mariposa County Resources Conservation District (RCD). The project has since been modified to have LDPCSD as the project lead for the purposes of this application, since the majority of the water users to be targeted for the program will be in the LDPCSD service area.

Each project included in this Proposal is consistent with the 2014 Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Plan and contributes to meeting multiple objectives identified in the adopted Plan as described below.

PROJECT 1 - DROUGHT EMERGENCY GROUNDWATER SUPPLY WELLS

The Drought Emergency Groundwater Supply Wells project will produce about 141 acre-feet per year (AFY) of critical water supply for LDPCSD customers, and is therefore contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective A, which is to “provide reliable water supplies to meet all domestic water needs in the Region by 2035.” In addition, this project would also reduce the reliance on surface water supply sources and would allow 0.4 cubic feet per second (CFS) of flow to remain in conserved storage for instream flows in the Lower Merced River, enhancing critical habitat for sensitive anadromous species including chinook salmon and steelhead, which is particularly valuable during drought periods. Therefore, the project also contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective M (“protect special status and sensitive species and preserve and restore 10,000 acres by 2025 and 20,000 acres by 2035”) and Objective N (“conserve and ensure the presence of non-fragmented wildlife corridor habitats”).

PROJECT 2 – REGIONAL WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The Regional Water Use Efficiency Program will conserve approximately 36 AFY throughout Mariposa County. This Program will provide immediate water conservation results, and ease pressures on the limited water supply available, and therefore contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective A, “provide reliable water supplies to meet all domestic water needs in the Region by 2035.” In addition, this two-year Program includes education and outreach as well as incentive rebates to promote Water Use Efficiency practices in Mariposa County. Therefore, it also contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective C, “promote Water Use Efficiency (WUE) practices throughout the Region and educate 80% of households and businesses by 2020.” Furthermore, water savings as a result of this Program will contribute to additional instream flows for the Merced River and benefit downstream habitat, including sensitive anadromous fish species. Therefore, it also contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective M (“protect special status and sensitive species and preserve and restore 10,000 acres by 2025 and 20,000 acres by 2035”) and Objective N (“conserve and ensure the presence of non-fragmented wildlife corridor habitats”).

PROJECT 3 – SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

The Service Line Replacement program will conserve approximately 69 AFY of critical water supply by replacing water supply service lines that are over 40 years old and thereby reduce water loss due to leakages. Therefore, it contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective A, “provide reliable water supplies to meet all domestic water needs in the Region by 2035” as well as Objective G, “rehabilitate or replace aging and inadequate water and waste water distribution/collection, treatment, and disposal infrastructure by 2035.” Furthermore, water savings as a result of this project will contribute to additional instream flows for the Merced River and benefit downstream habitat, including sensitive anadromous fish species. Therefore, it also contributes to meeting IRWM Plan Objective M (“protect special status and sensitive species and preserve and restore 10,000 acres by 2025 and 20,000 acres by 2035”) and Objective N (“conserve and ensure the presence of non-fragmented wildlife corridor habitats”).