



PROPOSITION 1
IRWM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM
Draft 2018 Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Please note: These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are based on the Draft Proposition 1 2018 Guidelines and Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) released on October 5, 2018. Answers are subject to change pending any changes made to the 2018 Guidelines and Proposal PSP following the public comment period. This document will be updated on a regular basis. Please check [our website](#) frequently for updates.

1. How much funding will be made available through the Proposition 1 Implementation Grant Program?

Proposition 1 allocated \$510 million to DWR for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program. A total of approximately \$403 million will be made available for Implementation grants.

2. How much funding will be available for implementation grants in Round 1?

DWR asked each of the twelve Proposition 1 Funding Areas to provide feedback during the public comment period (October 5 - December 14) as to how much funding should be made available during Round 1, based on the Funding Area's unique financial needs and readiness. See the [Draft PSP](#) Table 2 for proposed amounts to be made available and the [Cover Letter](#) for more information.

3. How much funding is available for implementation projects that benefit Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)?

Proposition 1 requires that at least 10% of authorized funds (\$51 million) be awarded to implementation projects that directly benefit Disadvantaged Communities. This requirement will be applied on a per Funding Area basis. As a starting point, DWR has proposed that 35% of these funds be made available in Round 1 (See Table 2 in the [Draft PSP](#) for details), with the goal of ensuring adequate funds available in subsequent rounds for projects developed through the DACI program. However, DWR recognizes that each Funding Area's needs are unique and has asked Funding Areas to provide feedback regarding how much funding they are ready for in Round 1. Table 2 amounts may change in the Final PSP based on Funding Area feedback.

4. Can a Funding Area apply for more grant funding for Implementation Projects that benefit DACs than their allotted Round 1 DAC maximum?

Yes. However, any additional funding for DAC projects above the DAC Implementation Round 1 maximum will come from General Implementation funds. This will not reduce the amount of funding required to be allocated to projects benefitting DACs in future funding rounds.

5. If a Funding Area is unable to reach consensus on a maximum available funding amount for Round 1, how will the funding available for Round 1 be determined?

DWR would prefer that the Funding Area reach consensus on their own based on each Funding Area's needs and project readiness. If not, DWR will default to the amounts listed in the Draft PSP (Table 2).

6. *What if a Funding Area is unable to reach consensus on a Funding Area Pre-Application Workshop date and location?*

DWR would prefer that the Funding Area reach consensus on their own, but if necessary DWR will choose the workshop date and location.

7. *What is the purpose of the Funding Area Pre-Application Workshop?*

The primary objective is to ensure open and transparent communication amongst and between stakeholders in the regions (including traditionally underrepresented communities, DACs and Tribes), DWR and other funding agencies, about proposed projects and how those projects meet the unique needs of the regions in the Funding Area. It's an opportunity to receive feedback on proposed projects prior to the submittal of a grant application. Applicants must participate in the Workshop to be eligible to submit an application for Round 1 IRWM Implementation grant funding.

8. *What is the role of the Funding Area Point of Contact (POC)?*

Each Funding Area is being asked to designate a single point of contact to coordinate and schedule the Funding Area Pre-Application Workshop. The POC serves as a logistics and communications liaison between DWR and the IRWM regions within their Funding Area. Their role ends after each region has received feedback from the Funding Area workshop.

9. *Is each Funding Area required to submit a single grant application?*

No. Applications may be submitted by each IRWM region, or two or more regions may coordinate to submit an application. Please note, a coordinated Funding Area application will result in a single grant agreement/grantee for the Funding Area. (There may be multiple Local Project Sponsors within one grant agreement).

10. *Does an updated IRWM Plan need to be submitted to DWR prior to application submission?*

Yes. IRWM Plans updated to the 2016 Plan Standards must be submitted to DWR for review prior to applying for grant funding. Please note, the Plan must be deemed consistent by DWR and adopted by the Grantee and all local project sponsors prior to agreement execution. Additionally, all projects included in the grant agreement must be included in the adopted IRWM Plan.

11. *Does CEQA/NEPA and permitting need to be completed prior to application submission?*

No. However, proposed projects must have all CEQA documentation adopted and any permits necessary to begin construction, within six (6) months after Final Awards are announced or prior to agreement execution, whichever occurs first. Projects providing benefits entirely to DACs, EDAs, or Tribes, or projects implemented Tribes will be exempt from this time requirement.

12. *Are CEQA expenses eligible for grant reimbursement?*

Costs associated with CEQA activities are not eligible for grant reimbursement, unless the project provides benefits entirely to DACs, EDAs, or Tribes, or projects implemented by Tribes.

13. *Are CEQA expenses eligible to count towards local cost share?*

Yes.

14. Does CEQA/NEPA and/or permitting need to be completed prior to grant Agreement execution?

Yes. A grant agreement will not be executed until the CEQA process is completed and permits needed to begin construction acquired. If CEQA/permitting is not completed for a project within six months of the funding award, that project will be deemed ineligible to receive grant funding under this solicitation and the total grant award will be reduced by the project amount. Funding awarded to the ineligible project will be made available to the Funding Area in future funding rounds on a competitive basis. No replacement or substitute project(s) will be accepted. Projects providing benefits entirely to DACs, EDAs, or Tribes, or projects implemented by Tribes will be exempt from this requirement.

15. What if my project provides only partial benefits to a DAC, EDA, or Tribe?

If a project does not provide benefits entirely to a DAC, EDA, or Tribe, then CEQA and permitting must be completed within the six (6) month timeframe. However, a project that partially benefits a DAC or EDA can be eligible for a local cost share waiver or reduction based on the percent of DAC/EDAs served. (Tribes are not eligible for a cost share waiver unless they also meet the definition of DAC/EDA).

16. How would an IRWM region participate in the application process when a proposed project(s) falls within more than one Funding Areas?

In such circumstances, an applicant has two options: (1) an applicant may submit two separate applications, one to each Funding Area, or alternatively (2) an applicant may submit one application that covers multiple Funding Areas which will need to be submitted before the due date of whichever Funding Area is due first. DWR requests that proponents of projects overlapping multiple funding areas contact us as soon as possible to coordinate.

17. How would an applicant determine if a project is located in an Economically Distressed Area (EDA)?

First, navigate to DWR's [Mapping Tools link](#), find the Economically Distressed Areas tab, and then expand the "Instructions" option. Click on and read the [Proposition 1 Economically Distressed Area Instructions](#); Table 2 will provide the EDA criteria to assist in determination. Use the [EDA map](#) in conjunction with the instruction to assist in EDA determination.

18. Is a cost-benefit analysis required?

No. A full scale economic evaluation or cost benefit analysis is not required, however, grant applicants will be required to describe how cost was considered/assessed during the project development and selection process.

19. How will the grant administration cost-cap be applied?

Grant administration costs proposed to be reimbursed by the grant fund cannot exceed 10% of the requested grant amount for the proposal. The 10% cap includes grant administration for the Grantee and each local project sponsor.



20. The community getting project benefits was previously identified as a DAC on DWR’s mapping tool; however, after the mapping tool was updated this community was no longer identified as disadvantaged. What can I do?

As described in the [Draft 2018 Guidelines](#) - Appendix E , DWR’s will consider the use of alternate data to show a community is a DAC. Please contact DWR’s Financial Assistance Branch as soon as possible for assistance on how alternate data may be used to determine whether a community is a DAC.

21. If my project was developed through DWR’s DAC Involvement Program, will it qualify for all of the DAC benefits and exemptions in the Proposition 1 IRWM implementation program?

Not necessarily. Proposition 1, as well as other related legislation provided a variety of benefits or exemptions to help various previously underrepresented communities participate in the IRWM program. There are different requirements to qualify for each of these exemptions. In cases where these requirements are defined my legislation, DWR cannot make any changes to these requirements. See the table below for a quick guide to how different communities qualify for these benefits and exemptions, and the [Draft 2018 Guidelines](#) and [Draft PSP](#) for full details.

Community Type	DAC Implementation Project Funding	Local Cost Share Wavier/ Reduction	Exempt from CEQA 6-month eligibility requirement	Advanced Payment
	Water Code §79742(d)	Water Code §79742(c)	Prop 1 Draft PSP	Water Code §10551
Disadvantaged Community (DAC)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Economically Distressed Area (EDA)		✓	✓	
Tribe			✓	
Non-Profit [501(c)(3)]				✓

This table provides a checklist of available funding options and benefits/exemptions for different community types under the Proposition 1 – Implementation Grant Program. See Draft 2018 Guidelines and Draft PSP for full details.