

Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Round 2 Frequently asked Questions



[Round 2 Application Process & Proposal Solicitation Package](#)

Q: When are the deadlines to apply for Proposition 1 Round 2 Implementation funding?

A: The deadlines are August 19, 2022 and February 1, 2023.

Q: Does an entire Funding Area need to agree on an application deadline, or can individual regions choose their own deadline?

A: In Funding Areas that plan to request more funding than what is available, the regions will need to agree on one single application date. Funding Areas that have agreed not to exceed the total request more than the available funding (Cooperative Funding Areas) can have IRWM regions apply on different dates; however, DWR would prefer to receive all applications in the same timeframe for the entire Funding Area for efficiency.

Q: Will there be a cap on the number of applications received at each deadline?

A: DWR does not plan to put a hard cap on the number of applications, but it will depend on the requests we receive.

Q: If a proposal doesn't get an award in the first cycle, will it automatically be considered for the second cycle?

A: This solicitation does not have cycles in which applications roll over to. There are two deadlines, and each project will be evaluated when submitted.

Q: When does DWR expect to get IRWM Region contracts in place?

A: We anticipate executing the grant agreements within six months after the release of final awards. However, that depends greatly on the responsiveness of the grantee and local project sponsors to DWR's requests for information during the agreement development process.

Q: Are pre-application workshops required?

A: Pre-application workshops are not required for Round 2. However, we understand that many regions found the workshops to be helpful in Round 1; therefore, each IRWM region (or a collection of regions within a Funding Area) has the option of scheduling an informal virtual pre-application meeting with DWR until August 5 for the applications to be submitted by August 19.

Q: After the application is submitted, does DWR communicate with applicants/regions?

A: Once an application is submitted, we will do an initial check of the application for eligibility and completeness. Applicants will be given a week to resolve any issues that are identified and submit corrected materials. However, we will not allow submission of any new materials after that point, and we must score the application based on the materials submitted by the application deadline.

Q: Are Cooperative Funding Areas still required to submit a scope, schedule, and budget for each

project?

A: Yes, DWR will still need to review the scope, schedule, and budget for each project to check for ineligible components and to initiate development of the grant agreement.

Q: Will DWR fund all the projects in a proposal or only the highest scored projects in a proposal?

A: If the requested funding exceeds the available funding, DWR will score eligible projects and award funds to the highest scoring proposal although DWR may elect to award partial funding. Please note each proposal receives a Disadvantaged Community score and a General Implementation score. For Funding Areas that do not request more than the available funding, DWR will fund all projects in the proposal if funding is available and all projects are eligible.

Q: What proof is required for a Funding Area to show that it is Cooperative rather than Competitive (e.g., MOU, letter, or other proof of agreement)?

A: Any of those documents would be acceptable.

Q: For Cooperative Funding Areas with multiple IRWM Regions, if DWR determines that one or more of the IRWM Regions' process does not meet its competitive criteria, will DWR score those regions and not the others?

A: Proposition 1 requires that DWR conduct a competitive grant program as well as prioritize certain types of projects. For this solicitation, we have determined that the competitive project vetting process conducted at the regional level shall satisfy the Prop 1 requirement. If a region can demonstrate that its process was competitive and fair, DWR will not need to score the application.

Q: How will DWR determine whether an IRWM Region's scoring process is "fair and competitive?"

A: DWR will review Attachment 7 to check if the applicant has met all the requirements outlined in the Proposal Solicitation Package.

Q: In the IRWM Project Selection Process Form (Attachment 7), what does "special consideration" mean?

A: This is up to each Region to determine. DWR places special consideration through the application scoring criteria.

Q: If IRWM region has been identified as an area where contaminants listed in AB 1249 exist, does the proposal have to contain projects that address the contaminants in order to be eligible?

A: The proposal does not have to contain projects that address the contaminants to be eligible, but the applicant must include an explanation of why the proposal does not contain any projects addressing the contaminants.

Q: Can DWR clarify the award of the one (1) point for the AB 1249? If an IRWM Region has contaminants and provides an explanation for why projects addressing the contaminants were not included in the proposal, would the Region still receive the one point?

A: If the Region has contaminants and doesn't choose a project that addresses those contaminants, the proposal will not receive a point.

Q: Will pilot projects still be eligible as Decision Support Tools?

A: Pilot projects are eligible as a Decision Support Tool if the project meets the definition of a Decision Support Tool as per guidance provided by DWR. We encourage applicants to reach out to DWR early to

discuss the project concept.

Q: If a Feasibility/Decision Support tool project is submitted, does it also need to have at least one quantified benefit to be deemed eligible?

A: No. Decision Support Tools are exempted from that eligibility requirement.

Q: What type of parameters are you looking for regarding the quantified benefit? What are examples of a quantified benefit?

A: Examples of quantified benefits would be “5 acre-feet conserved,” “15 acre-feet supplied,” etc. More information on quantified benefits can be found in Exhibit A under General Project Eligibility in the draft Proposal Solicitation Package.

Tribes & Disadvantaged Communities

Q: Can general implementation funds be awarded to Disadvantaged Community (DAC) projects?

A: Yes. The Grant recipient will also be eligible for Cost share waiver.

Q: Will DWR waive or be flexible with CEQA requirements for Disadvantaged Communities or URC projects?

A: Projects that benefit Disadvantaged Communities will still need to complete all the necessary CEQA requirements and acquire necessary permits (to begin construction) before we can reimburse for construction costs or land purchases.

Q: Will Tribal partner projects be treated the same as Disadvantaged Communities projects when it comes to CEQA requirements?

A: Yes.

Q: Will NEPA documents be acceptable to satisfy CEQA requirements for Tribal projects? Will DWR provide guidance on their concurrence for NEPA documentation?

A: All state funds recipient are subject to comply with the CEQA requirements. An awardee may be able to use NEPA documents to satisfy the requirements of CEQA (see Section 15221 of the CEQA Guidelines for more information). DWR does not complete concurrence for NEPA findings, but NEPA documentation and all required permits will need to be submitted as deliverables before DWR can reimburse a project’s construction costs.

Q: How would the overall proposal level cost share take into account any lower cost share percentage for DAC/Tribal projects (at the project level)?

A: The total project cost of each project multiplied by the appropriate cost share waiver is summed, and that number is applied at the proposal level. This means that the cost share can be distributed across projects at the applicant’s discretion, but the total needs to meet the proposal level requirement. In the example below, the total required cost share for the proposal is \$125,000. The actual distribution of cost share among Projects may be determined by the Grantee and their Local Project Sponsors. If you are uncertain of the proposal level cost share requirement, please contact us and we can help you calculate it.

	Total project cost	DAC/EDA Benefit	Required cost share (Percentage of total project cost)	Contribution to calculation of required cost share

Project 1	\$100,000	0%	50%	\$50,000
Project 2	\$100,000	0%	50%	\$50,000
Project 3	\$100,000	100%	0%	\$0
Project 4	\$100,000	25%	25%	\$25,000

Q: Can application costs for Disadvantaged Community projects be included as eligible costs for reimbursement?

A: Proposition 1 does not allow DWR to reimburse for application costs. However, application costs can be claimed as cost share. Some Funding Areas also have funding available through the DWR's Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program for application preparation.

Financial

Q: Will only project expenses incurred after the DWR's award of grant (to each funding area) be eligible for Round 2 IRWM grant reimbursement?

A: Correct. The reimbursement date is the day after awards are approved and signed by DWR's Director. However, expenses incurred prior to the award date but after the January 1, 2015, effective date of Proposition 1, can be submitted for cost share.,

Q: If applicants receive less than the full amount requested due to the limited amount of funding versus the anticipated demand for funding, will the budget, work plan, work schedule, etc. be modified to meet the new funding amount?

A: The work plan, budget, and schedule may be modified for applicants receiving partial awards with approval from DWR. DWR will work with those applicants on the modifications during agreement development.

Q: Will there be a budget cap for grant administration? In the past, administration was capped at 10% of the grant award. Will this be higher for Round 2?

A: DWR encourages applicants to limit grant administration costs to 10% of the total grant award. If grant administration costs do exceed 10% of the total grant award, the applicant should consult with DWR and provide a justification for why additional funds are needed for grant administration.

Q: Is there a cost share requirement for grant administration?

A: No, there is no cost share requirement for a standalone Grant Administration project managed by the Grantee.

Q: Will there be a minimum requirement for cost share? Will that cost share be required by applicant or regionally?

A: Each grant application/proposal is required to demonstrate 50% of its total project costs as non-state cost share funds. Projects benefitting Disadvantaged Communities or Economically Distressed Areas may receive cost share waivers and thereby reduce the total amount of cost share required for the whole proposal.

Q: Why is advance pay limited to projects with a total cost of \$1 million or less? Why can't advance pay be extended to more entities?

A: These limitations on advanced pay for grant awards were established by the California Legislature (SB 208, [CWC §10551](#)).

Q: If a project drops out of Round 1, will the money allocated to that project go back to the original Funding Area, or will the money be distributed amongst all Funding Areas?

A: The money will be returned to the original Funding Area in accordance with the Proposition 1 funding allocations. The decision as to which IRWM region(s) can utilize the returned funds will require written approval of all regions in the Funding Area.

Q: Will DWR redistribute awarded funds if a project drops out within the same region? How much information should be provided for backup projects?

A: If an awarded project drops out for some reason and the region included eligible backup project(s) in the application, DWR will consider redistribution of funds to that eligible project. The required information for backup project(s) is the same as other projects in the application. DWR will request eligibility information for backup project(s) in the future, should it become necessary.

Q: If projects finish under budget, will Grantees be able to move funds between projects or categories, to utilize all funding?

A: Grantees will be allowed to submit a request to DWR for an agreement amendment to move funds between projects or budget categories.

CEQA Requirements

Q: Can you clarify when CEQA, NEPA, and permitting must be completed for a project to be eligible for grant funding?

A: Projects receiving grant funding do not require completion of environmental documentation and permitting prior to grant award, but CEQA concurrence must be complete prior to the deadlines established in the grant agreement (case by case basis, depending on type of project and construction schedule).

Miscellaneous

Q: The term of agreements in Proposition 1 extends through the post-performance period (an additional 3 years), and yet no additional grant funding is allocated through this period. Can DWR consider providing additional funding for post-performance compliance costs?

A: Bond funding cannot be used for post-construction monitoring and/or operations and maintenance.

Q: What is the deadline for project completion?

A: The deadline for all grant funded project completion is December 31, 2027.

Q: Will there be a Round 3? If so, when?

A: There will not be a Round 3. This is the final round for Proposition 1 Implementation grants.

Q: Will funding be available for GSAs for Groundwater management?

A: These funds can be used to fund groundwater implementation projects. A GSA may be an eligible applicant or local project sponsor under this grant program if it meets the applicant eligibility requirements. Only one application will be accepted per IRWM Region, so the GSA must coordinate with and gain the approval of the established Regional Water Management Group for the region.

Q: Would a project still be eligible for Round 2 Implementation funding if it has already or is likely to receive state funding from a GSA project eligible grant?

A: Yes, but please note the applicant must meet the requirements for non-state cost share.