Lahontan Basins SWRP

Storm Water Resources Plan

Technical Memorandum

Draft Implementation Strategy

December 2017

HONEY LAKE VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DYER ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS

Technical Memorandum
Draft implementation Strategy 4.6.3

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to identify project implementation strategies and schedules. The project benefits, decision support tools and other mechanisms needed to ensure the effective implementation of the Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) are described. A timeline for submitting the SWRP into the Lahontan Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is also presented.

The SWRP is being funded by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Moving forward, the RWMG recognizes that the bulk of the cost to maintain the IRWMP must come from its member agencies. The RWMG is committed to continuing to fund a useful and implementable IRWMP. The individual Plan Projects identified will be funded through competitive grant applications and shared budgets associated with IRWMP and the California State Water Resources Control Board and other Project Sponsors.

Potential Plan Project Sponsors' will provide the appropriate local matching funds through a variety of potential resources. A list of available funding sources, in addition to Sponsors' general funds, is identified below. Many of the funding sources listed below can be found in the IRWMP.

Implementation Strategy and Schedule (Guidelines Section VI.E)		
Check if "Yes"	Plan Element	Water Code Section
☐	Plan identifies resources for Plan implementation, including: 1) projection of additional funding needs and sources for administration and implementation needs; and 2) schedule for arranging and securing Plan implementation financing.	
<u>References:</u>		
☐	Plan Projects and programs are identified to ensure the effective implementation of the storm water resource plan pursuant to this part and achieve multiple benefits.	10562(d)(8)

References:		
☐	The Plan identifies the development of appropriate decision support tools and the data necessary to use the decision support tools.	10562(d)(8)
References:		
☐	Plan describes implementation strategy, including: a) Timeline for submitting Plan into existing plans, as applicable; b) Specific actions by which Plan will be implemented; c) All entities responsible for project implementation; d) Description of community participation strategy; e) Procedures to track status of each Plan Project; f) Timelines for all active or planned projects; g) Procedures for ongoing review, updates, and adaptive management of the Plan; and h) A strategy and timeline for obtaining necessary federal, state, and local permits.	
References:		
☐	Applicable IRWM plan: The Plan will be submitted, upon development, to the applicable integrated regional water management (IRWM) group for incorporation into the IRWM plan.	10562(b)(7)
References:		
☐	Plan describes how implementation performance measures will be tracked.	
References:		

2.0 RESOURCES FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Project Funding

Securing funding for the projects proposed in the Lahontan SWRP is best accomplished with a focused packaging strategy. As seen from the descriptions below, there are many funding programs within and outside of the Lahontan Region that could provide financial opportunities for the Sponsors' Plan Projects. As these funding opportunities become available, Plan Projects will be integrated to fit the funding criteria. In this manner, a process would be established for integrating packages of projects for future funding programs.

Grant and loan funding sources have been identified based on currently available information. However, due to the uncertainty of the State of California's budgets, the availability of many grant and loan programs are never guaranteed. Grant and loan programs dependent on the sale of California General Obligation bonds have been, and will very likely will continue to be, limited in the amount of funding offered.

This section includes a discussion of funds available through various grant programs and specifies eligibility requirements. Although some of the programs listed below may not be directly related to storm water projects, the Plan Projects may still have a nexus to these funding programs, warranting the Project Sponsor to consider applying to a funding program. Potential funding sources for implementing projects are listed in Table 1.1, and the funding mechanisms are further described below.

2.2 Funding Mechanisms

Table 1.1 Funding Sources for Implementation of Projects

Funding Mechanisms	Continued Planning	Project/Program Implementation	Certainty & Longevity of Funding
User Rates/Recovery		✓	Dependent upon rate structure adopted by project proponents
Capacity Fees		✓	Dependent upon rate structure adopted by project proponents
User Fees		✓	Dependent upon rate structure adopted by project proponents
Special Assessments		✓	Dependent upon the ability to demonstrate direct and unique benefits to parcels. Once in place this represents high certainty of funding
General or Capital Improvement Funds	✓	✓	Dependent upon budgets adopted by project proponents and participating agencies

Revenue Bonds		✓	Dependent upon debt carried by project proponents & bond market
Local, State, or General Grant Programs	✓	✓	Dependent upon future, state, and federal budgets, and success in application process
Low-interest Loan Programs		✓	Dependent upon future, state, and federal budgets, and success in application process

2.2.1 User Rates/Rate Recovery

User rates or rate recovery pays for the operations and maintenance of a water agency or public utility's system. Within a water agency user rate, there is a fixed cost component that covers costs that do not vary with the amount of supplied water, such as labor and overhead expenses, and a variable cost component that covers costs that are based on the amount of pumping and treatment needed to meet the water demands of the customers. These costs, such as electrical and chemical costs, vary with the amount of supplied water. A water agency customer pays a monthly fixed rate and a variable rate based on the metered usage. In some cases, the variable rate includes an allowance for water use and the variable rate is charged only if the customer's usage exceeds the fixed allowance. In tiered water rates, the variable fee increases with water consumption. For services without meters, a single monthly rate is assessed based on assumed consumption. Unmetered customers may also be assessed miscellaneous fees, including charges for swimming pools.

Regional stakeholders understand the need to fully examine projects before passing the costs of projects onto ratepayers in the form of increased water and wastewater rates. Additionally, regional stakeholders have expressed the need for projects designed to address existing water management needs to be economically sustainable given the current population/ratepayers. As such, the certainty of funding for projects which propose rate increases will be largely dependent on the support garnered for the project and ratepayers understanding of the project need.

2.2.2 Capacity Fees

Capacity fees are used almost universally by water agencies as a measure to achieve and maintain equity among its past, present, and future customers. For a growing water agency, capacity fees can represent more than half of the total revenue in any given year, and as such are very important to existing as well as future customers. Capacity fees are typically charged per connection, measured in equivalent dwelling units (EDUs). A single connection may encompass more than one EDU. In addition to the connection fee aspect of capacity fees, water agencies may also assess other fees, e.g., Commercial Acreage Fee (per acre) and Other Service Fees (per acre).

In some cases, if a developer builds a water pipeline or large water facility required by a water agency as a condition of development, then as partial or full payment for the water facility, a water agency may give fee credits to the developer in lieu of the developer paying fees. If the value of the water facility exceeds the amount of credits, a reimbursement agreement is typically executed authorizing payment to the developer of the remaining amount owed over a period of time which does not typically exceed a defined time period. Capacity fees can be controversial if not structured to achieve equity.

2.2.3 User Fees

Monthly user fees are assessed by water agencies when facilities are implemented that directly benefit existing customers. This is particularly true for water agencies that are developing conjunctive use water systems in which existing customers may have paid for the groundwater component when they paid the development fee (through the purchase of the home). The surface water and/or recycled water component is a new water supply for a water agency that is needed for conjunctive use with groundwater supplies. Income from this monthly revenue source may be used to pay debt service on debt financed assets.

2.2.4 Special Assessments

Upon compliance with Proposition 218, a government agency can impose a special assessment on properties that receive a special benefit from the public Project that is being constructed.

As the region works to address critical flood management needs, it may be necessary to form a Flood Control District or a JPA comprised of agencies with authority over flood management. The Flood Control District or JPA could focus on the creation of drainage areas, flood control zones and other special assessment areas to support design, construction and maintenance of flood and storm water management facilities.

An assessment district for maintaining the groundwater basin, such as the districts authorized under AB3030 could be created and properties could be assessed to support groundwater recharge projects and monetary cost of purchased recharge water.

2.2.5 General or Capital Improvement Funds

General or capital improvement funds are monies that an agency sets aside to fund general operations and/or facility improvements, upgrades, and at times development. These funds are usually part of the overall revenue stream and may or may not be project-specific.

2.2.6 Revenue Bonds

In cases in which large facilities are needed to support current services and future growth; revenue bonds may be issued to pay for new capital. In this way, large facilities can be paid for

by bonded debt service at the time of construction with repayment of the debt service over a 20- to 30-year timeframe. This is a preferred approach to paying for high-cost facilities because it avoids the perceived over-collection of fees from past customers that go toward facilities that serve present and future customers. The drawback to bonded debt is that it cannot be accomplished with capacity fees alone due to the variability and uncertainty of new development over time. A user rate is needed as a bond document covenant if development fees are not adequate to make the required annual payment for the debt service.

2.3 State Funding Programs

Grant programs typically require that local matching funds be available. The matching fund requirement demonstrates a local commitment to promoting and completing the study or project. Grants typically carry relatively high administration costs because extensive grant reporting may be required, and typically only a relatively small portion of the grant may be used to cover grant administration. The development of the Lahontan Basin IRWMP was partially funded through a Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Grant. Grant programs that project proponents within the region have used in the past and/or may consider for the future include the following.

2.3.1 Storm Water Resources Control Board Grant Program (SWRCB)

The SWRCB provides grant funds for multi-benefit storm water management projects through the Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program. Proposition 1 designated $200 million in grant funds for projects that improve regional water self-reliance, security, and adapt to the effects on water supply arising from climate change. Storm water and dry weather runoff are underutilized sources of water supplies and may cause pollution or impairment of rivers, lakes, streams, and coastal waters. The SWGP will fund projects that have multiple benefits including water supply, flood control, habitat enhancement/restoration, and creating green spaces.

The SWGP has two types of grants available: Planning Grants and Implementation Grants. The Planning Grant had one funding round of $19 million (occurred in Spring 2016) that will be used for developing SWRPs and planning for specific projects throughout the state. Two rounds of Implementation Grant funding have been designated under Proposition 1. Approximately $80 million of funding is designated for Round 1 in 2016, and $100 million was designated for Round 2 that will occur in 2018. Implementation Grant awards can range from $250,000 to $10,000,000 per Plan Project. The local funding match is set at 50 percent of the project cost with reductions available for DACs or Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs).

2.3.2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grants (DWR)

The DWR is the state agency responsible for overseeing the IRWM programs statewide, which includes administering the Proposition 1 IRWM Grant Program, which provides funding for Projects that help meet the long-term water resource needs within IRWM Regions. Local agencies have obtained grant monies to fund projects in previous years through Proposition 50 and 84 funding. Proposition 1 designates $510 million for IRWM grant funding; $2.7 million is available for the Lahontan Basins funding area. The first round of Proposition 1 implementation grant funding is expected to begin in 2018. Criteria for obtaining Proposition 1 grant funds include: assisting water infrastructure systems to mitigate impacts from climate change; providing incentives throughout each watershed to collaborate in managing a region's water resources and setting regional priorities for water infrastructure; and improving regional water self-reliance. Plan Projects are required to be included in their respective IRWMP and may be eligible for potential funding.

http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/funding/small-communities.cfm

2.3.3 Federal 319 Program (SWRCB)

This program, administered by the SWRCB, is a NPS pollution control program that is focused on controlling activities that impair beneficial uses and on limiting pollutant effects caused by those activities. The program is federally funded on an annual basis. Project proposals that address TMDL implementation and those that address problems in impaired waters are favored in the selection process. There is also a focus on implementing management activities that reduce and/or prevent release of pollutants that impair surface and ground waters. Nonprofit organizations, local government agencies including special districts, tribes, and educational institutions qualify. State or federal agencies may qualify if they are collaborating with local entities and are involved in watershed management or proposing a statewide project.

2.3.4 Water Recycling Funding Grant and Loan Program (SWRCB)

This is a long-term program operated by the SWRCB that offers grants and low-interest loans for the planning, design and construction of water recycling facilities. This program can also be used to fund groundwater recharge facilities for Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR). Grants are provided for facilities planning studies to determine the feasibility of using recycled water to offset the use of fresh/potable water from state and/or local supplies. Pollution control studies, in which water recycling is an alternative, are not eligible. Public agencies and privately-owned utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) are eligible. The Water Recycling Funding Program receives funding from various sources, including Proposition 1 and the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Due to the varying funding sources, preferences for funding can vary.

2.3.5 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act or CWA), as amended in 1987, provides for establishment of a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The program is funded by federal grants, state funds (including Propositions 50, 84, and 1), and revenue bonds. The purpose of the CWSRF program is to implement the CWA and various state laws by providing financial assistance for the construction of facilities or implementation of measures necessary to address water quality problems and to prevent pollution of the waters of the State.

The CWSRF Loan Program provides low-interest loan funding for construction of publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities, local sewers, sewer interceptors, water recycling facilities, as well as, expanded use projects such as implementation of NPS projects or programs, development and implementation of estuary Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans, and storm water treatment. Publicly owned treatment works, local public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private parties are eligible for funding. Matching funds are not required. Applications are continuously accepted and $200 to $300 million is available annually.

2.3.6 Infrastructure State Revolving Fund - California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank

Through I-Bank, this program funds public infrastructure projects deemed important to California communities. The financing is available to cities, counties, special districts, assessment districts, joint powers authorities, and redevelopment agencies. Eligible Plan Projects may include streets and highways, sewage collection and treatment, water treatment and distribution, drainage, flood control, solid waste collection and disposal. The financing can be paired with other grant and loans programs to complete the funding of a project although no matching is required, and the funds may serve as the sole source for the project.

2.3.7 Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DDW)

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 authorized the creation of a revolving fund program for public water system infrastructure needs specific to drinking water. There is similar state legislation and the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF) reflects the intent of federal and state laws to provide grant funding or low-interest loans to correct deficiencies in public water systems based on a prioritized system. Highest priority is given to projects that address public health risk, projects that will assist a public water system with compliance with the SDWA, and projects that assist those public water systems most in need. Funding is available for construction/ enhancement of public water systems. The program is funded by federal grants, state funds (including Propositions 50 and 84), and revenue bonds.

The program is administered by the SWRCB Department of Drinking Water (DDW). The entity must be a public water system to be eligible and preference is given to DACs.

2.3.8 Agricultural Drainage Loan Program (SWRCB)

The Agricultural Drainage Loan Program was created by the Water Conservation and Water Quality Bond Law of 1986 to address treatment, storage, conveyance, or disposal of agricultural drainage water that threaten waters of the State.

2.3.9 Agricultural Use Efficiency Program (DWR)

This grant program will fund agricultural water use efficiency projects. These particular water use efficiency Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) directly supports California Water Plan - Action Number One: Make Conservation a California Way of Life, as well as supporting several other Actions, either directly or indirectly. Funding through this program is also directed towards agricultural water management planning and water use efficiency projects and programs developed pursuant to Part 2.8 (commencing with Section 10800) of Division 6 of the California Water Code.

http://www.water.ca.gov/wuegrants/SolicitationsProp1AG.cfm

2.3.10 Other State Programs

Additional State funding programs not described in detail here, but which may be legitimate sources of funding include:

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Emergency Grants
- Proposition 1E (The Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006 authorizes $4.09 billion in general obligation bonds to rebuild and repair California's most vulnerable flood control structures)
- California State Parks Office of Grants and Local Service Annual Grant Programs
- Habitat Conservation Fund
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Recreational Trails Program

Several funding agencies provide low-interest loans for implementation of water resource-related projects. Low-interest loans can save the implementing agency significant amounts of money by reducing interest payments as compared with traditional bonds. SWRCB offers low-interest loans for wastewater and recycled water projects through its Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program, CDPH administers a similar SRF loan program for drinking water-related projects, and the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (I-Bank) administers the Infrastructure SRF loan program for financing implementation projects

such as sewage collection and treatment, water treatment and distribution, and water supply projects.

The Clean Water SRF program generally has approximately $200 to $300 million available in loans each year to help cities, towns, districts, Native American tribal governments, and any designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act to construct publicly-owned facilities including wastewater treatment, local sewers, water reclamation facilities, nonpoint source projects, and development and implementation of estuary comprehensive conservation and management plans. The interest rate is half of the most recent General Obligation (GO) Bond Rate at the time of the funding commitment. Over the last five years, the Clean Water SRF loan interest rate has ranged from 1.8% to 3.0%. Amounts available through the CDPH Safe Drinking Water SRF loan program vary, but approximately $100 to $200 million is available annually.

2.4 Federal Funding Programs

2.4.1 WaterSMART (USBR)

The USBR Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow Program (WaterSMART) was established for USBR to work with States, Tribes, local governments, and NGOs to secure and stretch water supplies for use by existing and future generations. In addition to sustainable water resources goals, the program also addresses adaptive measures needed to address climate change and future demands. The programs described below are part of the WaterSMART program.

2.4.2 Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (USBR WaterSMART)

The Water and Energy Efficiency Grants program offered through USBR is an annual grant program for which the applicant will need to provide a minimum of a 50 percent funding match. The projects need to demonstrate both water and energy savings.

2.4.3 Grants to Develop Climate Analysis Tools (EPA)

These grants, offered annually, provide funding to universities, non-profits, or entities with water or energy delivery authority in the Western United States for the development of tools to better manage water resources with the caveat the tool must consider climate change. Seven areas of research are listed as eligible under this program, with the ultimate goal of improved water resource management. These grants may become limited in the near future (2018).

2.4.4 Advanced Water Treatment Grants (USBR)

The Advanced Water Treatment (ADWT) Grant Program offered by USBR funds demonstration and pilot projects which utilize advanced water treatment systems. The purpose of this program is to create a new economically feasible water supply from brackish groundwater, seawater, or impaired waters. The ADWT grant encourages water agencies to accelerate the adoption of advanced water technologies including reverse osmosis, filtration, electrodialysis, pretreatment methods, advanced oxidation, concentrate disposal or any other process that removes dissolved and suspended matter such as salts, viruses, bacteria or any other difficult to remove matter. The projects should not be the full-scale plant but a pilot to demonstrate the viability of the project. Operations and maintenance (O&M) costs are not included in the funding, cost sharing is required, and the projects must be completed within the specified timeframe of the grant.

2.4.5 Cooperative Watershed Management Program (USBR)

The Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP) contributes to the WaterSMART strategy by providing funding to watershed groups to encourage diverse stakeholders to form local solutions to address their water management needs. By providing this funding, Reclamation is promoting the sustainable use of water resources and improving the ecological resilience of rivers and streams using collaborative conservation efforts. Funding is provided on a competitive basis for:

2.4.5.1 Development of Watershed Groups

In 2012, Reclamation began providing funding for the establishment or further development of watershed groups (Phase I). A watershed group is a self-sustaining, non-regulatory, consensus-based group that is composed of a diverse array of stakeholders, which may include, but is not limited to, private property owners, non-profit organizations, Federal, State, or local agencies, and Tribes. As part of Phase I activities, applicants may use funding to develop bylaws, a mission statement, watershed management project concepts, and a watershed restoration plan. For Phase I projects, Reclamation will award a successful applicant up to $50,000 per year for a period of up to two years without non-Federal cost-share requirements.

2.4.5.2 Implementation of Watershed Management Projects

Starting in 2017, Reclamation provides cost-shared financial assistance to watershed groups to implement watershed management projects (Phase II). These on-the-ground projects, collaboratively developed by members of a watershed group, will address critical water supply needs, water quality, and ecological resilience, helping water users meet competing demands and avoid conflicts over water. Program criteria will prioritize projects that contribute to the ecological resilience of the watershed. Reclamation will award up to $100,000 per project over a

two-year period. For Phase II projects, applicants must contribute at least 50% of the total project costs.

2.4.6 Drought Resiliency Project Grants and drought Contingency Planning Grants (USBR)

The Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance for using water efficiently, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus and offices. Through the program, the DOI is working to achieve a sustainable water strategy to meet the nation's water needs. The objective of this Program is to invite states, tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to leverage their money and resources by cost-sharing Drought Contingency Planning with USBR to build resilience to drought in advance of a crisis.

2.4.7 Tile XVI Feasibility Study Funding (USBR)

The objective of this Program is to invite applicants to submit proposals to develop new Title XVI feasibility studies. Applicants must provide 50 percent non-federal cost share for the proposed activity. Under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, USBR works to identify and investigate opportunities to reclaim and reuse wastewaters and naturally impaired ground and surface water in the 17 Western States and Hawaii. Title XVI also provides authority for USBR to provide up to 50 percent of the costs of studies to determine the feasibility of water reclamation and reuse projects. Prior to construction funding of any project authorized under Title XVI, USBR must determine that a feasibility study for the project complies with the provisions of Title XVI. Under this Program, funding is being made available to assist project sponsors with the development of new Title XVI feasibility studies.

2.4.8 FEMA/California Emergency Management Agency Infrastructure Improvement Grants

FEMA, through the California Emergency Management Agency, funds grants to improve existing infrastructure to increase protection from hazards (such as wildfires, earthquakes, etc.). The intent is to improve infrastructure, particularly lifeline infrastructure (water systems, hospitals, fire) to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. Grants are also available for the creation of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. Grant funds will remain available until September 30, 2019.

2.4.9 North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant (USFWS)

This grant provides funds for projects that provide long-term protection of wetlands, and the fish and wildlife that depend upon wetlands. Applicants must provide local match equal to that requested. Entities that are eligible include organizations and individuals who have developed

partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Applications are continuously accepted by the USFWS for this grant.

2.4.10 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA has made several grant programs available in the past which may continue for the next few years; however, funding for these projects is under consideration and additional time is needed to determine the availability. These grants include:

2.4.10.1 Pollution Prevention (P2, formerly Pollution Prevention Incentives)

The purpose of the P2 Grant Program is to give States and Tribes the capability to assist businesses and industries in identifying better environmental strategies and solutions for complying with Federal and State environmental regulations.

2.4.10.2 Source Reduction Assistance

The purpose of this program is to prevent the generation of pollutants at the source and ultimately provide an overall benefit to the environment.

2.4.10.3 Wetland Program Development

This program seeks projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution. The EPA has identified three priority areas: (1) the development of a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program; (2) the improvement of the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation; and (3) the refinement of the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources. Eligible entities include states, tribes, local governments, interstate associations, intertribal consortia, and national non-profit, NGOs.

2.4.11 Natural Resources Conservation Service, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grant (NRCS)

The purpose of this program is to support activities that promote soil conservation and the preservation of the watersheds of rivers and streams throughout the U.S. This program seeks to preserve and improve land and water resources via the prevention of erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages. The program supports improvement of: (1) flood prevention including structural and land treatment measures; (2) conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water; or (3) conservation and proper utilization of land. Successful applicants under this program receive support for watershed surveys and planning, as well as watershed protection and flood prevention operations. Funding for watershed surveys and planning is intended to assist in the development of watershed plans to identify solutions that use conservation practices, including nonstructural measures, to ultimately solve problems.

Matching funds are not required; however, applicants must generally provide matches ranging from 0 to 50 percent in cash or in-kind resources depending on such factors as project type and the kinds of structural measures which a project proposes.

Eligible entities include: States, local governments, and other political subdivisions; soil or water conservation districts; flood prevention or control districts; and Tribes. Potential applicants must be able to obtain all appropriate land and water rights and permits to successfully implement proposed projects.

2.4.12 Water and Waste Disposal Program (USDA)

The Water and Waste Disposal Program provides financial assistance in the form of grants and loans for the development and rehabilitation of water, wastewater, and storm drain systems within rural communities. Funds may be used for costs associated with planning, design, and construction of new or existing water, wastewater, and storm drain systems. Eligible projects include storage, distribution systems, and water source development. Projects must benefit cities, towns, public bodies, and census-designated places with population less than 10,000 persons. The intent of the program is to improve rural economic development and improve public health and safety.

2.4.13 Rural Development Program (USDA)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through its Rural Development Program, offers grants and financing for utilities in communities of less than 10,000 persons. Public agencies and Native American Tribes are eligible grantees. Eligible utilities include electric, telecommunications, water, and environmental (wastewater, solid waste, storm drainage).

2.4.14 Rural Water Supply Program (USBR)

Through this program, USBR assists rural communities in the western United States with planning and design of projects to develop and deliver potable water supplies. Public agencies and Native American Tribes serving communities of less than 50,000 persons are eligible to receive funding for appraisal investigations and feasibility studies related to water supply.

2.4.15 Agricultural Water Conservation Grants (USBR)

The USBR and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborate to make federal funding available in California to improve the efficiency of agricultural water use throughout the state. The projects funded through this partnership are intended to help communities build resilience to drought, including the modernization of their water infrastructure and efficiently using scarce water resources, while supporting the agricultural economy. USBR has the authority to provide financial assistance to entities with water or power delivery authority, including water districts and irrigation districts, whereas NRCS has the authority to provide on-farm assistance.

2.4.16 Other Federal Grant Programs

Additional Federally funding programs not described in detail here, but which may be legitimate source of funding include:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Grants and Cooperative
- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Grant Programs
- Cooperative Conservation Initiative
- The Nature Conservancy
- Community Alliance with Family Farms

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION

Much of The Lahontan Region consists of low density development, rendering challenges to funding and implementation. Assuring implementation will require regional participation and strategy. Projects will be submitted and implemented through IRWMP.

The beneficiaries of the Lahontan Basins SWRP are the residents of the region represented by the Plan stakeholders, and include: water agencies; local, State, and federal agencies; NGOs, businesses, wildlife organizations, the agricultural/farm industry, and others within the Lahontan Basins SWRP Region. The Plan will, through project implementation, ensure regional multiple benefits. Projects included in this Plan are discussed in Prioritization Memo (**Section 6 of the SRWP)**. The funding sources briefly discussed in the section above will help ensure the Plan is implemented. These chosen Plan Projects will be submitted under the direction of their respective IRWMPs and directed for implementation.

4.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT & MONITORING

4.1 SWPR Project Management

Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) project management is stakeholder driven and is non-regulatory based. Each Plan Project will build on the local storm water management objectives. By their nature of the project origination, management will focus on watersheds with objectives and priorities that may enhance environmental criteria, provide flood protection and recreational opportunities, improve water quality, provide groundwater recharge and capture, and treat or reuse storm water runoff. The managers will be the stakeholders.

The Plan Projects must be responsible to establish project goals and guidelines which are consistent with the SWRP. Project proponents must identify their objects and establish operating guidelines to obtain those objects. A Plan Project management implementation strategy and schedule must be proposed for acceptance of the Plan Project. Goals and Objectives are presented in the SWRP (See Section 1.0).

Projects will be added to or removed from the SWRP through the submittal and review process, and added to the agenda of regularly-scheduled Lahontan IRWMP meetings. The Lahontan RWMG will review all accepted Plan Projects on a routine basis to identify accomplishments and compliance with the project objectives and guidelines of the SWRP. One of the Plan goals and requirement of the guidelines is to produce a living document which can be used for many years and adapted to the changing needs and resource goals for the Lahontan Basins region.

4.2 Adaptive Management

The SWRP was developed through the assistance of stakeholders and other public participation and feedback to provide planning and beneficial impacts based on current regional needs and circumstances. As projects progress and surrounding requirements evolve, the SWRP will be revised to adequately address the changes presented while remaining within the context of the SWRCB guidelines. As needs change, Plan Projects may be added or removed during the submittal process. Meetings are to be scheduled regularly to optimize collaboration and communication between stakeholders and assess adaptive agendas.

At the conclusion that revisions are to be effectuated, modifications can be applied throughout the plan. The following procedure outlines the plan revision process. The outline identifies the process that simply adds or removes a project without external provisions.

1. Adoption and Acceptance of the Lahontan SWRP:

a. To adopt the Lahontan SWRP, a notice must be issued by the stakeholders group to respective participants of the IRWMP of acceptance intentions. A vote will take place among group members. A list will be kept of individuals and organizations that provided comments and suggestions for the draft SWRP document.
b. When the majority of stakeholders vote to accept the plan, the SWRP shall be adopted.
    i. Plan acceptance includes subjection to the internal policies and regulations of each entity.

2. Amendments to the Lahontan SWRP:
    a. Any participant in the stakeholder group may propose amendments to the plan.
    b. Plan amendments shall include:
        i. Simple majority vote approval of stakeholders.
        ii. Once amended, the plan shall be adopted or accepted by another majority vote of the participating stakeholders showing favor of the revision.
    c. Amendments to the plan's appendices shall not require re-adoption or stakeholder permission.

4.3 Project Monitoring

The objectives and goals as stated in the SWRP (See Section 1.0) will be assessed as Plan Projects undergo implementation. The production of this plan was promoted using information and resources of local entities and organizations. Performance monitoring aligned with individual project performance based on the metrics and goals set for Plan Projects shall be submitted to Lahontan RWMG.

Collaborative data and plans issued for review affirm the material presented in the Lahontan SWRP accurately reflects the regional stakeholders and other contributor's expectations. The objectives and data provided by committees contributing to the SWRP will assist in the monitoring of projects and impacts that provide multiple benefits to the area.

The Plan Projects set benefit targets to meet the goals set forth at the inception of the Project improvements. All Plan Projects will be reported to the Lahontan RWMG on a routine basis. The group will review goals, objectives, benefit targets and schedule to monitor performance.

5.0 REFERENCES

California State Regional Water Recourses Control Board. “Storm Water Resource Plan guidelines, December 15, 2015.

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