

## OWOW 2015 Project Selection Process – With “Call For Projects” And Independent Project Review Committee

### Formation of New Pillar Workgroup Assignments and Responsibilities

The Pillars are a workgroup of experts and water leaders who craft solutions to the challenges discussed in the adopted One Water One Watershed 2.0 (OWOW 2.0) Plan. These watershed-wide solutions take the form of both programs and projects that integrate resource strategies. With its adoption and DWR’s verification that OWOW 2.0 Plan met the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Standards, the Pillars will move from a technical body that wrote the Plan to an advisory workgroup. It is envisioned that the Pillar workgroup along stakeholders will meet together in order to develop and discuss the integrated concepts from OWOW 2.0 under noticed meetings with watershed stakeholders. The OWOW Steering Committee will sunset the previous Pillar co-chair assignments.

The Pillar workgroup will lead the development of integrated regional programs and projects that provide multi-benefits for the environment and people living across the watershed (i.e. system-wide). These projects will implement OWOW 2.0.

#### Suggested Pillars:

OWOW Pillar Name	Name (Including Title and Affiliation)
<b>Beneficial Use Assurance</b>	Michael R. Markus General Manager Orange County Water District
<b>Disadvantaged &amp; Tribal Communities</b>	To be determined.
<b>Energy &amp; Environmental Impact Response</b>	Craig Perkins President and Executive Director The Energy Coalition
<b>Land Use &amp; Water Planning</b>	Linda Daniels Assistant City Manager Rancho Cucamonga
<b>Natural Resources Stewardship</b>	To be determined.
<b>Operational Efficiency &amp; Water Transfers</b>	John V. Rossi General Manager Western Municipal Water District
<b>Stormwater: Resource &amp; Risk Management</b>	Warren “Dusty” Williams General Manager-Chief Engineer Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
<b>Water Conveyance and Transport</b>	Douglas Headrick General Manger San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
<b>Water Resource Optimization</b>	Paul D. Jones II General Manager Eastern Municipal Water District
<b>Water Use Efficiency</b>	Joseph Grindstaff General Manager Inland Empire Utilities Agency

The ten Pillars, as an advisory group, and SAWPA staff will convene to conduct a series of implementation workshops and solicit participation from watershed stakeholders. As before, Pillar meetings are open to all interested parties as emphasized in the 2014 DWR Guidelines that “there is an equal playing field for all stakeholders involved in the plan development and implementation.”

The Pillar workgroup will meet together as a cohesive group in order to provide the OWOW process with the broad range of expertise that each of the ten Pillars offer. The first order of business will be developing the concepts, projects and programs from OWOW 2.0 for the upcoming 2015 Grant Solicitation beginning in December 2014. Per the DWR Guidelines regarding the Project Review Process, these projects and programs must implement the OWOW 2.0 Plan. Dialogue among the Pillar workgroup, SAWPA staff and stakeholders in the workshops will produce synergy, resulting in integrated and multi-beneficial solutions, and collaboration among jurisdictions and geographies. This process reflects the 2014 DWR Guidelines stating “The implementation of the IRWM Plan should demonstrate that the Regional Water Management Group is forming, coordinating, and integrating separate efforts in order to function as a unified group. Synergies or linkages between projects will result in added value.” Further, this evaluation process will benefit the process by increasing transparency, improving technical vetting, and ensuring that critical regional priorities and needs are addressed.

As part of the workshops, the Pillar workgroup, SAWPA staff and interested stakeholders would recommend evaluation criteria, weighting, and performance measures for the 2015 Call for Projects, both in response to the 2015 IRWM grant solicitation guidelines and to meet OWOW goals and objectives. The Pillar workgroup, SAWPA staff and interested stakeholders would assist in defining the recommended evaluation criteria and performance measures that would be submitted to the Steering Committee and the SAWPA Commission for their consideration of final approval.

## **2015 Call for Projects Application and Process**

To ensure that all regional integrated projects are considered to address the goals and objectives in the OWOW 2.0 Plan, a watershed wide Call for Projects will be conducted similar to previous OWOW funding rounds. Projects will be ranked by their ability to reflect the needs of the region versus the needs of a specific entity, and provide the most benefit across all areas of concern for the watershed as a whole. This criterion will be reflected in the Call for Projects. SAWPA staff, as in previous Call for Projects, will conduct workshops about the application process to assist applicants interested in obtaining feedback. The Call for Projects will be shared with all stakeholders in the watershed and will solicit candidate projects from agencies and non-profit organizations in the watershed for inclusion in the OWOW 2.0 plan. An on-line form, similar to previous OWOW funding rounds, will be used indicating specific information that ensures that all the Project Review Process requirements are met.

All project proponent teams who have developed projects would need to fill out the Call for Projects form to ensure that information about the project as required under the OWOW 2.0 Plan review process is documented and considered for future rating and ranking.

To reflect State and OWOW goals focusing on regional projects that address climate change, sustainability and resiliency for the watershed, additional tools will be may be considered under the Call for Projects.

The Pillar workgroup, SAWPA staff and other OWOW integration workshop participants may also recommend that the OWOW governance provide special consideration to projects that support disadvantaged communities or Native American Tribal communities in the watershed that may not, as effectively, reflect watershed wide distributed benefits.

Multiple outreach activities including email notices and workshops will be prepared and conducted by SAWPA prior to and during the Call for Project Application period of two months. Procedures for submitting projects will be available online.

### **Preliminary Screening of Projects**

Upon the close of the Call for Project period, SAWPA staff will compile the project data and contact project proponent teams to discuss any discrepancies, which is part of the preliminary screening process to check for outliers and data entry errors. When this process is completed, the project proponent teams will understand that their project either met the minimum criteria or did not, and whether it is moving on to the next phase of the review process. Thereafter the list of projects submitted for the 2015 OWOW funding round will be shared with stakeholders online for any review comments. Review comments by stakeholders will be shared with the OWOW Governance and Pillars.

### **Project Review Process**

SAWPA staff will post all the project applications online that were received under the Call for Projects in order to give all watershed stakeholders an opportunity to review and provide feedback about OWOW projects after the initial screening. SAWPA staff will also review the projects to ensure that the methods used to calculate the benefits described are feasible.

### **Project Review Committee**

An independent committee composed of watershed water resource experts will be formed to rate and rank all projects submitted under the Call for Projects

The ultimate composition of the Project Review Committee will be ratified by the Steering Committee and the SAWPA Commission. To assist the Project Review Committee, a clear list of goals and ground rules would be developed by SAWPA staff and circulated to guide the independent Project Review Committee. These items would clearly articulate what process the Project Review Committee will undertake to complete their review and selection of projects. These guidelines will be shared with the stakeholders so that all stakeholders are aware of the process and criteria that governs the Project Review Committee. The rules, process, and criteria that govern the decision-making process of the Project Review Committee will be ratified by the Steering Committee and the SAWPA Commission.

The Project Review Committee will rate and rank the projects based on the project selection criteria defined in the OWOW plan and by OWOW Governance. Factors that the Committee will consider in evaluating regional projects include technical and economic feasibility, costs and finance, GHG emissions, and project development status among others. These evaluation factors will reflect the 2014 DWR Guidelines stating “The projects included in the IRWM Plan are the projects that will implement the Plan and achieve the Plan objectives. The projects should represent priorities of the planning effort and represent a wise investment for State grant funding. Hence, the process should not be designed to only select based on readiness to proceed”. Further, in considering the list, selection will reflect the DWR Guidelines stating “Projects should not be prioritized based on any specific grant program. It can be helpful to think of the project selection process as having, at least, two phases: 1) Identify projects that will be necessary to implement the IRWM Plan and 2) Identify projects that may qualify for a specific funding source. The RWMG may apply grant criteria when moving from the overall list of projects in the IRWM Plan to a specific grant proposal.”

The Project Review Committee may interview the project proponent teams to encourage project proponent teams to highlight the aspects of most value to the watershed in their application, resulting in the funding of more integrated projects.

The ranked list will be provided to OWOW Governance for their consideration to include in the OWOW 2.0 Plan. The Project Review Committee will also define a short list of top rated and ranked projects that best reflects the 2015 Prop 84 IRWM Implementation grant requirements while meeting the OWOW 2.0 Plan goals and objectives and emphasis on regional, integrated, and multi-benefit projects. This short list of grant eligible projects will be submitted to SAWPA staff for posting online, and then for the consideration and feedback of the OWOW Steering Committee and SAWPA Commission for a funding allocation of available 2015 grant funds.