

Responses to Questions about the Weather Modification CEQA RFP

1. Task 2 – Collect and Review Existing Data

- a. **Q: Will SAWPA provide any hydrological studies or biological studies conducted in the project area to assess downstream impacts of the weather modification program? If so, what are these studies?**

A: There are no detailed hydrological conducted in the project area to assess the downstream impacts since the impacts of the weather modification program are considered negligible compared to the natural variability of typical storm systems.

- b. **Q: Has SAWPA developed operational criteria including suspension criteria?**

A: No formal operational criteria has been established for the pilot program at this stage. However, NAWC did include a draft suspension criteria in the feasibility study. This may be modified slightly prior to the onset of the actual program, but the suspension criteria should still be representative. The suspension criteria calls for a cessation of operations during events of a roughly 1 in 2-year significance. More detail about the suspension criteria is in the feasibility study.

- c. **Q: Would there be monitoring of existing surface waters and drainage infrastructure that are approaching flood capacities as part of operations?**

A: There are no additional monitoring anticipated of surface and drainage waters since the additional flows resulting from the weather modification are expected to be within existing flood capacities.

- d. **Q: Can the feasibility study be relied upon for estimated increases in precipitation?**

A: Yes, the feasibility study can be relied upon for anticipated precipitation increases based on modeling conducted by the weather modification consultant.

- e. **Q: Will the selected consultant have access to North American Weather Consultants for clarifications/questions on the feasibility study?**

A: NAWC has agreed to respond to additional clarifications once a CEQA consultant is selected.

- f. **Q: Are there any studies assessing the potential impact of cloud seeding on rainfall intensity? If yes, does this vary between precipitation type (i.e., stratiform, disorganized, scattered, convective, orographic, and convective band)?**

A: The weather modification program does have an impact on rainfall intensity and is explained in the feasibility study.

- g. **Q: Will the project develop specific protocol for assessing weather and watershed conditions as part of the operation's suspension criteria?**

- i. **Q: For example, the 1–2-year storm events identified in the presentation as thresholds for ceasing seeding (0.5-0.7 in/hr. or 2-3 in/day). Will the suspension criteria identify a specific weather station and projected rainfall intensities/totals for each station?**

A: It is not anticipated that a specific weather station will be identified in correlation with the suspension criteria. The program will rely on the judgement of the meteorologist as well as close communication with local flood control districts or members of the Sant Ana Watershed Project Authority, to determine whether or not suspension criteria are to be enacted. Additionally, storm intensity can vary dramatically across the watershed, there may be areas of the watershed that require suspension, while others are safe for operations.

- ii. **Q: Wildfires and severe weather alerts are mentioned as additional criteria, are there any other conditions that may be considered appropriate for including in developing the suspension criteria when developing the MND (i.e. antecedent watershed moisture, downstream reservoir available capacity)?**

A: This will need to be explored further when the operation criteria and specific seeding locations are identified.

2. Task 5 – Scoping Meeting

- a. **Q: Can SAWPA provide some hourly and geographic parameters for the site visit? Would it be an 8-hour site to cover the three target areas? Or one shorter site visit to see an example site?**

A: It is likely the latter case of a sample site for the site visit. Specific site location and hours of this site visit are uncertain at this time.

3. Task 7- Conduct Public Meeting

- a. **Q: Shall the consultant consider the comments received during this meeting, if pertaining to the environmental analysis, to be comments on the MND requiring written responses?**

A: Yes.

4. Task 9 – Supplemental Information for NEPA Compliance

- a. **Q: Which federal agency does SAWPA expect to be involved and does SAWPA have any preliminary information on whether a Categorical Exclusion or Environmental Assessment would be required by this federal agency?**

A: We are uncertain of the which federal agency if any would be involved and rely on the experience of the consultant to ascertain the appropriate federal agency's involvement, if any.

5. **Q: Do the front/back covers and the Table of Contents count against the 20-page limit?**

A: No

6. **Q: The RFP requests the preparation of an MND. However, the following items also requested in the RFP are not typically prepared in conjunction with an MND: Notice of Preparation, Scoping Meeting. These items are typically prepared in conjunction with an EIR. Please confirm that these items are required.**

A: Only those items necessary to meeting the requirements of a CEQA are necessary. SAWPA is relying on the expertise of the consultant to ensure the appropriate notices and meetings are held.

7. **Q: The RFP states: A draft contract agreement is enclosed within this RFP (Appendix A) that the consultant/firm will be required to sign. Please confirm that a signed draft contract agreement is required to be submitted along with the proposal.**

A: No, the draft contract is serves as a template. Once a firm is selected and approved for the work, a formal agreement will be executed by both parties. If the consultant has any suggested legal concerns or edits to the SAWPA standard template, please make note of these in the proposal.