

Authorization for Network Coordinator Request for Proposals

Ian Achimore | Senior Watershed Manager
SAWPA Commission | Agenda Item 6.A.
April 5, 2022

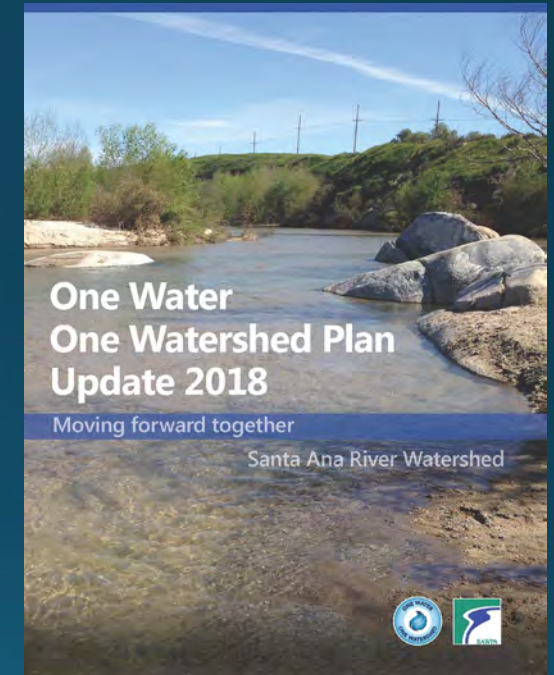


Recommendation

Authorize the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to fill the collaboratively funded Network Coordinator consultant for the California IRWM Roundtable of Regions.

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

- SAWPA began integrated (i.e. multiple benefit such as water supply and water quality) watershed planning in the 1990s.
- IRWM formally began as a state-wide program in 2002 with passage of Senate Bill 1672.
- Since then, various bond measures such as Prop 1, have provide \$1.5 Billion in IRWM funding to projects that are selected through local IRWM planning in 48 regions.



The IRWM Plan in the Santa Ana River Watershed Region is the One Water One (OWOW) Watershed Plan Update 2018

IRWM Roundtable of Regions

- Began in 2006.
- Informal partnership, led by engaged staff and two co-chairs.
- Network extends limited resources and amplifies results of all participants.
- SAWPA represents OWOW on the Roundtable.

Map of IRWM Regions





Network Coordinator

- For the past three years JM Consultants has served as the Network Coordinator.
 - The principal of JM Consultants announced she is retiring on June 30, 2022 (i.e. the end of FYE 2022).
- There is a funding agreement in place to fund this consultant support for this fiscal year and FYE 2023.
- In order to utilize the funding and ensure the Roundtable operates efficiently for the next year, the Roundtable has requested SAWPA issue an RFP to acquire the services of a new consultant.



Funding Included in Cost Sharing Agreement

Signatory to Agreement	Funding by Fiscal Year	
	FYE 2022	FYE 2023
Mojave Water Agency	\$10,300	\$10,300
San Diego County Water Authority	\$6,000	\$6,000
City of San Diego	\$2,600	\$2,600
Sonoma Water	\$5,000	\$5,000
Greater Los Angeles County IRWM	\$10,300	\$10,300
Santa Clara Valley Water District	\$10,300	\$10,300
Yuba County IRWM	\$10,300	\$10,300
Upper Kings Basin IRWM	\$5,100	\$5,100
Westside Sacramento IRWM	\$1,500	\$1,500
SAWPA	\$5,000	\$5,000
Santa Barbara County IRWM Region	\$3,000	\$3,000
Burdick & Company	\$1,000	\$1,000
Santa Cruz IRWM Region	\$2,500	\$2,500
Total	\$72,900	\$72,900

RFP for Network Coordinator

- Crafted with input from the Roundtable of Regions,
- Includes scope of work for network coordinator consultant,
- Includes a one-year timeline, with an option to extend it to two years if further funding is received by cost share parties, and
- Encourages the new consultant to utilize two separate personnel on their team – one for administrative Roundtable functions and the other for strategy/outreach.



Specific Consultant Activities for Next Fiscal Year (FYE 2022)

- Increase legislative activity related to IRWM grant funding.
- Recruit more IRWM Regions to actively participate in Roundtable activities, develop recruitment brochure.
- Manage website, facilitate ongoing meetings, and coordinate general activities of the Roundtable.

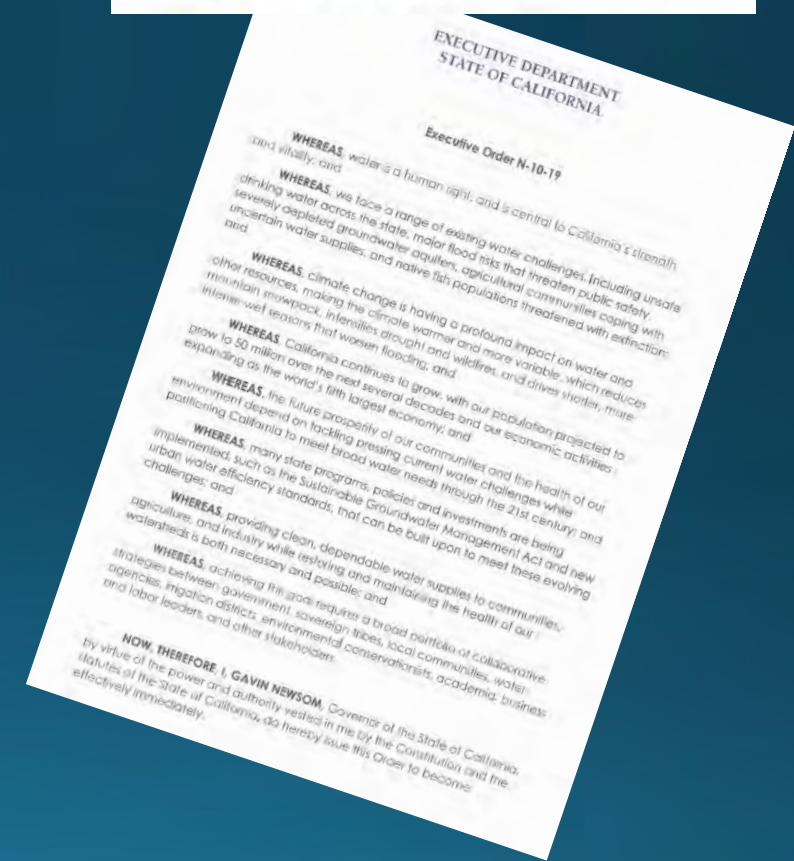


RFP Process Going Forward

Milestone	Date
Issuance of RFP	April 5, 2022
RFP Responses Due	May 9, 2022
Optional Virtual Interviews	May 16 - May 19, 2022
SAWPA Commission Considers Contract for Approval	June 21, 2022

How SAWPA benefits

- Roundtable is a trusted partner to DWR & Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)
 - Instrumental in changes to the IRWM Program that benefit the watershed.
 - Roundtable engaged with DWR, the State's Water Resilience Portfolio team, and the Office of Planning and Research (OPR).
- Supporting the Network Coordinator is a statewide role for SAWPA.
- Roundtable partners thankful for SAWPA stepping up as contract lead.



Recommendation

It is recommended that the SAWPA Commission:

- Authorize the release of a RFP to fill the collaboratively funded Network Coordinator consultant for the California IRWM Roundtable of Regions.



Joint Roundtable of Regions Letter Advocating for IRWM Funding

Ian Achimore | Senior Watershed Manager
SAWPA Commission | Agenda Item 6.B.

April 5, 2022

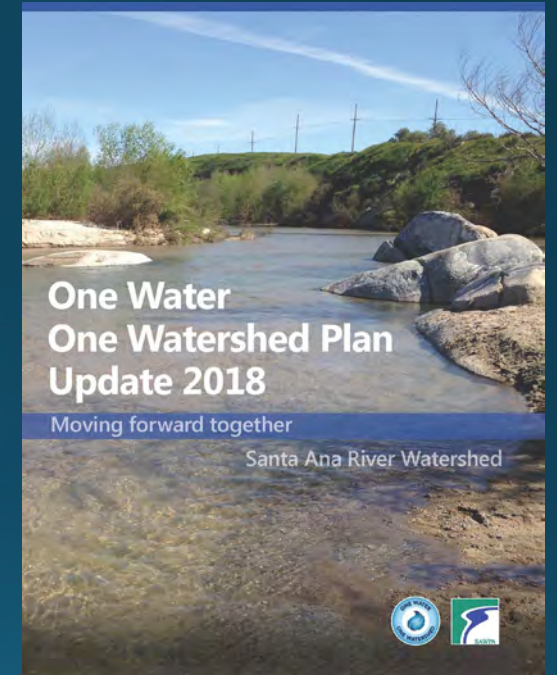


Recommendation

Receive and file.

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

- SAWPA began integrated (i.e. multiple benefit such as water supply and water quality) watershed planning in the 1990s.
- IRWM formally began as a state-wide program in 2002 with passage of Senate Bill 1672.
- Since then, various bond measures such as Prop 1, have provide \$1.8 Billion in IRWM funding to projects and plans through the local 48 IRWM regions.



The IRWM Plan in the Santa Ana Funding Area is the One Water One (OWOW) Watershed Plan Update 2018

Roundtable of IRWM Regions

- Started in 2006 as informal partnership. It now has a charter agreement and steering committee,
- Roundtable leverages relationships among organizations engaged in the IRWM Program to extend limited resources and amplify on-the-ground results,
- The Roundtable has asked SAWPA to draft a joint letter to advocate for \$510 million in grant funding to be included in the State's FYE 2023 Budget,
 - SAWPA has worked with our legislative relations consultant and discussed the letter with the SAWPA member agency legislative relations workgroup.

Map of 48 IRWM Regions

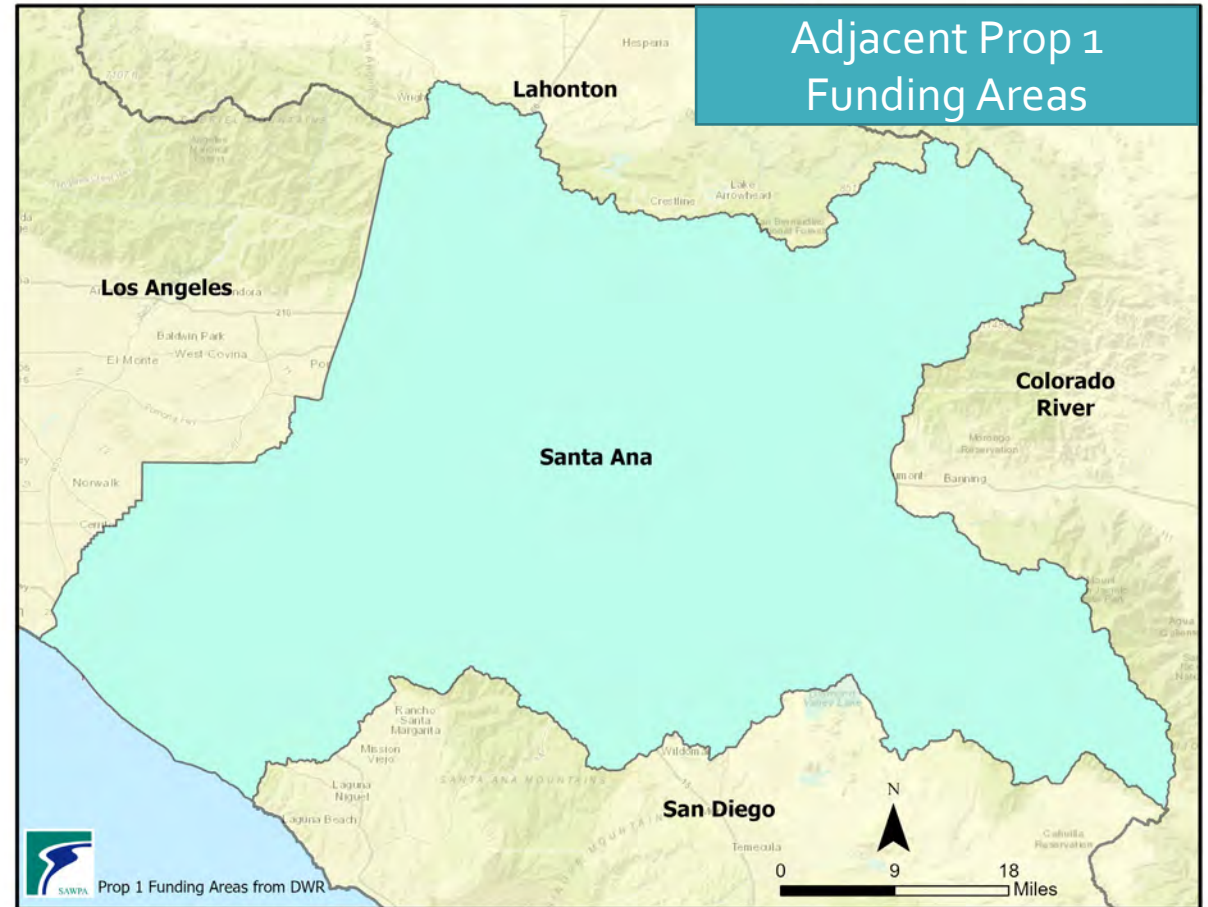
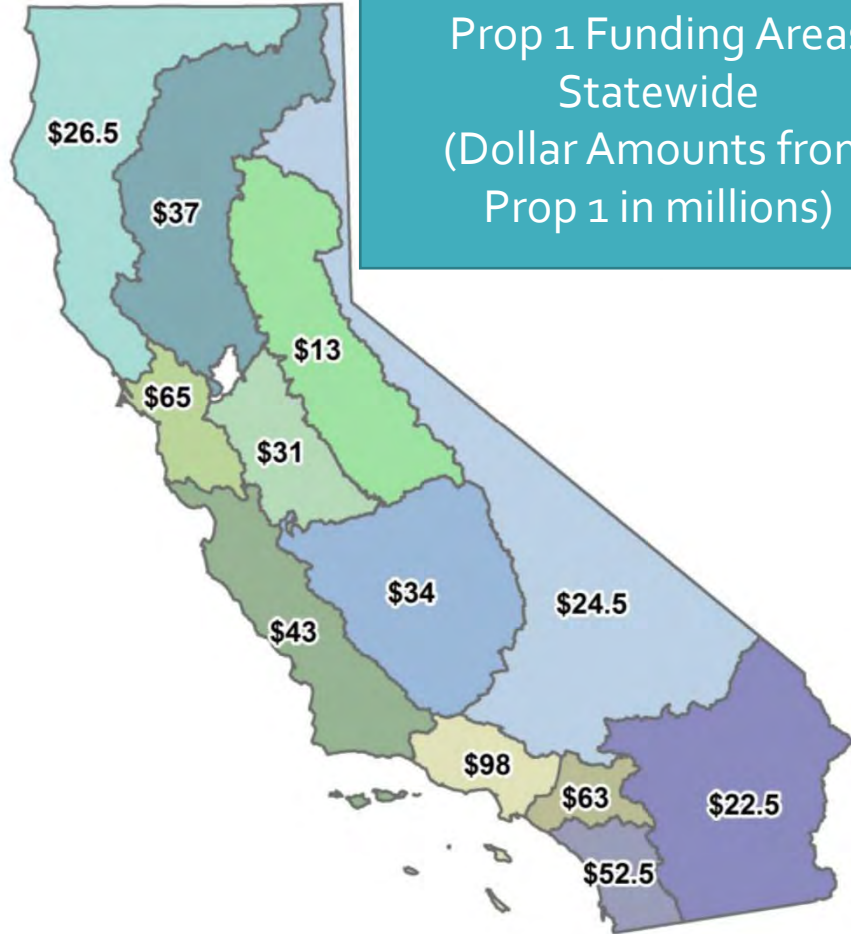


Major State Investments in IRWM Program – Proposition/Bonds

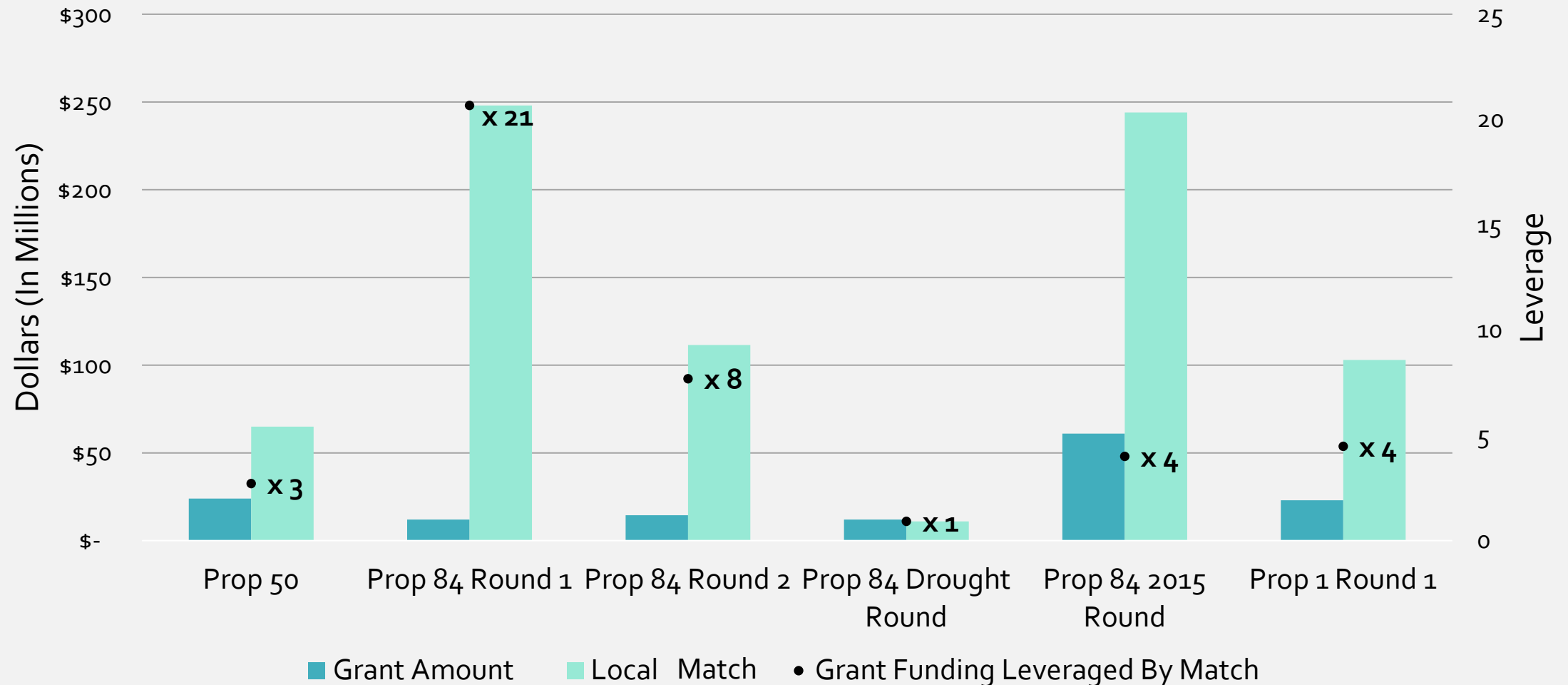
Propositions (Water Bonds)	Year Passed	IRWM Statewide Funding Amount
50	2002	\$380 M
84	2006	\$1 B
1	2014	\$510 M

Note: Funding distributed by IRWM “Funding Areas” based on a formula using population and geographic area.

Proposition 1 Funding Areas



Funding By Proposition for the Santa Ana Funding Area



Joint Letter Drafted

- Planning to submit by April 8, 2022 to ensure it impacts the Fiscal Year Ending 2023 budget process,
- SAWPA attempting to acquire signatures from all 48 IRWM regions,
- Advocates for \$510 million for IRWM, and
- Letter is very similar to one utilized last year during the FYE 2022 budget process.



How SAWPA Benefits




- The Roundtable is an important coalition of IRWM regions serving as a voice for continued support of IRWM and IRWM grant dollars,
- IRWM program has provided over \$140 million in grant through SAWPA to its member agencies and stakeholders to help offset ratepayers,
- By advocating for \$510 million, it would ensure the Santa Ana Funding Area would receive a similar investment of \$63 million as received via Prop 1,
- Grant has been leveraged by match seven times over the State grant investment*.



*On average from the various funding rounds.

Questions





Santa Ana Weather Modification Pilot Program Status Report & Proposed Implementation Schedule

Mark Norton, Water Resources & Planning Mgr.
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Item No. 6.C.



Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the SAWPA Commission receive an update and provide feedback on the proposed implementation schedule of the Santa Ana Weather Modification Pilot Program – including the proposed November 2022 start date.

Ground Seeding Locations Analysis Status - Completed

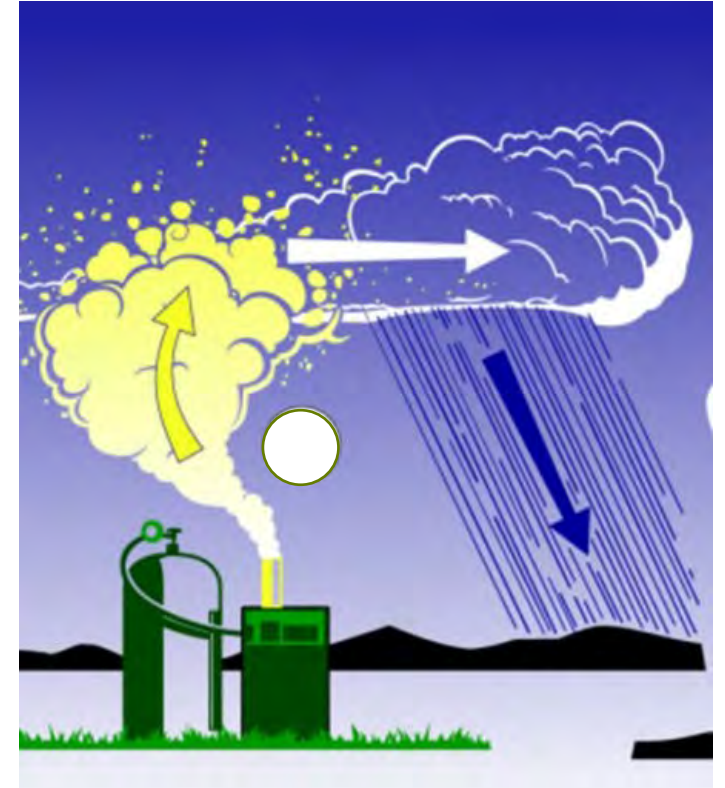
Consultant: North American Weather Consultants

Scope:

- Select locations for ~15 ground seeding sites
- Contact public water agencies to ensure that operations from the locations are feasible
- Work with public water agencies to plan operation of units based on future agreements with a licensed weather modification operator

Status:

- Project summary report detailing the locations identified by consultant submitted to SAWPA on Feb. 7, 2022.



California Environmental Quality Act – Mitigated Negative Declaration Analysis - Status

- **Nov. 1, 2021:** Held kickoff meeting with Catalyst Environmental Solutions
- **Dec. 15, 2021** Project Description, alternatives and phasing is completed
- **Mar. 31, 2022** Draft Initial Study is completed
- **Apr. 19, 2022** Public Comment Meeting
- **Jun. 21, 2022** SAWPA Commission ratifies CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration
- **North American Weather Consultants** is assisting CEQA consultant to provide context, feedback, and assistance.



US Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Program Application

- USBR WaterSMART Applied Science Grant Program supports development of hydrologic information and water management tools, including modeling and forecasting capabilities
- SAWPA Grant Project Topic:
 - Support the development of a Validation Protocol/Guidance Document based on the Pilot Program
 - Partner with our independent validation research institute on the Pilot Program
- Benefit:
 - Establish Protocol/Guidance for water resource agencies seeking process to validate cloud seeding programs
- Available grant funding: \$200,000
- 50% Local Match Required:
 - Provided through Pilot Program efforts
- Grant work would span two years from Feb. 2023- Feb. 2025
- Application due: April 14, 2022 (Requires Commission Authorization)



Outreach Presentations and Funding Support

Approach:

- Contacted 60+ water agencies/departments and other organizations:
 - Provided information about the pilot program
 - Requested to make presentations to boards
 - Requested local funding support

Status:

- 45+ Outreach presentations since Dec 2019
- Funding commitments for weather modification pilot:

• Chino Basin Water Conservation District	\$20,000
• Big Bear Lake Dept of Water & Power	\$12,000
• Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority	\$10,000
• San Antonio Water Company	\$5,000
• City of Corona	\$5,000



Cloud Seeding Pilot Program Questions

- Safety of Silver Iodide
- Operators are licensed and carry liability insurance
- Operations
- Suspension criteria
 - Turn off program during high precipitation (avoid flood conditions)
 - Turn off program due to burn scars from wildfires
- Permitting
- Outreach is critical



Outreach Summary

Additional outreach also conducted for the following:

- **Native American Tribes**

- 3 presentations made to interested Tribes
- Overall response was favorable and supportive

- **Regulatory agencies**

- Presentation made to Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board (Mar. 18, 2022)
- Presentations offered to Army Corp of Engineers, US Forest Service, and others
- US Forest Service staff involved in feasibility study TAC

- **Adjoining watersheds**

- Presentation made to staff of Mojave Water Agency (Dec 2021)
- Staff offered more presentations to their Board as well as Coachella Valley Water District

- **Ski resorts**

- 2 presentations made
- Supportive, but prefer to wait on further progress before providing funding commitment

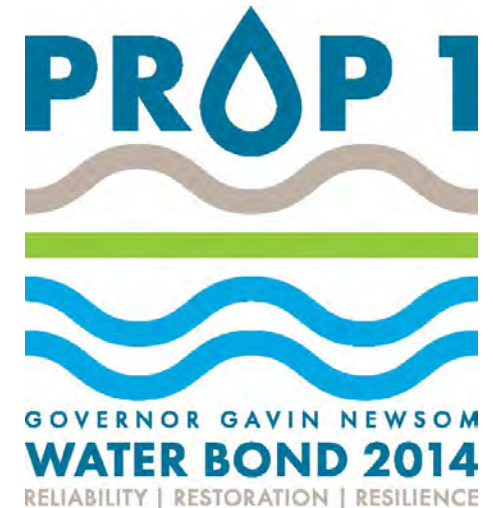


Pilot Program 4-Year Budget Estimate

Year	Task	Consultant/Staff Lead	Estimated Cost
1 st	Ground Seeding set up & operation	NAWC estimate + 10% contingency	\$275,000
	Validation	Desert Research Institute	\$50,000
	Project Adm/Mgt	SAWPA Staff	\$50,000
		1st Year Subtotal	\$375,000
2 nd	Ground Seeding site operation	NAWC estimate + 10% contingency	\$242,000
	Validation	Desert Research Institute	\$35,000
	Stormwater Capture Analysis	West Yost	\$40,000
	Project Adm/Mgt	SAWPA Staff	\$30,000
		2nd Year Subtotal	\$347,000
3 rd	Ground Seeding sites & operation	NAWC estimate + 10% contingency	\$253,000
	Validation	Desert Research Institute	\$35,000
	Project Adm/Mgt	SAWPA Staff	\$30,000
		3rd Year Subtotal	\$318,000
4 th	Ground Seeding sites & operation	NAWC estimate + 10% contingency	\$264,000
	Validation	Desert Research Institute	\$35,000
	Project Adm/Mgt	SAWPA Staff	\$40,000
		4th Year Subtotal	\$339,000
		Total	\$1,379,000
	SAWPA Total Cost Reduced by Local Agency Funding (\$52K) & Prop 1 Grant		\$ 637,500

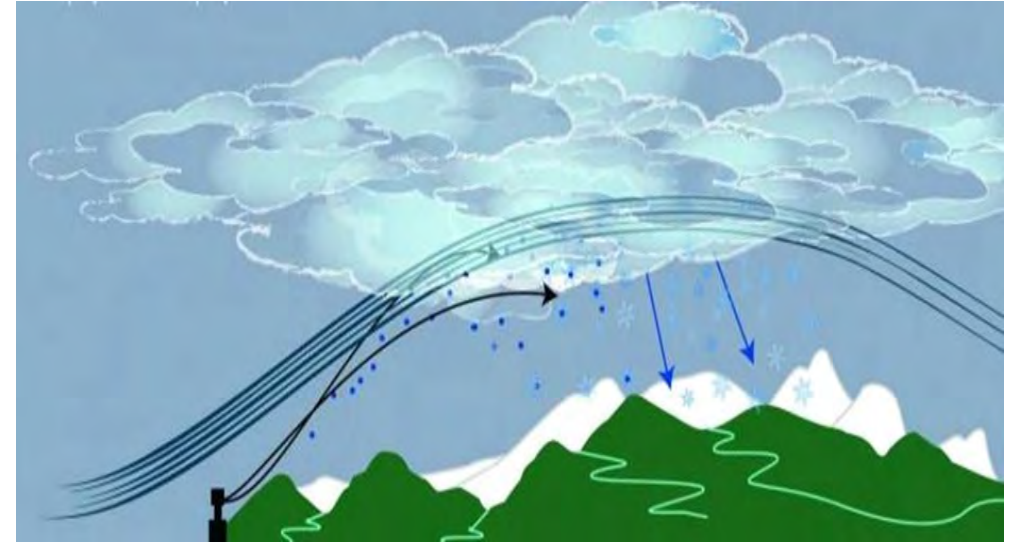
Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Application - Status

- SAWPA staff has prepared a draft project submittal for OWOW Call for Projects for Prop 1 Round 2 IRWM grant funding
- Next Steps:
 1. SAWPA staff will send submittal for Weather Modification Pilot Project by April 25, 2022 deadline
 2. Continue seeking local cost share commitments from agencies in the watershed through Aug. 2022
 3. Support grant application through OWOW Prop 1 Round 2 IRWM grant stakeholder budgeting and ranking process with presentations and justification of benefits as needed



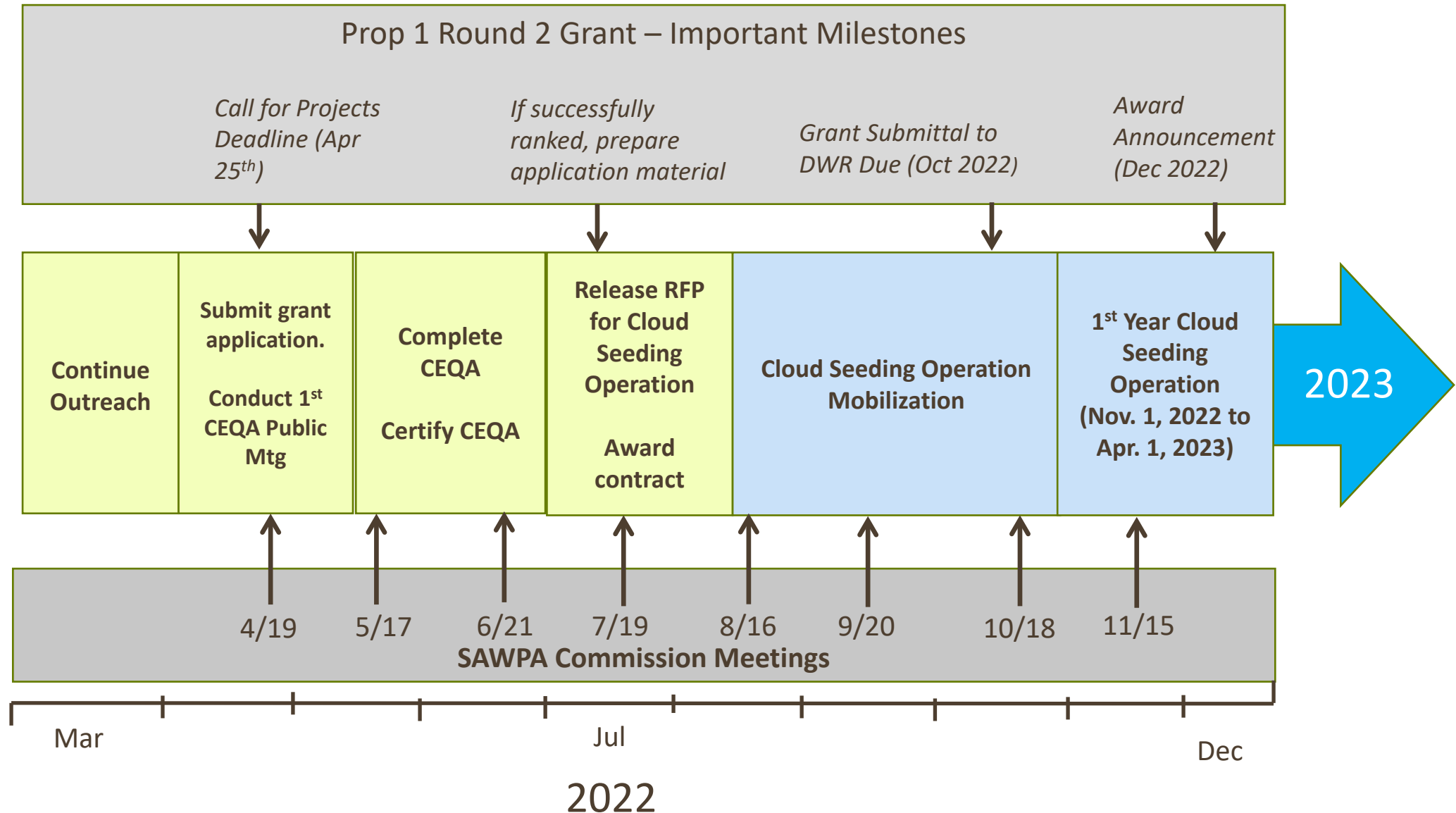
Pilot Program Projected Benefits

- ~7800 AFY or 31,200 AF for four-year pilot program
- Creates high quality, low TDS new water supply for recharge and habitat
- Cost per AF including operations, validation, stormwater capture analysis, and mgt/adm is ~\$44/AF (with grant ~\$22/AF)
- Could serve as example of cloud seeding validation process for other watershed agencies



Source: The Sydney Morning Herald (2015)

Proposed Pilot Program Implementation with Nov. 2022 Start



Milestones for Nov. 2022 Pilot Start Date

June 2022

- RFP for cloud seeding operator to be issued.

July – Aug 2022

- Commission authorization of new contract for pilot program cloud seeding operator by late July 2022 to prepare seeding unit sites
- Commission authorization of new contract with Independent Validation firm by Aug 2022 to start pilot program evaluation preparations
- SAWPA would invoice SAWPA member agencies and local agency contributors for 1st year of pilot program operations and validation funding

Apr – May 2023

- If grant is successful, all Year 2022 costs for the pilot project seeding site setup and operation will count towards 50% local cost share with grant funding anticipated to start in Spring 2023.

Implications if Pilot Deferred to Nov. 2023

- Project schedules, including for grant application, would be need to be modified
- Maintaining Nov 2022 start schedule continues the current project momentum and interest from agencies providing local funding
- Defers water generated from pilot program (~7800 AF) during drought conditions



Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the SAWPA Commission receive an update and provide feedback on the proposed implementation schedule of the Santa Ana Weather Modification Pilot Program – including the proposed November 2022 start date.