

# SWC PROJECT PRIORITIZATION GUIDANCE

Projects submitted during the project planning inventory process<sup>1</sup> that meet SWC cost-share eligibility requirements will be considered for prioritization. In the interest of strategically investing in the state's highest water development priorities, the Water Commission will give funding preference to projects designated as high or moderate priorities for the first 6 months of each budget cycle. ~~Sponsors who are able to accept reduced SWC cost share of 10% or more of the maximum allowable amount can be moved up one priority designation level.~~

## ESSENTIAL PROJECTS *(No Priority Ranking)*

Agency operational expenses.

**Governor declared emergency response efforts, including, but not limited to**

~~An imminent water supply loss to an existing multi-user system, an immediate flood or dam related threat to human life or primary residences, or emergency response efforts.~~

Existing agency debt obligations.

SWC project mitigation.

**Low head dam removal or roller effect mitigation**

## HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS

Federally authorized water supply or flood control projects.

**High hazard dam safety improvements.**

~~Mitigation of low head dam roller effects.~~

New water supply connections between communities and rural or regional water systems that result in reduced costs through economies of scale, **and mitigate drought-related impacts with a sustainable water supply.**

**Expansions of water supply systems into new service areas (including industrial water users).**

~~Corrects a violation of a primary drinking water standard under the Safe Drinking Water Act.~~

**Irrigation central supply works and agricultural assessment drains.**

~~Addresses severe or anticipated water supply shortages for domestic use in a service area or city with rapid population growth.~~

Protects primary residences or businesses from flooding in population centers or involves flood-related property acquisitions.

## MODERATE PRIORITY PROJECTS

**Medium and low hazard dam safety improvements**

~~Dam safety repairs and emergency action plans.~~

Expansion of an existing water supply system (including to industrial water users).

Levee system accreditations, ~~or water retention.~~

~~Irrigation system construction.~~

New rural flood control projects. **(non-agricultural assessment drains), or water retention.**

Bank stabilization.

Snagging and clearing in population centers or specific critical infrastructure locations..

Main Street Initiative related projects.

## LOW PRIORITY PROJECTS

Studies, reports, analyses, surveys, models, evaluations, mapping projects, or engineering designs.<sup>11</sup>

Improvement ~~or extraordinary maintenance~~ of a water supply system.

Improvement ~~or extraordinary maintenance~~ of rural flood control projects.

Recreation projects.

Individual rural and farmstead ring dike constructions.

Replacement of existing infrastructure.

Snagging and clearing in sparsely populated areas.

### Footnotes

1. All local sponsors are encouraged to submit project financial needs during the budgeting process. Projects not submitted as part of the project information collection effort may be held until action can be taken on those that were included during budgeting, unless determined to be an emergency that directly impacts human health and safety or that are a direct result of a natural disaster.

11. May be considered as a higher priority if the related project is of higher priority.

### Disclaimer

*This process is meant to provide guidance for prioritizing water projects during the budgeting process that may be eligible for cost-share assistance through the Department of Water Resources. Interpretation and deviations from the process are within the discretion of the state as authorized by the State Water Commission or Legislature.*