

## IWRB Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List

The IWRB maintains the [Regional Water Sustainability Projects Priority List](#) (List) to help guide spending for large, regional water sustainability projects from ARPA funds, state general funds, or other applicable sources. The IWRB will support implementation of water sustainability projects, including studies (collectively projects), that provide benefits on a regional, basin-wide, or statewide scale.

**Eligible Entities:** Irrigation Districts, Irrigation Boards of Control, Canal Companies, Drainage Districts, Groundwater Districts, Ditch Companies, Flood Control Districts, Regional Water Supply Organizations, Municipal Irrigation Districts (formed per Title 42, chapter 18, Idaho Code), Water Districts, cities, counties, and water-related stakeholders.

**Eligible Geographic Area:** Statewide.

**Eligible Projects:** The IWRB defines an eligible project as any new project that helps to achieve water sustainability on a regional basis. For purposes of this program, an eligible project does not include municipal drinking or wastewater systems.

**Expectations for inclusion on the list:** Inclusion on the List is not a funding commitment, but rather a recognition that the project has the potential to help achieve water sustainability. For projects that are included on the List, the IWRB may 1) help advocate for Federal funding opportunities for these projects, 2) facilitate state funding consideration, and 3) help with letters of support related to necessary funding and/or permitting authorizations.

To obtain funding from an existing grant, loan or other funding program, the Project Sponsor will be required to submit the requisite application(s), and the project will be considered for funding pursuant to the procedures and criteria of the program. Additionally, the IWRB may at its discretion assist the Project Sponsor in obtaining funding from other funding sources.

Each project on the List is unique and will have its own implementation timeline and milestones.

**Process for inclusion on the List:** There are two ways for a project to be included on the list: 1) Project Sponsors can submit a request to the IWRB for a project to be added to the List anytime throughout the year, and 2) the IWRB can add projects to the List at its discretion.

The IWRB Finance Committee will consider these requests and make a recommendation to the IWRB. The List will be reviewed annually at the regularly scheduled January IWRB meeting.

**Project Sponsors will provide the following information:**

- Cover letter with project summary.
- Project background (infrastructure description, repair, rehabilitation, improvement needs/objectives/benefits).

- Project Sponsor description (organization type, background, revenue sources, current operations).
- Project description (narrative, map, conceptual plan and design, land entitlements at project location, description of any known environmental issues).
- Cost estimate and budget.
- Project funding sources.
- Project implementation schedule.

**Considerations for inclusion on the list:**

- Project demonstrates broad stakeholder support, including legislative support.
- Project provides or contributes to resolution of long-standing water supply challenges or anticipated water use conflicts.
- Project provides sustainability benefits on a regional scale (basin-wide or statewide) based on geographic area or number of impacted individuals. Projects with multiple benefits may be prioritized.
- Project leads to stabilization and recovery of groundwater levels in basins where groundwater declines are occurring.
- Relative economic and public benefits including consideration of public benefits such as how the project:
  1. Protects existing water rights and uses identified in I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d), including consideration of the value of existing hydropower to the state's economy. I.C. § 42-1760(2)(d) states: Any project selected pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subsection must protect all existing water rights and consider the effects of such projects on other water uses, such as water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, and hydropower, that provide economic value, stability, water sustainability, drought resiliency, and other benefits to the citizens of the state.
  2. Provides water for future development; and
  3. Addresses aging water storage and delivery infrastructure for projects that provide environmental, safety or recreational benefits

**How a project is removed from the List:**

- Project is fully funded and/or implemented.
- Sponsor of the project requests the project be removed.
- IWRB at its discretion removes project.