

Table 7 – Climate Change Criteria

First Solicitation	Subsequent Solicitations
Successful grantees must enter into an agreement with DWR to update their IRWM plans to the IRWMP Standards contained in this document within two years of the entering into an agreement with DWR (CWC §83002.(b)(3)(B)). This includes the Climate Change Standard. All applicants, as part of the application, will submit a signed consent form stating they understand that should they be awarded a grant they will sign an agreement to update their plans within two years from the time of agreement execution.	IRWM plans must meet the IRWM Plan Standards contained in this document. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative tools for vulnerability analysis • Specific actions identified for adaptation to effects of Climate Change with performance measures • Disclosure and consideration of quantitative analysis of project GHG emissions

Table 8 – Climate Change Standard Requirements

Region Description	IRWM plans must contain language in their Description of Region Section that describes likely Climate Change impacts on their region. These descriptions should be updated and become more region-specific as vulnerability analysis tools become available.
Plan Objectives	<p><u>Adapting to Climate Change:</u> In developing plan objectives, IRWM regions must consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRWM Plans should address adapting to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality and variability of runoff and recharge. • IRWM Plans need to consider the effects of sea level rise on water supply conditions and identify suitable adaptation measures. <p><u>Reducing Emissions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRWM plans can also help mitigate Climate Change by reducing energy consumption, especially the energy embedded in water use, and ultimately reducing GHG emissions. • In evaluating different ways to meet IRWM plan objectives, where practical, RWMGs should consider the strategies adopted by CARB in its AB 32 Scoping Plan. • In addition to offsetting emissions, RWMGs also may consider options for carbon sequestration where such options are integrally tied to supporting IRWM Plan objectives.
Resource Management Strategies	<p><u>Initial Steps:</u> Identify and implement “No-Regrets” Adaptation Strategies to the general effects of climate change, such as meadow and forest restoration, flood plain protection, and water use efficiency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions about adapting water management systems, as well as, mitigating Climate Change through reductions in GHG emissions, should take into account the risks to the region of no action. • IRWM regions should pursue increasing water use efficiency, practice integrated flood management, and seek to enhance and sustain ecosystems. Appropriately applied, these “no regret” adaptations can help a wide variety of water management situations. <p><u>Next Steps:</u> Identify and implement, using vulnerability assessments and tools, Adaptation Strategies that address region-specific climate change impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRWM Plans should address adapting to changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality and variability of runoff and recharge. • IRWM Plans need to consider the effects of sea level rise on water supply conditions and identify suitable adaptation measures. • IRWM Plans also can help mitigate Climate Change by reducing energy consumption, especially the energy embedded in water use, and ultimately reducing GHG emissions. • An IRWM region must demonstrate how the effects of climate change on its region are factored into its resource management strategies.

Project Review Process	<p>The Project Review Process must include the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contribution of the project to adapting to climate change:</i> RWMGs must include potential effects of climate change on their region and consider if adaptations to the water management system are necessary. • <i>Contribution of the project in reducing GHG emissions as compared to project alternatives:</i> The RWMG needs to consider a project's ability to help the IRWM region reduce GHG emissions as new projects are implemented over the 20-year planning horizon. Considerations include energy efficiency and reduction of GHG emissions when choosing between project alternatives. <p><i>CEQA project-level analyses:</i> In preparing a project-level GHG emissions analysis, RWMGs and the project proponents should estimate GHG emissions from the project; establish significance criteria; identify those project components that may support carbon sequestration; and, if applicable, explain how the project may help in adapting to effects of Climate Change.</p>
Relation to Local Water Planning	IRWM Plans must consider and incorporate water management issues and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies from local plans into the IRWM Plan.
Relation to Local Land Use Planning	IRWM regions must demonstrate information sharing and collaboration with regional land use planning in order to manage multiple water demands throughout the state, as described in CWP Update 2009, adapt water management systems to climate change, and potentially offset climate change impacts to water supply in California.
Plan Performance and Monitoring	IRWM Plans should contain policies and procedures that promote adaptive management. As more effects of Climate Change manifest, new tools are developed, and new information becomes available, RWMGs must adjust their IRWM plans accordingly.
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RWMGs should stay involved in CNRA's California Adaptation Strategy process to help shape the document through their participation. • Agencies that are part of an IRWM effort should consider joining the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), http://www.climateregistry.org/.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

DWR Integrated Regional Water Management Climate Change Document Clearinghouse*: <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/docs/IRWM-ClimateChangeClearinghouse.pdf>

*Contains brief summaries of 40 documents potentially relevant for IRWM practitioners

DWR's Climate Change Website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange>

State of California Climate Change Portal: <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov>

CARB website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/cc.htm>

The California CAT website: [http://climatechange.ca.gov/climate action team/index.html](http://climatechange.ca.gov/climate%20action%20team/index.html)

Association of Environmental Professionals. 2007. *Alternative Approaches to Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change in CEQA Documents*.

[http://www.counties.org/images/public/Advocacy/ag_natres/AEP Global Climate Change June 29 Final%5 B1%5 D.pdf](http://www.counties.org/images/public/Advocacy/ag_natres/AEP_Global_Climate_Change_June_29_Final%5B1%5D.pdf)

California Climate Action Registry. (2009). *General Reporting Protocol Version 3.1*.

http://www.climateregistry.org/resources/docs/protocols/grp/GRP_3.1_January2009.pdf

Center for Biological Diversity. 2007. *The California Environmental Quality Act On the Front Lines of California's Fight Against Global Warming*.

<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/publications/papers/CBD-CEQA-white-paper.pdf>

U.S. EPA. 2009. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990-2007*.

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads09/InventoryUSGhG1990-2007.pdf>