

APPENDIX D

Project Priority Ranking System

The purpose of the priority ranking system is to establish a list of eligible projects to be funded in a manner that prioritizes the most serious risks to public health and address agency priorities. The priority ranking system, along with readiness-to-proceed criteria, is primarily utilized to rank those projects eligible for principal forgiveness (i.e. disadvantaged community, regionalization).

Projects will be evaluated with respect to the three categories listed below to determine their ranking and selection for funding:

1. Public health issues;
2. System Improvements;
3. Regionalization

The overall ranking of projects is based on the sum of all points received in each applicable category. Projects are evaluated in applicable categories depending on project scope and/or if the applicant meets the disadvantaged community program benchmarks (see Appendix E for criteria). For example, if a project addresses a public health issue and the applicant meets the disadvantaged community benchmarks then it is evaluated in all three categories.

For the regionalization category, each public water system to be regionalized will be evaluated based on available documentation (i.e., signed commitment, ordinance, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)). For example, a project regionalizing three public water systems with letters of commitment to connect with the system of capacity will receive 1 point per system in the regionalization category. If those systems have documented public health issues, such as exceedances for Health Advisory Levels (HAL), each system would also be evaluated in the public health category. Regionalization also includes projects that connect areas with contaminated wells or wells with an inadequate water supply. If documentation from the local health department regarding known issues is provided and interest to connect is demonstrated (public meetings, petitions, signed MOUs, etc) , the project will also receive points in the public health issues category.

If a project is not proposing regionalization and the applicant does not meet the disadvantaged community benchmarks, but will address one the following issues, it is evaluated in the public health issues category as well as the system improvements category:

- $\geq 50\%$ Maximum Contaminant Level
- Treatment Technique
- PFAS/PFOA (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)
- Manganese
- Significant Deficiency

Projects that will not address a public health issue, are not proposing regionalization and the applicant does not meet the disadvantaged community benchmarks will receive a default score of 1.0.

Public Health Issues

The greatest emphasis will be placed on projects addressing public health issues. The period of analysis will be the 24 months prior to inclusion on the priority list unless the system is under Director's Final Findings and Orders to correct the issue, then the public health points will stand until the project is completed. MCL violations caused by failure to monitor or report will not be included in the analysis. The following are the points assigned to the referenced levels of contamination.

Acute Contaminants

Bacteriological Contamination (Addressable through infrastructure improvements) (select only one)	
No Level 2 Assessments	0 points
Level 2 Assessment	5 points
Treatment Technique (must install 4-log removal)	10 points

Surface Water Treatment Rule (turbidity and chlorine contact time)	
No treatment technique violations	0 points
One treatment technique violation	5 points
Two or more treatment technique violations	10 points

Nitrate / Nitrite (select only one)	
Level consistently less than 8.0 mg/L / 0.8 mg/L	0 points
Level >8.0 mg/L ≤10 mg/L / >0.8 mg/L ≤1 mg/L	5 points
Level >10 mg/L / 1 mg/L (1 or more NOVs)	10 points

Microcystin (in finished water)	
Level >0 and < 50% of the threshold	2 points
Level ≥ 50% of the threshold	5 points
One or more threshold exceedances	10 points

Chronic Contaminant Groups

Inorganic Chemicals (IOCs) including arsenic, Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs), Radionuclides, Disinfection Byproducts.	
No MCL violations	0 points
Level at least 50% of MCL	2 points/contaminant
Level \geq MCL	5 points/contaminant

TTHMs/HAA5s (Total Trihalomethane/Haloacetic Acids) are a single contaminant. Disinfection byproducts and arsenic points are based on the running annual average.

Disruption of service for previous 12 months. Points only assigned for documented Type 3 or 4 events and the project will address the problem that caused the disruption.	
No disruption of service events reported	0 points
1-4 disruption of service events per mile	2 points
5 or more disruption of service events per mile	5 points

Health Advisory Levels (not restricted to the previous 12 months) Manganese (0.3 mg/l); PFOA (0.004 PPT); PFOS (0.02 PPT); GENX (10 PPT); PFBS (2,000 PPT); PFHxS (140 PPT); PFNA (21 PPT) HAL only	
Manganese Level \geq 50% HAL	2 points
PFAS Level \geq 50% to 74% for Health Advisory Level listed	2 points each
PFAS Level \geq 75% for Health Advisory Level listed	4 points each

Contamination or Inadequate Supply in Private Wells *	
Project is to extend water line to area of contaminated or inadequate sources	5 points

*Must have documentation of poor quality/quantity wells. Local health department must have knowledge of issues in area. Documentation of public interest is required.

PWS Source Contamination (Only if project replaces the contaminated source. For example, contamination due to salt piles, industrial contamination, underground storage tanks, and dry cleaners).	
Replace drinking water source that has contamination within the five year time of travel.	2 points
Replace drinking water source that has contamination within the one year time of travel.	5 points

Microcystin Source Contamination	
Project is to replace a contaminated drinking water source or modify treatment at an existing water treatment plant.	
>50% of microcystin action level (0.3 ug/l) detected in raw water.	2 points
Two or more exceedances of microcystin action level (0.3 ug/l) detected in raw water at least 30 days apart.	5 points

Significant Deficiencies	
Project will eliminate a significant deficiency as documented in the most recent sanitary survey or LSSV. No points given for RTCR or recordkeeping. 10 points max.	5 points /deficiency

System Improvements

The system improvements category enables continued compliance with federal and state Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements. The condition of the physical infrastructure has been selected as an indicator or predictor of the system's ability to remain in compliance. The rationale being that without adequate supplies of source water, with inadequate, undersized or deteriorated plants, and with inadequate finished water storage and/or distribution systems, a public water system will be unable to maintain compliance with SDWA requirements. The following are the points assigned to the specified elements in this category for issues that will be corrected by the proposed project.

Design Deficiencies

Source Quantity	
Shortage during peak day demand	1 point
Continual shortage (Exceeds approved source design capacity for at least 30 days out of previous 12 month period).	3 points

Source (if not included in Source Contamination section above, and to address a physical construction issue)	
Improper well construction	3 points
Inadequate intake structure	3 points

Plant	
Inadequate back-up power (average day)	1 point
Inadequate process*	1 point/process
No redundancy of critical components**	1 point
Insufficient plant capacity***	3 points
Deteriorated plant	3 points

* Processes to be considered include chemical feed, rapid mix, clarification (flocculation/settling), filtration, disinfection control, aeration/stripping, ion-exchange, corrosion control, and pumping. Maximum - 9 points.

**Critical components are those which are necessary to treatment and without which, drinking water standards may not be met.

*** Exceeds approved design capacity for at least 30 days out of the previous 12 month period.

NOTE: Inadequate processes and insufficient plant capacity projects will require a sufficiency evaluation through Formal General Plan approval process prior to project scoring.

Storage System	
Less than one day average daily demand.	1 point

Distribution System	
Bringing underground booster stations/storage tanks above grade	1 point
Inadequate size lines	1 point
Looping dead end lines	1 point
Project includes installation of meters to a public water system at existing connections currently without residential meters	2 points
Deterioration of distribution system components	2 points

Regionalization

This category is included to support the concept that larger systems are more apt to have managerial, financial and technical capabilities to ensure continued compliance with current and future requirements of both federal and SWDA laws and regulations. Points are also given for systems extending water service to underserved areas with poor quantity and/or poor quality private wells.

Regionalization/Underserved guidelines	
Project will eliminate and/or tie-in a PWS with a <u>public health issue</u> that has a signed commitment letter(s) to tie in or an ordinance mandating tie-in (excluding Transient Non-Community PWSs).	5 points/system
Project will eliminate and/or tie-in a PWS that has a signed commitment letter(s) to tie in or an ordinance mandating tie-in (includes all PWSs) (10 points max).	1 point/system
Project provides water service to underserved areas with poor quantity and/or poor quality private wells.	1 point