

PRIORITY SCORING WORKSHEET

A. Project Information

Applicant: _____

Project Title: _____

This worksheet is designed to help an applicant estimate the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Priority Score for its project and, therefore, the likelihood that a project will be added to the CWSRF Fundable List; a project must be on the Fundable List to receive funding from the CWSRF and its complementary programs. Applicants should bear in mind that the official Priority Score will be calculated by the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) staff based on application materials submitted as of December 31 of the year preceding the Fundable Year. Projects will only be recommended for the Fundable List after verification of all Priority Scores, and Scores will only be official after the State Water Board has approved the Scores and the Fundable List as part of adopting the annual Intended Use Plan.

B. Automatic Fundability

Two types of projects noted below are automatically added to the Fundable List. If you believe that your project qualifies under either category, you should contact DFA staff directly for further guidance about your application. Scoring your project is unnecessary if it is automatically Fundable.

1. Does the Applicant qualify to be a Small Disadvantaged Community? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - A population less than 20,000; and
 - An MHI of less than eighty percent (80%) of the statewide MHI
2. Does Project qualify as a Public Health project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

A project is a public health project when the County Board of Supervisors, City Council, or the County Health Officer has certified that a health problem exists and the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board has (a) adopted a discharge prohibition, (b) approved a moratorium, or (c) adopted a cease and desist order. Alternatively, a project may be a public health project when it is required to comply with a prohibition, posting, limitation, or warning that has been imposed by a responsible health authority and the State Water Board or a Regional Water Board has concurred with the health authority's determination and established a time schedule for correction or elimination of the problem. The applicant must demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and correction or elimination of the public health problem.

➤ If Yes to either of the above, project is eligible to be added to the Fundable List.

C. Ineligibility

New projects will not be added to the Fundable List if any of the following conditions are true. Applicants should not estimate their Priority Scores because these projects are not Fundable.

1. Has more than 25% of construction been completed, based on cost? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Was construction started on or before December 31 and is construction scheduled to be completed before June 15 or IUP adoption date? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Is the project missing any components of the following application packages? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- General Package
 - Environmental Package
 - Technical Package
 - Financial Package

- If Yes to any of the above, project will be excluded from scoring and funding consideration. **Do not score.**
- If No to all, Project will be scored for placement on the Fundable List per Section D.

D. Priority Scoring

Project Score (Select the highest score)

The project score is determined by the water quality resource or impact associated with the project and the project's purpose. Projects may have multiple purposes or impacts. If a project can be scored multiple ways, its final project score will be the highest of the possible project scores. The "purposes" are defined at the end of this section. A project that does not meet any of the objectives below will receive a project score of two (2) for the project.

Resource or Impact	Purpose		
	Corrective	Preventive	Improvement
Drinking Water Source	10 ☐	9 ☐	6 ☐
Nutrient Removal	8 ☐	8 ☐	6 ☐
Water Recycling			8 ☐
Water Quality Control Plan or Permit, or Impaired Water Body	8 ☐	7 ☐	4 ☐
Potential Project Score (Max. 10):			

Purpose

Corrective: To qualify as a corrective project, the applicant must identify the specific plan, policy, or permit criteria that are being violated or exceeded, document the extent of the violations, document that the violations are the subject of enforcement actions, if applicable, by a Regional Water Board or the State Water Board, and demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and correction of the problem.

Preventive: To qualify as a preventive project, an applicant must demonstrate that not completing the project is likely to result in a plan, policy, or permit violation or exceedance in the near future. The applicant must identify the specific criteria that will potentially be violated or exceeded and demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and prevention of the violations.

Improvement: To qualify as an improvement project, an applicant must demonstrate that, while not necessary to meet current standards or prevent near-term violations, the project outcome will surpass current plan, policy, or permit requirements, meet anticipated future requirements, or be done to improve the efficiency and reliability of meeting standards or reduce operating costs.

Resource or Impact

Drinking Water Source: If the project impacts an identified source of drinking water, then it may be scored in this category. The applicant must identify the drinking water source, the current or reasonably foreseeable users of that source, the drinking water standards that are in jeopardy, and demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and the elimination or reduction of the constituents that jeopardize the drinking water standards.

Nutrient Removal: If the project reduces nutrient levels in discharge effluent, then it may be scored in this category. Applicants must demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and a reduction in nutrient levels of the discharge effluent.

Water Recycling: Projects must meet the requirements of the [Water Recycling Funding Program Guidelines](#).

Water Quality Control Plan/Permit or Impaired Water Body: If a project addresses compliance with a specific water quality control plan or permit or an impaired water body, then it may be scored in this category. For a Water Quality Control Plan or Permit, applicants must identify the specific criteria in the Regional Water Board or State Water Board adopted plan or permit and demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and correction, prevention, or improvement of the conditions affecting the criteria. For an Impaired Water Body, applicants must identify the 303(d) listed water body, the specific impairment, and demonstrate a direct connection between completion of the project and correction, prevention, or improvement of the specific impairment.

Secondary Score (Select the highest score)

Applicant volunteers this project to meet SRF equivalency requirements, meaning all federal crosscutting requirements will apply, including Build America, Buy America. <i>Note: Projects may be selected to meet necessary equivalency requirements associated with the funding source regardless of whether the applicant volunteers</i>		3 ☐
Project eliminates a discharge of waste regulated by a Regional Water Board or the State Water Board (e.g. regionalization, consolidation, or septic-to-sewer projects)		2 ☐
<i>Describe the source(s) eliminated or reduced:</i>		
<i>Identify the permit that will be eliminated:</i>		
Cited in a multi-agency regional environmental management plan <i>Description: A plan adopted or approved by multiple agencies that identifies regional solutions to environmental problems.</i> <i>Or, Multiple environmental benefits are benefits in addition to the project's primary water quality benefits, such as reducing solid waste, air pollution from sources outside of the system or project being financed.</i>		2 ☐

<i>Provide Title of Reg. Plan & Page #:</i>		
The applicant agrees to provide funds to match federal capitalization grants by agreeing to the match financing option		2 ☐
Potential Secondary Score (Max. 3):		

Affordability Score
(Sum of Community Size & MHI, Sewer Rates/MHI, Rate Assistance Program)

Size & MHI			
<i>Community the Project Serves</i>	Disadvantaged	Non-Disadvantaged	Non-Disadvantaged
	< 80% of State MHI	≥ 80% and < 100% of State MHI	≥ 100% and ≤ 150 % of State MHI
Small (≤ 20,000)	Not Subject to Scoring*	2 ☐	2** ☐
Medium (> 20,000 and ≤ 100,000)	2 ☐	1 ☐	0 ☐
Large (>100,000)	1 ☐	0 ☐	0 ☐

Small: Means a community with a population less than or equal to 20,000.

Medium: Means a community with population greater than 20,000 and less than or equal to 100,000.

Large: Means a community with a population greater than 100,000.

Disadvantaged Community: the entire service area of the funding applicant, in which the Median Household Income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI.

Non-Disadvantaged Community: Communities with MHI equal to or greater than 80% of the statewide MHI.

Note:

* The annual Intended Use Plan may identify additional project categories as not subject to scoring. Small communities with < 80% of State MHI will automatically be placed on the Fundable List, if the Deputy Director deems the application to be complete and the applicant is seeking repayable loan.

** Communities with State MHI ≥ 150% will receive a zero (0) in the table above. These communities can still receive points for Sewer Rates as a Percentage of MHI.

*** Communities that can demonstrate the project will solely benefit an area with a lower MHI may be scored using said area's MHI. Such documentation must use methods widely used in DFA for calculating MHI, including American Community Survey or income survey.

Sewer Rates/MHI			
	<1.0% of MHI	≥1.0% and <1.5% of MHI	≥1.5% of MHI
Sewer Rates as a Percentage of MHI	0 ☐	1 ☐	2 ☐

Sewer Rates/MHI: Current annual sewer rates as a percentage of the MHI of the community.

Offers Rate Assistance: The applicant, the entity that owns and maintains the project, or the City or County the applicant serves, operates a program which offers financial assistance to help some rate payers within its service area afford residential sewer bills

Rate Assistance Program	
Offers rate assistance	1 ☐

Potential Affordability Score (Max. 5):	
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Readiness Score (Select the highest score)

Status of Plans & Specifications as verified by State Water Board Staff	If ≥ 90% =	2 ☐
	or, if ≥ 50% =	1 ☐

Potential Readiness Score (Max. 2):	
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Plans & Specifications: Release of a request for proposal for design-build or similar construction procurement will be counted as 100% Plans & Specifications (P & S) for purposes of the readiness score. For construction projects that do not require construction P & S, acquisition of all agreements and approvals necessary to implement the scope of work will be counted as 100% P & S for purposes of the readiness score. Planning/design Projects are not eligible for this readiness point.

Potential Priority Score

Project (/10)	Secondary (/3)	Affordability (/5)	Readiness (/2)	Potential Priority Score (/20)
	+	+	+	=
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Consent to using the [funding agreement template](#) posted on the Division's website will make the project eligible to be added to the Fundable List as part of the CWSRF Policy's Remaining Capacity Process, if additional funding capacity becomes available, regardless of priority scores. (This functions like a waitlist.)

I consent to use a funding agreement template as posted on the Division's website (A satisfactory certification form is required to be submitted with application documents)	☐
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