Appendix E

Priority ranking system

The following criteria and point system is utilized by the DWSRF Program to rank eligible projects for potential financial assistance through the DWSRF Program:

	Base & Supplemental	Emerging Contaminants	Lead Service Line Replacement
Water Quality	30	25	30
Water Quantity	20	-	-
Affordability	20	20	20
Infrastructure Adequacy	15	-	15
Consolidation or Regionalization	10	10	-
Miscellaneous	5	-	5
Total	**100**	**55**	**70**

DWSRF funds may be used to buy or refinance existing local debt obligations (publicly owned systems only) where the initial debt was incurred and the construction started after July 1, 1993. DWSRF assistance requests of this type, if eligible, will be ranked based on the original purpose and success of the constructed improvements.

Creation of New Systems - eligible projects are those that, upon completion, will create a community water system (CWS) to address existing and serious public health problems caused by unsafe drinking water from individual wells or surface water sources. Eligible projects are also those that create a new regional CWS by consolidating existing systems with technical, financial, or managerial difficulties. Projects to address existing public health problems associated with individual wells or surface water sources must be limited in scope to the specific geographic area affected by contamination. Projects that create new regional CWSs by consolidating existing systems must be limited in scope to the service area of the systems being consolidated. A project must be a cost-effective solution to addressing the problem. Applicants must ensure that sufficient public notice has been given to potentially affected parties and consider alternative solutions to addressing the problem. Capacity to serve future population growth cannot be a substantial portion of the project.

Water Quality (select all that apply, 30 points maximum)			
	Base & Supplemental Pts.	Emerging Contaminants Pts.	Lead Pts.
A. Documented waterborne disease outbreaks within last 2 years.	☐ 20		
B. Unresolved nitrate or nitrite maximum contaminant level (MCL) exceedance(s), OR acute microbiological MCL exceedance(s) within last 12 months.	☐ 15		
C. Exceedance(s) of EPA-established unreasonable risk to health (URTH) level(s) within last 4 years for regulated chemicals or radionuclides (excludes nitrate and nitrite).	☐ 10		
D. Disinfection treatment inadequate to satisfy one of the following: • The Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) • The Enhanced SWTR (ESWTR) • The Groundwater Rule (GWR) • Groundwater source(s) deemed by the PWSS to be under the direct influence of surface water • Multiple turbidity treatment technique requirement (TTR) violations within last 2 years (includes at least one event where the maximum allowed turbidity was exceeded)	☐ 8		
E. Multiple turbidity TTR violations within last 2 years (no events where the maximum allowed turbidity was exceeded), OR 3 or more non-acute microbiological MCL violations within last 12 months.	☐ 7		
F. MCL or TTR exceedance(s) (no URTH level exceedances) within last 4 years (excludes microbiological contaminants, nitrate, nitrite, and turbidity).	☐ 6		☐ 30
G. Potential MCL or TTR compliance problems based on most recent 4-year period (excludes microbiological contaminants and turbidity).			
75% to 100% of MCL or TTR	☐ 5		☐ 25
50% to 74% of MCL or TTR	☐ 4		☐ 20
25% to 49% of MCL or TTR	☐ 3		☐ 15

H. General water quality problems			
• Total dissolved solids (TDS) ≥ 1,500 mg/L • Total hardness (TH) as calcium carbonate ≥ 650 mg/L • Sodium (Na) ≥ 650 mg/L • Iron (Fe) ≥ 2.0 mg/L • Sulfate (SO_4) ≥ 750 mg/L	☐ 4		
• TDS from 500-1,499 mg/L • TH as calcium carbonate from 200-649 mg/L • Na from 200-659 mg/L • Fe from 0.3-1.9 mg/L • SO_4 from 250-749 mg/L	☐ 2		
I. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detection	☐ 5	☐ 25	
J. Emerging contaminants (including PFAS) concentrations in raw water			
>200% of HAL	☐ 3	☐ 15	
100% to 200% of HAL	☐ 2	☐ 10	
<100% of HAL, or contaminant with no HAL	☐ 1	☐ 5	
K. Emerging contaminants (including PFAS) concentrations in finished water			
>200% of HAL	☐ 3	☐ 15	
100% to 200% of HAL	☐ 2	☐ 10	
<100% of HAL, or contaminant with no HAL	☐ 1	☐ 5	
Water Quality Total			

Water Quantity (select all that apply, 20 points maximum)			
	Base & Supplemental Pts.	Emerging Contaminants Pts.	Lead Pts.
A. Correction of a critical water supply problem involving the loss or imminent loss of a water supply in the near future	☐ 20		
B. Correction of an extreme water supply problem: • Maximum water available <150 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) **OR** • Water losses of >30% as documented through an audit **OR** • Continuous water shortages during all periods of operation	☐ 10		
C. Correction of a serious water supply problem: • Maximum water available <200 gpcd **OR** • Water losses of 21-30% as documented through an audit **OR** • Inability to meet peak daily water demand at a frequency of at least once per week during all periods of operation	☐ 7		
D. Correction of a moderate water supply problem: • Maximum water available <250 gpcd **OR** • Water losses of 11-20% as documented through an audit **OR** • Inability to meet peak daily water demands on a seasonal basis	☐ 4		
E. Correction of a minor water supply problem: • Maximum water available <300 gpcd **OR** • Water losses up to 10% as documented through an audit **OR** • Occasional inability to meet peak water demands	☐ 2		

Water Quantity Total			

Affordability (select all that apply, 20 points maximum)			
	Base & Supplemental Pts.	Emerging Contaminants Pts.	Lead Pts.
A. Average annual residential water user charge as a percent of local or service area annual median household income (AMHI)			
>2.5%	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
2.0% to 2.5%	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
1.5% to 1.9%	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
1.0% to 1.4%	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
0.5% to 0.9%	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
B. Households with income less than 200% of the poverty threshold			
≥50%	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
40% to 49%	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
30% to 39%	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
20% to 29%	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
10% to 19%	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
C. Unemployment rate			
≥5.0%	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
4.0% to 4.9%	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
3.0% to 3.9%	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
2.0% to 2.9%	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
1.0% to 1.9%	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1

D. Residents with less than a high school education			
≥20%	☐ 5	☐ 5	☐ 5
16.0% to 19.9%	☐ 4	☐ 4	☐ 4
12.0% to 15.9%	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
8.0% to 11.9%	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
4.0% to 7.9%	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1

Affordability Total

Infrastructure Adequacy (select all that apply, 15 points maximum)			
	Base & Supplemental Pts.	Emerging Contaminants Pts.	Lead Pts.
A. Source Water			
1. Correction of well construction or operating deficiencies	☐ 3		
2. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with surface water intake facilities	☐ 2		
3. Provision of a second well where only one functional well exists for systems relying solely on their own groundwater supplies	☐ 2		
4. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with raw water pumping facilities	☐ 2		
5. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with raw water distribution system piping and/or appurtenances	☐ 2		
6. Replacement of inoperative, obsolete, or inadequate instrumentation or controls			
B. Treatment			
1. Correction of general disinfection treatment deficiencies – excludes improvements necessary to directly comply with the SWTR, the ESWTR, or the GWR	☐ 3		

2. Water treatment plant operating at or above design capacity	☐	3		
3. Water treatment plant operating at or beyond useful design life	☐	3		
4. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with water treatment plant unit processes (excludes disinfection treatment)	☐	2		
5. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with chemical feed installations (excludes disinfection)	☐	2		
6. Replacement of inoperative, obsolete, or inadequate instrumentation or controls	☐	2		
C. Storage				
1. Replacement of deteriorated finished water storage structures	☐	3		
2. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with finished water storage facilities	☐	2		
3. Replacement of inoperative, obsolete, or inadequate instrumentation or controls	☐	2		
D. Distribution				
1. Correction of distribution system pressure problems (dynamic pressure <20 psi)	☐	3		
2. Replacement of deteriorated water mains and/or distribution system appurtenances, including water meters	☐	3		
3. Replacement of distribution system piping/materials containing lead	☐	3		☐ 15
4. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with finished water pumping facilities	☐	2		
5. Correction of specific design or operating deficiencies associated with finished water distribution system piping and/or appurtenances	☐	2		
6. Replacement of inoperative, obsolete, or inadequate instrumentation or controls	☐	2		

Infrastructure Adequacy Total

Consolidation or Regionalization (select all that apply, 10 points maximum)

	Base & Supplemental Pts.	Emerging Contaminants Pts.	Lead Pts.
A. Correction of Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance problem(s) or extreme to critical water supply problem(s) for one or more PWSs.	☐ 3		
B. Correction of contamination problems (regulated contaminants) or extreme water quantity problems for individual residences or businesses.	☐ 2		
C. Correction of potential MCL or TTR compliance problems, general water quality problems, or moderate to serious water quantity problems for one or more PWSs.	☐ 2		
D. Correction of general water quality problems, emerging contaminants, or moderate to serious water quantity problems for individual residences or businesses.	☐ 2	☐ 10	
E. Resolution of technical, managerial, or financial capacity problems for one or more PWSs.	☐ 2		
Consolidation or Regionalization Total			

Miscellaneous (select all that apply, 5 points maximum)

	Base & Supplemental Pts.	Emerging Contaminants Pts.	Lead Pts.
A. Correction of a problem that poses a safety hazard to operators.	☐ 3		
B. Measures to improve the PWS's resiliency during emergencies (interconnections with other PWSs, generators, flood protection, etc.)	☐ 3		
C. Administration buildings for the PWS (billing offices, labs, control centers, etc.)	☐ 2		
D. Studies that may result in a capital project or reduction in demand to alleviate the need for additional capital investment (water utility audits, leak detection studies, identification of service line materials, optimization studies, asset management plans, drought contingency plans, etc.)	☐ 1		☐ 5
Miscellaneous Total			

Grand Total			