

Project Title: Watershed planning and implementation for the Tijuana River Watershed

Project Contact (name and organization/agency): Katherine Comer IRSC-SDSU

Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Project Proposal Form

Detailed guidance on the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program can be found on the State Water Resources Control Board's Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant program web page at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/index.html>. Please familiarize yourself with the general requirements of this program before preparing and submitting a project proposal.

Completed forms should be submitted no later than December 1, 2004, either via email to jon.vanrhyn@sdcountry.ca.gov or mailed to the following location:

Jon Van Rhyn
County of San Diego
Watershed Protection Program
9325 Hazard Way
San Diego CA 92123

PHONE: 858-495-5133

FAX: 858-495-5263

SECTION A – PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title	Watershed planning and implementation for the Tijuana River Watershed
2. Contact Information: Katherine Comer	
? Agency/organization	Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, San Diego State University
? Address	San Diego State University 5500 Campanile Drive, Nasatir Hall 103 San Diego, CA 92182-4403
? Phone	(619) 594-5423
? E-mail	kcomer@projects.sdsu.edu , pganster@mail.sdsu.edu
? Submitted by (name & title)	Paul Ganster, Director, Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias, San Diego State University
3. Project Location (City/Community)	Campo Indian Reservation; La Posta Indian Reservation; Imperial Beach, California; Tecate, Baja California; Tijuana, Baja California; and Valle de las Palmas, Baja California
4. Watershed (if multiple or regional, please indicate)	Tijuana River Watershed
5. Amount Requested	\$510,000

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6. Match Information (a minimum 10% match is required for all projects):	
? Estimated match amount	\$66,000
? Has a match been identified (y/n)?	y
? If so, please identify the source(s)	SDSU Foundation
7. Status of Project (conceptual, designed & ready to build, CEQA completed, etc.)	conceptual
8. Project Description (less than 100 words) The Binational Watershed Advisory Council for the Tijuana River Watershed has developed a watershed conceptual plan over the past two years with the help of Proposition 13 funds. The work may be discontinued because the funds are expiring and there are currently no mechanisms for formal binational watershed management. This proposed project will continue convening the Advisory Council and handle the logistics of the group including meetings, minutes, communication, websites, and revisions to the plan. In addition, this project will research legal mechanisms for formal watershed management. Research on a future formal binational watershed council will include its potential structure, responsibilities, legal basis, and continued funding options.	
9. Additional information (include photo, regional map, text as needed. Please limit entire document to 3 pages or less): <u>Background on the Binational Watershed Group for the TRW</u> A watershed conceptual plan has been developed for the Tijuana River Water through two years of outreach and stakeholder input, and 20 years of prior research. Federal, state, and local government agencies, academics, NGOs, private sector, industry, business, <i>ejidatarios</i> , indigenous groups, and landowners have been meeting to discuss future desired scenarios with the help of Proposition 13 funds. <u>Background and previous efforts to establish a formal binational management mechanism</u> Water management in Mexico is the responsibility of the federal government with some aspects delegated to state agencies. In the United States, federal, state, and local governments are all involved in water management. In California, there is a strong emphasis on development of watershed management plans to control non-point source pollution and also to improve the hydraulic functioning of watersheds. Mexico's National Water Law, updated in 2004, establishes watershed councils, or <i>consejos de cuencas</i> . Neither of these efforts has the ability to engage in international planning and management of watersheds. International management of water-related issues is undertaken by the International	

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Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). IBWC's actions to date have largely been confined to allocation of surface waters according to treaty rights and addressing water quality issues such as transborder sewage flows. Recently, the IBWC has become involved in ecological studies in the Colorado River Delta and watershed coordination projects such as the TRW Vision project.

In addition to the Binational Vision Project for the TRW (2000-present), other local initiatives in the have been important. In 1997 a Border Water Council (BWC) was established under the Border Liaison Mechanism (BLM). Its major effort has been to launch a feasibility study for a joint Mexican and U.S. aqueduct to bring water to the west from the Mexicali-Imperial Valleys. This study was managed by IBWC with the cooperation of a number of Mexican and U.S. agencies. The Border 2012 Water Task for the TRW under EPA and SEMARNAT was formed in 2003. For land use and transportation planning, SANDAG has a Mexican representative on its Board of Directors and a special Borders Committee advised by the Committee on Binational Regional Opportunities (COBRO). No organizations other than IBWC currently have the capacity or legal authority to perform transborder planning, evaluate projects, develop joint information data banks, or sign agreements. However, possibilities for binational watershed management also exist under the Border Liaison Mechanism, the Presidential Executive Agreement, the 1983 La Paz border environmental agreement, through the Border 2012 process, through state-to-state efforts, or through CNA and a U.S. counterpart agency.

Work Plan

1. This proposed project will continue convening the Advisory Council and handle the logistics of the group including meetings, minutes, communication, websites, and revisions to the plan.
2. This project will research the possible creation of the formal Binational Tijuana River Watershed Council to ensure the binational, simultaneous harmonization of actions on both sides of the border. Additional research on the structure, functioning, responsibilities, legal basis, and funding options of the group will be performed.

Initial research at IRSC-SDSU has indicated that such a Binational Tijuana River Watershed Council may use several legal mechanisms to formally convene interested parties, implement projects, or perform ongoing watershed management. These include:

- Creating a Mexican *Comisión de Cuenca* for the TRW with U.S. participation
- Including Mexican participation in the San Diego Basin plan
- Creating a new Border Development Council or Agency
- Presidential Executive Agreements
- Border Liaison Mechanism
- State to state agreements
- Border 2012 process

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- 1983 La Paz Agreement
- IBWC-CILA minutes

Initial research at IRSC-SDSU has indicated that the Council may have the following characteristics:

- The council should maintain the proper staff, as well as the necessary financial and legal resources.
- The council should provide planning staff support for both countries.
- The council should provide regulatory enforcement capabilities for both countries.
- The general professional fields of expertise for the staff are: engineering (hydrological engineers specifically), regional planners, physical planning (land use planning, transportation, and design), environmental planning, economists and financial experts, international law experts, and supporting administrative personnel.
- The council will need to conduct research to define water quality in the transborder context, on appropriate planning approaches and methods, on the council's management system, on assessing new technological changes related to water management, and on physical planning, particularly on sustainable environmental infrastructure.
- The council will need to help develop regulatory standards that are homogeneous on both sides of the watershed to ensure a consensual and clear definition of water quality and pollution, as well as an effective system of enforcement of the regulations.
- The council should require and help review environmental impact reports for all projects going on in the watershed
- The council should be able to implement measures related to improving water quality.
- The council should be able to address flow regulation, ground water recharge, regional treatment plants, river rehabilitation, and so forth.
- The council will have to evaluate transborder projects that affect the watershed

Initial research at IRSC-SDSU has identified following potential participants in a Binational Watershed Council for the TRW:

Mexico	United States
The Municipalities of Tijuana and Tecate and Ensenada	The County of San Diego
The City of Tijuana and Tecate and Valle de las Palmas	The City of Imperial Beach The City of San Diego
Juntas de Nejí and other communities	The Campo, La Posta, La Manzanita, Cuyapaipe Indian Reservations
Comisión Nacional del Agua	U.S. EPA
Comisión Estatal del Agua	The State Water Resources Control

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	Board and Regional Water Quality Control Board Region 9
The Comisiones Estables de Servicios Publicos of Tijuana and Tecate	The San Diego County Water Authority, The County of San Diego and City of San Diego Water Departments, The Tijuana River Valley Water Authority
Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dirección General de Ecología	California Environmental Protection Agency
Secretaría de Asentamientos Humanos y Obras Públicas	U.S. Housing and Urban Development
Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas	International Boundary and Water Commission
Consulado General de Mexico in San Diego	The Consulate General of the United States in Tijuana
Tijuana's Land Use Planning Agency, IMPLAN	San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use

Initial research at IRSC-SDSU has identified following long-term funding options:

- IBWC and congressional appropriations
- Local district and city bonds
- Lease payments and service fees from specific projects to pay back loans from the North American Development Bank
- Private sources of loans available through the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission and Border Environmental Infrastructure Funds

Outreach and Partnership Building

To continue the process of binational cooperation through watershed planning and implementation stakeholder outreach will cover all sectors of society. A strong emphasis on disadvantaged communities has occurred in the past and will continue in this project.

Assessment of the project Results

The success of the project will be measured through number of participants in the meeting, feedback through the website, and comments on the watershed plan. The results of the research will be reviewed by legal experts in both countries, and presented to relevant parties and the Advisory Council for feedback.

Budget and Timeline

Phase	Timeline	Budget
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Coordinate Watershed Council	Quarterly meetings 2006-2008	\$250,000 Full time coordinator and researcher (3 years with benefits) \$16,000 meeting room and translation services \$15,000 materials for outreach \$8,000 travel
Research	2006-2008	\$125,000 Part time researcher (3 years with benefits) \$30,000 Legal review
Administrative	2006-2008	\$66,000 (15%)
In kind	2006-2008	\$66,000 (15%)Administrative from SDSU
Total		\$510,000

References

- Brown, C., Castro Ruiz, J., Lowery, N., Wright, R. 2003. Comparative analysis of transborder water management strategies: case studies on the U.S.-Mexican border. In *The U.S.-Mexican border environment: binational water management planning*, ed. Suzanne Michel, p. 279. San Diego: SCERP Monograph Series, no. 8.
- Graizbord, Carlos. 2004. "Potential mechanisms for transborder watershed management in the Tijuana River Watershed" report to IRSC-SDSU.

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SECTION B – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

1. CWC section 79561 states that eligible projects must include one or more of the water management elements listed below (see Guidance Section III.C.). Please check all that apply to your proposed project.

- Programs for water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency
- Storm water capture, storage, treatment, and management
- Removal of invasive non-native plants, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands
- Non-point source pollution reduction, management and monitoring
- Groundwater recharge and management projects
- Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting and other treatment technologies
- Water banking, water exchange, water reclamation and improvement of water quality
- Planning and implementation of multipurpose flood control programs that protect property; and improve water quality, storm water capture and percolation; and protect or improve wildlife habitat
- Watershed management planning and implementation
- Demonstration projects to develop new drinking water treatment and distribution methods

2. The Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have established the statewide priorities listed below for guiding the selection of projects for funding (see Guidance Section II.E.). Please check all that apply to your proposed project.

- Reduce conflict between water users or resolve water rights disputes, including interregional water rights issues
- Implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads that are established or under development
- Implementation of Regional Water Quality Control Board Watershed Management Initiative Chapters, plans, and policies
- Meet Delta Water Quality Objectives
- Implementation of recommendations of the floodplain management task force, desalination task force, or recycling task force;
- Address environmental justice concerns
- Assist in achieving one or more goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

NOTE: The eligibility requirements and statewide priorities listed above should be considered minimum screening criteria for project selection. Additional prioritization criteria will be identified once regional goals have been established for the draft IRWM Plan. In general, applicants should assume that preference will be

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NOTE: Proposals that include on-stream or off stream surface water storage facilities are not eligible.