



USEPA Region 9
US-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program

Prioritization Process

for Selecting Projects Located in Arizona,
California, Baja California and Sonora



EPA Region 9 Project Prioritization Process

◆ Highlighted Process Changes

- Conduct an initial call for applications resulting in ranked projects list, followed by an open application cycle, evaluating applications on a periodic basis and integrating those into the ranked list.
- Provide on-line “smart” application with sponsor, prompting required fields and types of responses.
- Conduct one-step application evaluation with priority categories integrated into ranking parameters.
- Overall ranking parameter modifications and updates.
- Manage on-line application status lists available for public view – Under Development (selected); Pre-Selected; Ranked Application Pool (Waitlist); Rejected/Ineligible.

EPA Region 9 Initial Eligibility Filter

Program Eligibility Filter

- ◆ **Project Types:** Community drinking water and/or wastewater infrastructure.
- ◆ **Project Objective:** Address an existing human health or environmental condition related to inadequate infrastructure or the absence of access to proper water and/or wastewater service.
- ◆ **Project Location:** 100 kilometers north/south of the U.S.-Mexico border. Projects located in Mexico must provide a US-side benefit.
- ◆ **Project sponsor must** (at time of selection or anytime during development):
 - Be in compliance with funding program requirements for any active BECC or NADB project. Project sponsors located in Mexico must also be in compliance with any CONAGUA funding or administrative requirements.
 - Demonstrate financial need through an affordability analysis conducted by BECC/NADB.

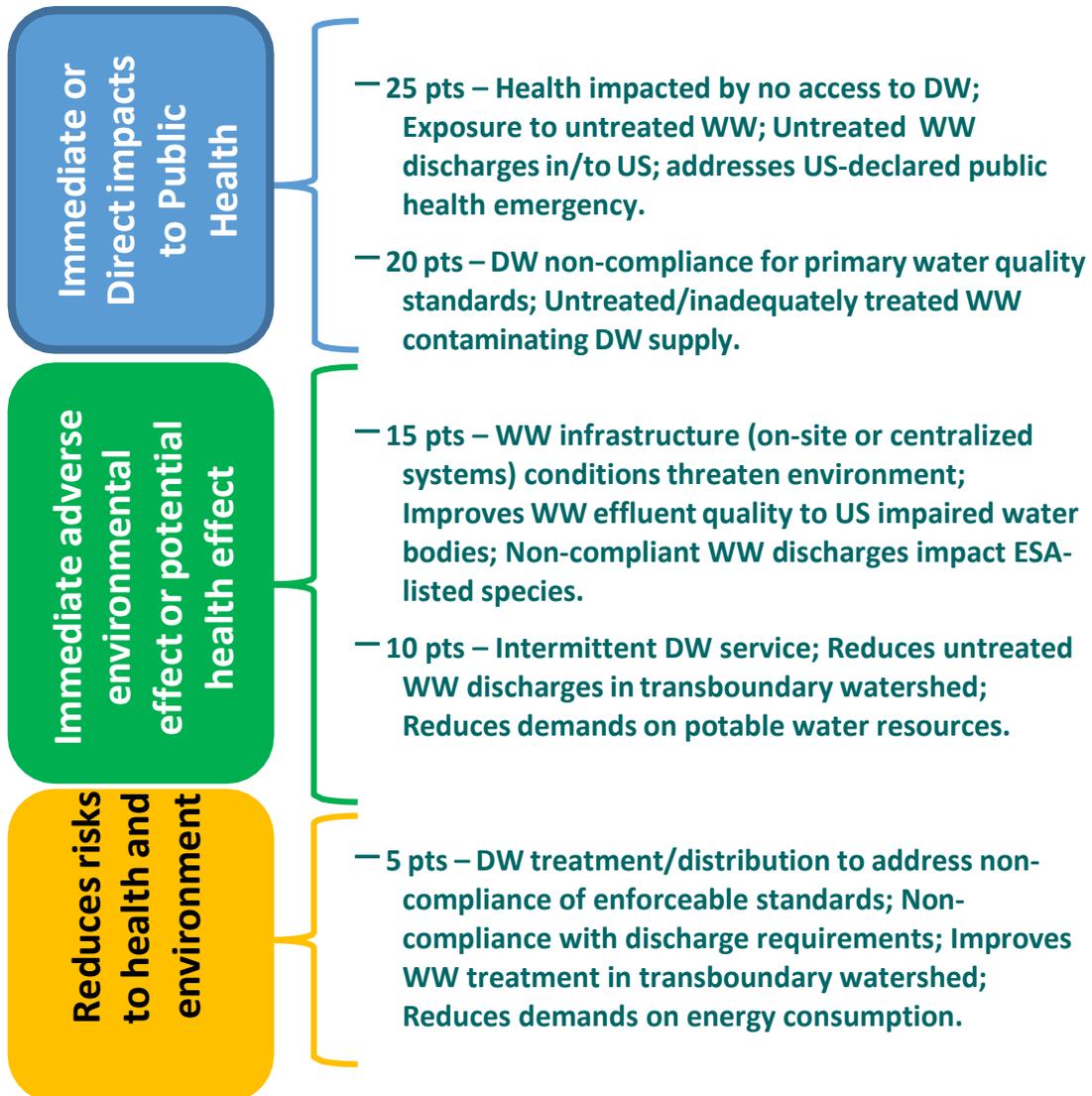
EPA Region 9 Prioritization Methodology

Potential Ranking Parameters – 100 points

- ◆ Environmental / Human Health Objective – 25 pts
- ◆ Institutional Capacity Documentation – 15 pts
- ◆ Project Development Status – 20 pts
- ◆ Degree of US Benefits – 15 pts
- ◆ Sustainable Development Component – 10 pts
- ◆ Addressing Regional Priorities – 15 pts

EPA Region 9 Prioritization Methodology

◆ Environmental and Human Health Objective – 25 pts



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◆ **Institutional Capacity Documentation – 15 pts (cumulative)**

3 points will be awarded for each of the following for a maximum of 15 pts:

- **Audited Financial Statements (previous year) and Current Year Budget**
- **Reserve accounts for O&M, Repair/Replacement, and/or capital improvements are established and maintained**
- **Rate structure along with billing and collection efficiencies data for previous fiscal year or 12-month period**
- **Organizational Structure including summary of qualifications/ experience of key management and operations personnel**
- **Operational performance documentation (i.e. sanitary surveys, influent/effluent data, NPDES permits, annual reports, water production/use; pre-treatment program activities).**
- **Utility applies sustainable development practices (high efficiency equipment, implementation of leak detection or other water conservation programs, tiered rate structures, existing reuse practices, etc.)**

Documentation will be collected during the “Pre-selection” project review process.

EPA Region 9 Prioritization Methodology

◆ Project Development and Funding Status – 20 pts maximum

10 Points: Design documents available¹ and/or a completed Facility Plan, Preliminary Engineering Report, or similar document.

5 Points: Planning document (Alternative Analysis) available and/or the applicant can provide clear documentation of the conditions to be addressed by the project.

ADD

10 Points: Formal commitment of funds from another source for anticipated project development or construction costs.

5 Points: Application submitted for other funding source(s) and/or the applicant can provide proof of land ownership for facilities to be addressed by the project.

¹Design is used here as an indicator of technical development and is not expected to meet standard requirements for certification and funding.

EPA Region 9 Prioritization Methodology

◆ Degree of US Benefit – 15 points

■ 15 points –

- Project is located in the US and provides new DW and/or WW connections;
- Project is located in Mexico and addresses untreated WW discharges to transboundary water body.

■ 10 points –

- Project is located in the US and addresses non-compliant WW discharges;
- Project is located in Mexico, within a transboundary watershed, and reduces untreated WW discharges or improves US water quality.

■ 5 points –

- Project is located in the US;
- Project is located in Mexico, within a transboundary watershed, and improves WW treatment, discharge quality, and/or provides first-time access to WW or DW services.

■ 0 points –

- Project is located in Mexico and in a community contiguous to the border.

EPA Region 9 Prioritization Methodology

◆ Sustainable Development Component – 10 pts

- 10 Points:** Integral SD element (anaerobic digestion/cogeneration, use of alternative energy to power processes, or efforts resulting in a decrease on the demand for potable water use or depletion of important water resources).
- 5 Points:** Incidental SD element (solar power for power needs such as facility lighting, installation of high efficiency equipment for operations, or reuse of water at the respective facility).

◆ Addressing Regional Priorities – 15 pts (if more than one applies, use highest)

- 15 Points:** Eliminates untreated or inadequately treated discharges from Mexico to the US; US-declared health emergency.
- 10 Points:** Influences US water quality in transboundary water body.
- 2 Points:** Project will address a B2020 program objective (new connections; reduced operating costs; energy efficiency; water efficiency; climate change adaptation).