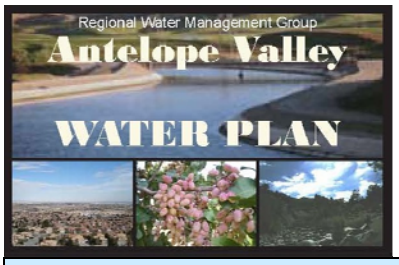

Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Proposition 50 Round 2, Step 1 Grant Application

Attachment 3: Consistency with Plan Standards

Using the requirements shown in Guidelines, Appendix A, document how the Plan addresses each standard listed. Applicants should structure Attachment 3 such that it has sub-sections that address each standard shown in the Appendix A. Within each sub-section, address how the Plan meets the requirements for that standard and cross-reference sections (page numbers) of the Plan that address the relevant Plan Standard. Attachment 3 must be no more than 6 pages in length using a minimum 10-point type font.

The Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Plan) is consistent with the IRWM Plan standards as demonstrated below. The IRWM Plan Section (Sect) is referenced, with the page number or table provided in parentheses, example, Sect.1.2.1 (pg. 1-10).

A. Regional Agency or Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)
Describe the RWMG. Include member agencies and their responsibilities related to water. Demonstrate all agencies that were necessary to address objectives and strategies of the Plan were involved in the planning process. REF: Sect 1.2.1 (Table 1-1, pg. 1-11)
The RWMG was formed through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) among 11 public agencies for development and implementation of the Plan. All of these regional entities have statutory authority over one or more of the following water management areas: water supply, water quality, flood and stormwater management, wastewater, and recycled water. Over 40 stakeholder groups that represent various water management interests have participated in the planning process. These various interests provided the representation needed in order to address the objectives and strategies in the Plan.
B. Region Description
Was a map or maps, w/ accompanying descriptive narrative, showing the region encompassed by the Plan provided? REF: Fig. 1-1, (pg. 1-4)
Fig 1-1 shows that the Antelope Valley Region (Region) boundary is a triangular-shaped, topographically closed basin. A more detailed descriptive narrative of the Region is in Sect 2.1.
Did the map/maps include appropriate internal boundaries to the region, major water related infrastructure, and major land-use divisions w/in the region? REF: Fig. 1-2 (pg. 1-20); Fig. 1-3 (pg. 1-23); Fig. 2-1 (pg. 2-4); Fig. 2-2 (pg. 2-5); Fig. 2-9 (pg. 2-18); Fig. 2-10 (pg. 2-20)
The following maps show internal boundaries to the Region: disadvantaged communities (Fig. 1-2), towns (Fig. 1-3), service districts (Fig. 2-1), city boundaries and special districts (Fig. 2-2), and groundwater basin subunits (Fig. 2-9). Major-water related infrastructure in the Region is shown in Fig. 3-2 and land use designations in Fig. 2-10.
Did the Plan describe the current and future water resources of the region? REF: 3.1.1 (pgs. 3-1 to 3-5), 3.1.2 (pgs. 3-5 to 3-7), 3.1.3 (pgs. 3-7 to 3-19), 3.1.4 (pg. 3-19), 3.1.5 (pgs. 3-21 to 3-25)
The current and future water resources of the Region are surface water, imported water, groundwater, aquifer storage and recovery, and recycled water.
Explain why the region is an appropriate area for regional water management? REF: 2.1 (pg. 2-1)
Water supply for the Region comes from three primary sources: the State Water Project (SWP), local surface water runoff, and groundwater, with recycled water and stormwater used as secondary sources of water supply. Rapid development demands on water availability and quality, coupled with the potential curtailments of SWP deliveries due to prolonged drought, have intensified the competition for available water supplies. Consensus is needed to develop a water resource management plan and strategy that addresses the needs of the M&I purveyors to reliably provide the quantity and quality of water necessary to serve the continually expanding Region, while concurrently addressing the need of agricultural users to have adequate supplies of reasonably-priced irrigation water. For these reasons, the Region is appropriate for regional water management.
Did the applicant describe the quantity and quality of water resources within the region? REF: 3.1 (pg. 3-1), 3.1.8 (pg. 3-38), 3.2 (pg. 3-63)
Imported water, surface water and groundwater quality are generally considered good within the Region. Constituents of concern for groundwater quality are salts, arsenic, and nitrates. Reliability is a major concern for the Region and there is a deficit on the order of 68,400 acre-feet for an average water year in 2010 between existing supplies and demand, and up to 189,100 acre-feet out to 2035.
Describe water supplies and demand for a minimum 20-year planning horizon? REF: 3.1.8 (pg. 3-38)
A comparison of the water supply and demand for the Region for an average year, a single-dry year, and a multiple-dry year are provided in the Plan. The Plan demonstrates that the future demand exceeds the existing and planned water supplies through 2035 for each of the water supply scenarios.

Were important ecological processes and environmental resources within the regional boundaries discussed? REF: 3.4.1 (pg. 3-76), 3.4.2 (pg. 3-77)
Important ecological processes discussed in the Plan include competition; for nutrients, water, and light; fire; nutrient cycling; carbon accumulation and release; and ecological genetics. Important environmental resources include open space and habitat areas, significant ecological areas, non-native species (e.g., arundo and tamarisk), and threatened and endangered species (e.g., least Bell's vireo).
Did the Plan discuss the social and cultural makeup of the regional community; identify important cultural or social values; and describe economic conditions and important trends within the region? REF: 2.6 (pg. 2-21; 3-81), 2.7 (pg. 2-23; 3-80)
The Region's social and cultural makeup is historically rural and agricultural, combined with the emergent influence of the aerospace industry and development pressures in the 1980's. Important cultural and social values are diverse, and in some cases divergent. As the Los Angeles population rapidly expanded into the Region, the desire for more cultural amenities and new skills and resources increased and the Region became more metropolitan in character. Historically, the economy within the Region has focused primarily on agriculture with a shift to residential and industrial uses.
C. Objectives
Identify regional planning objectives and the manner in which they were determined. REF: 4.0 (pg. 4-1)
The regional planning objectives of the Plan are grouped according to the five regional water management strategy areas: water supply management; water quality management; flood management; environmental resource management; and land use management. These objectives were determined through an iterative process by which the Stakeholder group was asked to brainstorm preliminary objectives for the issues and needs for the Region identified in Sect 3. The draft list of objectives was discussed among the entire stakeholder group and comments were reviewed and incorporated into the objectives, as appropriate. The list was then finalized and incorporated into the Plan.
Does the Plan address major water related objectives and conflicts in the region covered by the Plan? REF: 4.0 (pg. 4-3 to 4-5); 5.0; 6.0; 7.0; 8.0
The main conflicts in the Region concern the ability for the Region to continue to provide a reliable water supply given the expected level of growth and the increasing pressure on resources commonly shared among all community members within the Region. Based on the identified water-related conflicts and challenges faced by the Region (Sect. 3), regional objectives and measurable planning targets were identified (Sect. 4.0) to evaluate how well the strategies identified for the Region will contribute to resolving the conflicts were then compiled and packaged (Sect. 5.0 and 6.0), evaluated in (Sect. 7.0), and planned for implementation (Sect. 8.0).
D: Water Management Strategies
Did the Plan describe the range of water management strategies that were considered to meet the objectives of the plan? REF: 5.1.1 (pg. 5-4 to 5-6)
The Plan evaluated the 11 required water management strategies as well as the following 9 water management strategies: conjunctive use, desalination, imported water, land use planning, NPS pollution control, surface storage, watershed planning, water and wastewater treatment, and water transfers.
Was a brief discussion of why a water management strategy was not applicable provided? REF: 5.1 (pg. 5-2, 5-5)
All of the water management strategies identified by the IRWM Guidelines are applicable to the Region, except for ocean desalination, which is considered inapplicable due to the fact that the Region is located in a closed basin geographically distant from the ocean. However, it could become an applicable water strategy through water transfers if feasible in the future.
E. Integration
Did the applicant discuss how these strategies work together to provide reliable water supply, protect or improve water quality, and achieve other objectives? REF: 6.1 (pgs. 6-1 to 6-19; Table 6-1 [pg. 6-2], Table 6-2 [pg. 6-3]); 6.2 (pgs. 6-19 to 6-21)
Opportunities for maximizing the integration of water supply and water quality projects and simultaneously generating benefits for open space, habitat, and recreational uses will be accomplished with the projects proposed for the Region. For example, a groundwater recharge project, which generally benefits water supply, will also benefit environmental resources by designating the recharge area as open space or habitat.
Was a discussion of the added benefits of integration of multiple water management strategies provided, as compared to stand alone alternatives? REF: 6.3 (pg. 6-33)
Added benefits of integration as compared to stand alone alternatives include: facilitating cost sharing; resolving potentially conflicting water management needs; avoiding duplication of efforts; identifying and resolving jurisdictional, legal, regulatory, administrative, or water rights issues; enhancing efficiency of monitoring and data management; increasing public awareness, public education and outreach, and stakeholder involvement; and providing synergistic effects to optimize attainment of Plan objectives.
F: Regional Priorities
Was a presentation of regional priorities for implementation provided? REF: 7.3 (pg. 7-13)

Using the approach of 'facilitated broad agreement' during the monthly Stakeholder meeting in April 2007, the stakeholders identified regional priorities for Plan implementation. These priorities are inherently integrative to the objectives and planning targets identified in Sect 4 that address the Region's issues and needs.
Did the applicant identify short-term and long-term implementation priorities? REF: 7.3 (pg. 7-13)
Short-term priorities are those the stakeholders want to implement within the next 3-5 years and include: completing the Plan by January 1, 2008, identifying projects that will help bridge the gap between existing projects and the Regional planning targets and developing programs and policies to increase groundwater recharge or better manage groundwater use. Long-term priorities are those the stakeholders want to implement within the next 20 years and include: maintaining a committee structure to oversee plan implementation and continued stakeholder input, protecting groundwater supplies, and expanding distribution systems to provide recycled water to new users.
Does the Plan discuss how: 1) decision-making will be responsive to regional changes; 2) responses to implementation of projects will be assessed; and 3) project sequencing may be altered based on implementation responses? REF: 8.6.1.1 (pg. 8-59), 8.6.1.2 (pg. 8-59), 8.6.1.3 (pg. 8-60)
As the Plan is updated, there will be a process to revisit the evaluation, assessment, and ranking process for the implementation projects to identify changes that should be made to the criteria and prioritization in response to new regional conditions and project implementation status. As projects are implemented in the Region as part of the Plan, project performance will be assessed and outcomes will be monitored, and the results from the Plan performance monitoring will be used to guide future project implementation. The results from monitoring project performance will be used to guide future project implementation and sequencing.
G: Implementation
Does the Plan identify specific actions, projects and studies, ongoing or planned, by which the Plan will be implemented? REF: 5.0; Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17)
Sect 5.0 of the Plan identifies the specific water management strategies that are currently utilized by the agencies and organizations in the Region on an ongoing basis, the strategies now being implemented, and those that are planned for the future. The stakeholders evaluated those strategies and narrowed them down to a specific prioritized list of low, medium, and high projects for implementation, which can be found in Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17).
Did the Plan include timelines for active or planned projects? REF: 7.3 (pg. 7-16); Appendix F
The Plan prioritizes projects as high, medium, or low in terms of implementation priority. A 'high' priority was assigned to projects the group would take action on within the next two years. A 'medium' priority was assigned to projects the group would take action on within the next five years. A 'low' priority was assigned to projects the group would take action on within the next 5 to 10 years. Also specific timelines for some high priority projects were identified in Sec 7.3 in Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17), and are additionally broken down even further into phases (i.e., planning, demonstration, design, construction) in Appendix F.
Did the applicant identify the entities responsible for project implementation? REF: Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17)
Entities responsible for project implementation are identified on Table 7-2 in Sect 7.0 of the Plan.
Were the linkages or interdependence between projects clearly identified? REF: 7.4.1.1 (pg. 7-29)
The combined implementation of the high priority projects would provide multiple benefits to the Region spanning a number of water management actions. The main linkage between them is that all of the projects proposed for implementation are targeted at reducing the mismatch between supply and demand projected for the Region by 2035. These priority projects work as an integrated package. Many of their components are dependant on each other, requiring continual coordination between agencies and stakeholders.
Was the economic and technical feasibility of projects demonstrated on a programmatic level? REF: 7.4.1 (pg. 7-29), Table 7-1 (pg. 7-8), and 8.5.1 (pg. 8-43)
The economic feasibility of the projects were evaluated on a programmatic level and used as one of the factors in prioritizing the projects in terms of 'readiness to proceed' as discussed in Sect 7.0 and shown in Table 7-1 (pg. 7-8) of the Plan. How the projects identified for implementation in the Plan are supported through technical studies, including the commission and recommendations from a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to help document the Region's water supply picture and the ability of the projects to meet their intended objectives, is provided in Sect 8.5.1 of the Plan.
Was the current status of each element of the Plan presented? REF: Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17)
The current status for each element of the Plan (i.e., planning, demonstration, design, permitting, construction, etc.) presented is identified on Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17) in Sect 7.0 and Appendix F of the Plan.
Was the institutional structure that will ensure plan implementation discussed? REF: 8.2.2 (pg. 8-18)
The RWMG formed through the MOU and the planning group composed of a broad range of stakeholders have been used as the institutional structure to develop the Plan. The stakeholders decided that they would continue to use the current structure with an approach of "facilitated broad agreement" to decision making on implementation and update of the Plan. While the current structure and approach has been successful to create the Plan, the stakeholders will research and discuss options for long-term, sustainable governance models such as joint powers authorities and special districts to strengthen their current model.
H: Impacts & Benefits
Does the Plan include an evaluation of potential negative impacts within the region and in adjacent areas from its implementation? REF: 7.2.1.1 (pg. 7-2)

Generally, any impacts that would be considered adverse would likely be short-term construction related impacts such as air quality emissions and increases in noise levels from grading activities from individual project implementation activities.
Does the Plan include the advantages of the regional plan as opposed to individual local efforts? REF: 7.2.1 (pg. 7-1)
The Plan includes a number of examples of why a regional plan is advantageous as opposed to local efforts. The main advantage is the implementation of projects and management actions designed to improve local resources (whether they be water supply, open space, recreational land, etc.) will be more successful as a result of this high level of cooperation among the agencies that must work together to implement them. This level of achievement and these benefits could not be realized from implementation of just a local agency's projects alone.
If applicable, does the Plan identify interregional benefits and impacts? REF: 7.2.2 (pg. 7-2)
There exists the potential for interregional benefits and impacts from coordination with agencies and organizations in San Bernardino County that lies to the east, and with the other South Lahontan funding area groups that are beginning their own process of developing a Plan.
If applicable, did the applicant describe the benefits to disadvantaged communities? REF: 7.2.3 (pg. 7-3)
Benefits to disadvantaged communities include a reliable water supply, meeting water quality standards and protect existing supplies from contamination, managing flood waters and providing adequate flood control, and protecting and preserving open space, habitat, recreational uses, and agricultural lands within the entire Region.
Was an evaluation of impacts/benefits to other resources provided? REF: 7.2.4 (pg. 7-3)
The Plan provides an evaluation of the impacts and/or benefits to other resources, such as air quality, transportation, and energy. These resources are evaluated in Sec. 7.2.4 for implementation of this Plan as a whole.
I: Technical Analysis & Plan Performance
Did the Plan include a discussion of data, technical methods, and analyses used in the selection of water management strategies? REF: 8.5.1 (pg. 8-43), 8.5.1.1 (pg. 8-45)
During the assessment of the issues and needs of the Region, the TAC was formed to discuss the conceptual water budget elements identified in Fig. 3-1 (pg. 3-2 in Sect. 3.0) for the Region, including water supply and water demand issues. The TAC focused on sources of agricultural acreage data, crop water use requirements, estimates of natural recharge, and estimates of return flow for agricultural, urban, and wastewater users. Through the TACs recommendations, a water budget for the Region was calculated using a spreadsheet model identifying the mismatch of supply and demand out to 2035. The mismatch was so great that it was determined that not one strategy was more desirable than another for implementation, rather ALL applicable water management strategies were recommended for implementation.
Were data gaps identified? REF: 8.5.2 (pg. 8-46)
Numerous data sets and reports were reviewed for their applicability to the Region and statewide data needs. This knowledge provided the information necessary to identify the data gaps. Data gaps represent information crucial to a greater understanding of the Region and help develop context for future projects and management actions.
Did the Plan discuss measures that will be used to evaluate project/plan performance, monitoring systems that will be used to gather performance data, and mechanisms to adapt project operation and plan implementation based on performance data collected? REF: 8.5.3 (pg. 8-47)
Performance measures for each of the planning targets discussed in Sect. 4 were developed to allow progress of the overall Plan to be measured. The Plan describes the monitoring methods and programs that will be used to collect data and the mechanisms by which this data will drive future improvements to projects and the Plan. The Plan recognizes that more detail is needed for a number of these performance measures in order for them to sufficiently be measurable and implementable.
J: Data Management
Does the Plan include mechanisms by which data will be managed and disseminated to stakeholders and the public? REF: 8.4.1 (pg. 8-40)
Mechanisms by which data will be managed and disseminated to the stakeholders and the public include standardized reporting requirements for updates on individual project progress, bi-annual updates of the Plan, quarterly meetings, and the public website, www.AVWaterPlan.org.
Was a discussion of how data collection will support statewide data needs provided? REF: 8.4.2 (pg. 8-41), 8.4.3 (pg. 8-41)
Data collection template will be available on the website in the future so that data collected during the Plan can be stored and managed in a consistent format. This template will be compatible with those used in the statewide Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) and the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) programs to assist in the sharing and integration of data with these programs. Data sets and reports will be reviewed for their applicability to the Region and statewide data needs.
Did the Plan assess the state of existing monitoring efforts, both for water supply and water quality? REF: 8.4.3 (pg. 8-41). 8.5.2 (pg. 8-46), 8.5.3 (pg. 8-47)
There is a need for better coordination of groundwater level and quality monitoring efforts in the Region. AVEK and the United States Geological Survey have coordinated groundwater monitoring efforts in the Region for several years, and there is local historical data that has been collected which can be made available for coordination with these efforts. However there are still portions of the basin which are not well mapped, or where there are data gaps. One of the planning targets for the Plan calls for additional mapping and monitoring of the groundwater basin, which will help to address these identified problems, as well as the plan performance measures once they are better refined.
If applicable, did the Plan discuss the integration of data into the State Water Board's SWAMP and GAMA Programs? REF: 8.4.4 (pg. 8-42)

Data regarding water quantity and quality are collected and disseminated currently by a number of different agencies, as discussed in Sect 8.4 of the Plan. This Sect of the Plan is devoted to discussing existing protocols and establishing new data protocols to ensure that information is collected in formats to be compatible with state needs, such as SWAMP and GAMA, and federal needs.
K: Financing
Did the Plan identify beneficiaries and identify potential funding/financing for plan implementation? REF: 8.3.4 (pg. 8-24)
The beneficiaries of the Plan implementation include, but are not limited to, water users; residents; water purveyors; local jurisdiction/land use planning agencies; local, State, and Federal agencies; the environmental community; the building industry; the farm industry; wastewater agencies; and mutual water companies. Initial funding for the Plan effort was provided by the RWMG through a MOU. Additional funds for O&M of the implemented projects will be included in future funding requests and provided by local agencies through matching funds. The source of these funds may include: water and wastewater general funds, capital improvement funds, general funds from local Cities, County departments, private organizations, member dues, etc. Tables 8-4 (pg. 8-25) and 8-5 (pg. 8-34) provides funding opportunities available to finance the Plan.
Does the Plan discuss ongoing support and financing for operation and maintenance of implemented projects? REF: 8.3.3 (8-23), 8.3.4 (pg. 8-24), Table 8-4 (pg. 8-25), Table 8-5 (pg. 8-34)
The financial needs of the selected high priority projects will cover both the construction costs and the cost of operation and maintenance throughout the Plan planning horizon. The projects total cost are provided in Table 7-1 (pg. 7-8). Appendix F provides information on the detailed cost breakdown for construction costs, administration costs, annual O&M costs and other relevant costs associated with each of the implementation projects. Additional funds for O&M of the implemented projects will be included in future funding requests and provided by local agencies through matching funds. Tables 8-4 (pg. 8-25) and 8-5 (pg. 8-34) provides funding opportunities available to finance the Plan.
L: Statewide Priorities
Identify issues of statewide significance or State agency priorities that will be met or contributed to by implementation of the Plan. REF: 6.2.2 (pg. 6-23)
A discussion of the consistency of proposed implementation projects with the Statewide Priorities is provided in Sect 6.2.2 (pg. 6-23) of the Plan. The Plan contributes to all seven of the statewide priorities. Please see the relevant summary in Table 6-6 (pg. 6-26). To demonstrate, one example is shown for the Plan contributing to implementing the Lahontan RWQCB Watershed Management Initiative targeted projects: *develop IRWM Plans* and *demonstrate water reuse projects to lower demand on supply*. Both actions are being met through the IRWM Program.
M: Relationship to Local Planning
Did the Plan discuss how the identified actions, projects, or studies relate to planning documents established by local agencies? REF: 8.1.2 (8-3)
Numerous plans and studies related to water resources and land use management in the Region have contributed to the development of the Plan. Thus, the Plan has been developed from and is consistent with local planning efforts in the Region. Table 8-2 (pg. 8-6) of the Plan lists applicable goals, policies and programs from each of the local and regional General Plans.
Does the Plan demonstrate coordination with local land-use planning decision-makers? REF: 8.1.2 (8-3)
Through the stakeholder workshops, the cities, counties and municipal agencies have advocated for their respective local planning needs and issues, which have been incorporated into the Plan. Representatives from the local land use planning agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department have participated in the development of the Plan, and have commented on draft Sections of the plan.
Did the Plan discuss how local agency planning documents relate to the IRWM water management strategies and the dynamics between the two levels of planning documents? REF: 8.1.2 (pg. 8-3 to 8-4)
Numerous plans and studies related to water resources and land use management in the Region have contributed to the development of the Plan including local and regional General Plans, and the Lahontan RWQCB Basin Plan, for example. Through the stakeholder workshops, the cities, counties and municipal agencies have advocated for their respective local planning needs and issues, which have been incorporated into the Plan. Subsequently, the outcomes from the Plan process have been disseminated by the representatives back to their local decision makers, allowing the Plan priorities, objectives and planning targets to be considered in local planning efforts where appropriate. For example, the Los Angeles County General Plan is currently being updated. The Plan could be used to help provide information related to water resource management.
N: Stakeholder Involvement & Coordination
Does the Plan identify stakeholders and the process used for inclusion of stakeholders in development of the plan? REF: 1.2.2 (pg. 1-12)
The Plan is being developed through over 40 stakeholder groups (identified in Section 1.2.2) that represent various water management interests in the Region that have participated in the planning process. Initially, the process used for inclusion of stakeholders was through the invitation of representatives from key local agencies, businesses, and agricultural interests. Stakeholders were continually encouraged to attend stakeholder meetings, to participate in Plan development efforts, and to disseminate information to their communities.
Does the process include a discussion of how: 1) Stakeholders are identified; 2) They participate in planning and implementation efforts, and ;3) They can influence decisions made regarding water management? REF: 1.2.2 (pg. 1-12), 8.6 (pg. 8-59)

Stakeholders were initially identified by inviting key local agencies, and business and agricultural interests to participate in the Plan development process. Through extensive outreach efforts, additional stakeholders were identified and encouraged to participate in the process by attending monthly stakeholder meetings, submitting their new projects, commenting on the draft Plan, and reviewing project progress reports. Major decisions have been and will be made through the approach of "facilitated broad agreement" among the stakeholders, which ensures that everyone is heard and has a voice in decision making.
Did the Plan document public outreach activities specific to individual stakeholder groups? REF: 1.2.4 (pg. 1-16), Appendix C
Community outreach targeted not just disadvantaged communities but also underserved communities, traditionally isolated communities or rural communities, and Native American tribes.
Does the Plan include a discussion of mechanisms and processes that have been or will be used to facilitate stakeholder involvement and communication during plan implementation? REF: 8.2.2 (8-18), 8.6.2 (8-60)
The RWMG has operated over the past year using a systematic approach called "facilitated broad agreement." Meetings were led by a professional facilitator with no direct association or stake in the outcome of any actions considered within the Plan. Material for the Plan discussed in each meeting was developed by a consultant team in cooperation with RWMG members and other stakeholders and made available for review and comment by the stakeholders. The Plan, at a minimum, will be updated every two years as planning is conducted, projects are developed and objectives and priorities are adjusted. There will be an ongoing process for updating the prioritized project list, through regular quarterly updates with additional meetings and revision as needed before major grant applications, as conditions change, funding is identified, projects are implemented and objectives revised. As stated in Sect 8.4.1, the Plan website, www.AVWaterPlan.org, provides a mechanism for stakeholders to upload project information, including submittal of new project ideas and concepts.
Are partnerships developed during the planning process discussed? REF: 1.0, Table 7-2 (pg. 7-17)
Water managers and stakeholders in the Region have recognized that the challenges being faced by the residents could not be addressed using a single-agency or single-purpose perspective. They have agreed that water resource needs in the Region are highly interconnected and require a broad and integrated perspective in order to provide efficient and effective services throughout the Region. As a result, many of the projects put forward for implementation are jointly sponsored projects by multiple agencies. For example, the Groundwater Recharge Using Recycled Water Pilot Project in the Plan was jointly proposed by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Palmdale Water District, and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 40.
Did the application discuss environmental justice concerns? REF: 1.2.4.3 (pg. 1-24)
The environmental justice concerns for the Region regard the potential for impacts to water quality, specifically for arsenic and nitrate contamination and for future increased growth. As the Region continues to grow (Lancaster was designated as the fastest growing city in California in 2007), care will need to be taken to prevent creating environmental justice issues that unfairly affect certain communities.
Did the application discuss disadvantaged communities within the region and their involvement in the planning process? REF: 1.2.4.1 (pg. 1-21)
The following disadvantaged communities were identified in the Antelope Valley: Lake Los Angeles, Unincorporated Los Angeles County; Littlerock, Unincorporated Los Angeles County; City of Mojave; portions of the City of Lancaster; portions of the City of Palmdale; and Roosevelt, Unincorporated Los Angeles County. Through extensive outreach efforts, disadvantaged communities were continually encouraged to be involved in the planning process through presentations, media relations and information disseminated to their communities. In turn, they participated by submitting projects/project ideas to the Plan, by coming to stakeholder meetings, and by commenting on draft Plan sections.
Were any possible obstacles to Plan implementation identified? REF: 1.3.3 (pg. 1-32)
One potential obstacle to implementation of the Plan is the pending adjudication of the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin. The Plan's water supply analysis, which is based on assumptions made regarding availability and reliability of the groundwater supply, was used to identify specific objectives and planning targets for the Plan. It is possible that the outcome of the adjudication may require a change in the assumptions as well as the objectives and planning targets, which may delay implementation of the Plan.
O: Coordination
Was coordination with State or federal agencies discussed? REF: 1.2.2.4 (pg. 1-13), 1.2.2.5 (pg. 1-13)
State agency participation has focused particularly on water quality issues pertaining to groundwater recharge within the Region. The agencies include: the Lahontan RWQCB, the California Department of Public Health, the California State Parks, and the California State Department of Fish and Game. Coordination with federal regulatory agencies is essential to the development and implementation of all recommended projects due to the need for regulatory and environmental approval prior to implementation. The federal agencies involved include: the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation District, United States Geological Survey, and Edwards AFB. The role of Edwards AFB is to ensure that their natural resource management goals are incorporated into this Plan.
Did the Plan identify areas where a State agency or agencies may be able to assist in communication or cooperation, or implementation of plan components or processes, or identify any state or federal regulatory actions required for implementation? REF: 8.1.1 (pg. 8-2 to 8-3)
A substantial number of federal, state and local/regional agencies and jurisdictions are responsible for, or participate in, the development and implementation of plans and programs that satisfy the water management strategies developed in the Plan. Table 8-1 (pg. 8-2) identifies those agencies and jurisdictions associated with each established water management strategy in order to demonstrate the coordination required for implementation. Substantial effort will be required to ensure cross-agency coordination and integration for the development of regional plans and projects that incorporate individual or multiple water management strategies.