

**STATE
WATER
RESOURCES
CONTROL
BOARD**



**CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY**



**Policy for Implementing the Drinking Water
State Revolving Fund**



Effective ~~Amended~~:
January 1, 2015



DRAFT

Prepared by:
THE DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

~~Effective January 1, 2015~~

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Appendices are located at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/services/funding/DWSRF_Policy.shtml

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<u>AIS</u>	<u>American Iron and Steel</u>
<u>CEQA</u>	<u>California Environmental Quality Act</u>
<u>CPUC</u>	<u>California Public Utilities Commission</u>
<u>CWS</u>	<u>Community Water System</u>
<u>DAC</u>	<u>Disadvantaged Community</u>
<u>DBE</u>	<u>Disadvantaged Business Enterprise</u>
<u>DWSRF</u>	<u>Drinking Water State Revolving Fund</u>
<u>GWUDI</u>	<u>Ground Water Under the Direct Influence</u>
<u>IUP</u>	<u>Intended Use Plan</u>
<u>LAFCO</u>	<u>Local Agency Formation Commission</u>
<u>MCL</u>	<u>Maximum Contaminant Level</u>
<u>MHI</u>	<u>Median Household Income</u>
<u>NEPA</u>	<u>National Environmental Protection Act</u>
<u>NOE</u>	<u>Notice of Exemption</u>
<u>O&M</u>	<u>Operation and Maintenance</u>
<u>PRF</u>	<u>Pledged Revenue and Funds</u>
<u>PWS</u>	<u>Public Water System</u>
<u>SDAC</u>	<u>Severely Disadvantaged Community</u>
<u>SDWA</u>	<u>Safe Drinking Water Act</u>
<u>SERP</u>	<u>State Environmental Review Process</u>
<u>SRF</u>	<u>State Revolving Fund</u>
<u>TMF</u>	<u>Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity</u>
<u>UCC</u>	<u>Uniform Commercial Code</u>
<u>USEPA</u>	<u>United States Environmental Protection Agency</u>

I. INTRODUCTION

This Policy is adopted for the State Water Resource Control Board's (State Water Board) implementation of the 1996 Amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which created the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. ~~The program is intended to provide financial assistance in perpetuity using federal and state funds.~~ The DWSRF provides various types of assistance for Public Water Systems (PWS), including projects that: (1) address ~~or prevent future~~ public health risk problems, (2) are needed to comply with the SDWA, and (3) assist those most in need on a per household affordability basis. The federal DWSRF provides ~~capitalization grants~~ Capitalization Grants to states that may be used to provide loans and other assistance to ~~public water systems~~ PWSs. The DWSRF program was initially implemented by the California Department of Health Services, and subsequently transferred to the State Department of Public Health. As of July 1, 2014, the program is implemented by the State Water Board.

The California statutory basis for the DWSRF is established in Sections 116760 – 116762.60 of the ~~California~~ Health and Safety Code. ~~The program is intended to provide financial assistance in perpetuity using federal and state funds.~~

Notwithstanding any provision of this Policy, the State Water Board will implement the DWSRF program consistent with federal law and policy, ~~and state law and policy.~~

The provisions of this Policy are effective January 1, 2015, [REDACTED], unless otherwise required by federal or state statute, guidance, regulation, or agreement.

II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

Under federal and state law the primary purpose of the DWSRF is to assist ~~public water systems~~ PWSs in financing the cost of drinking water infrastructure projects needed to achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements and to further the public health objectives of the SDWA.

III. HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

Section 106.3 of the ~~California~~ Water Code provides that it is the policy of the state that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This section requires the State Water Board to consider this state policy when adopting policies and grant criteria. The State Water Board has considered the provisions of Section 106.3 of the Water Code in establishing this Policy.

IV. CLIMATE CHANGE

The State Water Board also seeks to reduce the effects of climate change and to promote sustainable water resources for future generations. In 2017 the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2017-0012 specifying a range of actions the State Water Board's divisions and offices will take to implement its climate change program. This Policy is designed to support those efforts.

IV.V. DEFINITIONS

The following words where used in this Policy shall have the meaning hereafter ascribed to them:

~~(a)~~ "Acceptable Result" means the project that, when constructed, solves the problem for which the project was placed on the ~~comprehensive list~~Comprehensive List, ensures the owner and operator of the improved or restructured ~~public water system~~PWS shall have long-term ~~technical, managerial, and financial capacity~~TMF to operate and maintain the ~~public water system~~PWS in compliance with state and federal safe drinking water standards, can provide a dependable source of safe drinking water long-term, and is both short- term and long-term affordable, as determined by applicable regulations or policies adopted by the State Water Board.

"Affected Residence" is defined in Section 116681 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Allowance" or "Soft Costs" means an amount of money for eligible planning, design, value engineering, construction management, environmental, and administration costs of the project.

~~(b)~~ "Applicant" means the ~~legal entity~~Legal Entity with the authority to enter into contracts and agreements and incur debt on behalf of the community and/or ~~public water system(s)~~PWS to be served by the project being financed by the DWSRF.

"Authorized Representative" means the duly appointed member, official, or employee of the Applicant/Recipient that has the authority to represent the water system and sign documents pertaining to the funding or financing application, execute the Financing Agreement, and submit disbursement requests.

~~(c)~~ "Bridge Financing" means interim financing to cover ~~eligible project costs~~Eligible Project Costs until DWSRF financing for the project is received from the State Water Board.

~~(d)~~ "Capitalization Grant" means federal DWSRF funds granted to the State Water Board by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in a particular year pursuant to certain terms and conditions.

(e) “CEQA” means the California Environmental Quality Act (commencing with Section 21000 of the Public Resources Code and including the regulations and guidelines adopted by the California Resources Agency to implement the Act).

(f) “Community Water System” or “CWS” means a ~~public water system~~PWS that: 1) serves at least 15 service connections used by yearlong residents of the area served by the system, or 2) regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) yearlong residents of the area served by the system.

(g) “Completion of Construction” means the date that the ~~Division has conducted a final inspection~~work of building and erection of the project ~~and has notified the water system that project construction has been completed in conformance with the plans and specifications identified in the construction financing agreement~~is substantially complete.

(h) “Completion of Planning/Design” means that the Division has accepted the deliverables identified in the planning/design ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.

(i) “Comprehensive List” means a list that consists of all planning/design and construction projects for which at least one portion of an application has been received, including sufficient information for an initial ranking.

(j) “Consolidation” ~~means a project that involves the restructuring of two or more public water systems into a single public water system~~is defined in Section 116681 of the Health and Safety Code. (*Appendix A* contains additional guidance)

(k) “Construction Financing” means financing to cover some or all of the cost of the construction of a water system infrastructure project, including but not limited to planning, preliminary engineering, design, treatment systems, water sources, interconnections, consolidations, acquisition of water systems, purchase of land or equipment, and extending service to residents currently served by individual wells or surface water sources.

(l) “Contingency” means the amount budgeted for unforeseen costs.

(m) “Cost-effective” means achieves an aAcceptable result at the most reasonable cost.

(n) “Disadvantaged Community” or “DAC” means the entire service area of a ~~community water system~~CWS in which the ~~median household income~~MHI is less than eighty percent (80%) of the statewide median household income.

(o) “Division” means the Division of Financial Assistance within the State Water Board.

~~(p)~~ —“Drinking Water Grant” or “DWG” means a grant funded by the charge authorized by ~~Section 116760.46~~ of the California Health and Safety Code.

“Eligible Start Date” means the date established by the Division upon approval of the financing application. Construction costs incurred after this date are eligible for financing. For Construction Financing the Eligible Start Date may not be earlier than a fundable project’s notice to proceed date or the start of project implementation.

~~(q)~~ “Eligible Project Cost” means those costs of a project that are deemed by the Division to be eligible as match or for reimbursement from the DWSRF pursuant to federal and state laws, rules, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

~~(r)~~ “Eligible System” means any of the following:

~~a.~~ Privately-owned and publicly-owned ~~community water systems and non-profit non-community water systems.~~ CWSs or Non-Profit Non-CWSs

~~b.~~ ~~Community water systems~~ CWSs created by the Project that meet the federal requirements for new systems.

~~c.~~ Systems referred to in Section 1401(4)(B) of the SDWA for the purposes of point of entry or central treatment under Section 1401(4)(B)(i)(III).~~.)~~

~~(s)~~ “Environmental Document” means a Categorical Exemption, Initial Study and Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, ~~or an~~ Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Addendum, Supplemental or a Subsequent document prepared in accordance with CEQA and associated supporting documents showing compliance with federal environmental laws, consistent with the State Environmental Review Process.

~~(t)~~ “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the State Water Board.

“Existing Debt” means the Applicant’s existing material debt.

“Expanded Small Community Water System” means a CWS that serves more than 3,300 service connections, but no more than 6,600 service connections; or a yearlong population of more than 10,000 persons but no more than 20,000 persons.

~~(u)~~ “Financing Agreement” means the written agreement signed by all parties and any amendments thereto, between the State Water Board and the ~~R~~Recipient, setting forth the terms, provisions, and conditions governing the DWSRF financing and the repayment, if any. This document may be a loan, a grant, or another financing instrument.

(v) “Fundable List” means a list of projects in the IUP that are expected to receive assistance from the DWSRF in a particular state fiscal year.

(w) “Ground Water Under the Direct Influence” or “GWUDI” means ~~groundwater having incomplete or undependable subsurface filtration of any water beneath the surface water of the ground with significant occurrence of insects or other macroorganisms, algae or large diameter pathogens such as Giardia lamblia or Cryptosporidium, or significant and infiltrating precipitation-relatively rapid shifts in water characteristics such as turbidity, temperature, conductivity or pH which closely correlate to climatological or surface water conditions (CCR, Title 22, Sec. 64651.50).~~

(x) “Intended Use Plan” or “IUP” means the annual document that the State Water Board submits to USEPA, after public review and comment, which ~~identifies the intended uses of DWSRF funds for a particular state fiscal year and describes how those uses support the overall goals of the DWSRF program~~contains the business plan for the DWSRF and identifies the projects that the State Water Board anticipates funding during the year.

(y) “Legal Entity” means an entity that is duly formed and operating under the laws of this State.

(z) “Loan” means and includes any repayable financing instrument, including a loan, bond, installment sale agreement, note, or other evidence of indebtedness.

(aa) “Median Household Income” or “MHI” means the household income that represents the median value for the ~~service area of a public water system. For projects involving the extension of water from an existing public water system to geographical areas not served by the public water system (including the service area of one or more state small water systems or parcels served by private wells or surface water sources), the MHI of the existing public water system’s service area is used. For consolidation projects, the MHI of the service area of the individual participating public water system(s) are used~~Service Area. For Consolidation projects, the area used is of the PWS, State Small Water System, or Affected Residences consolidated into or receiving service from the Receiving Water System.

~~“Not-For-Profit Non-Community Water Company System” or “Non-CWS” means a mutual benefit water company, homeowner’s association, or cooperative, PWS that is~~ not a CWS.

(bb) “Non-Profit” means exempt from taxes under Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

“Non-Repayable Financing” means and includes any form of non-repayable financing, whether in the form of grant, principal forgiveness, or other form of financing instrument.

~~(cc)~~ “Operating Agreement” means the Operating Agreement ~~between the State of California and pursuant to Section 35.3545 of title 40 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region IX for Implementing and Managing the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, dated July 30, 1998, and any amendments thereto. (See Code of Federal Regulations. (see Appendix B)~~

~~(dd)~~ “Planning/Design Financing” means financing to cover some or all of the cost of preliminary activities necessary to construct a project including, but not limited to, legal costs, studies, planning, preliminary engineering, and design for a project.

~~(ee)~~ “Pledged Revenue and Funds” or “PRF” means one or more existing sources of ~~existing~~ revenue and/or funds or collateral pledged by the ~~a~~ Applicant as security for DWSRF financing.

~~(ff)~~ “Primary Drinking Water Standard” means those standards as defined pursuant to Section 116275 et seq. of the ~~California~~ Health and Safety Code.

~~(gg)~~ “Private Lateral” means the water pipe from a service connection (as defined in Section 116275 of the ~~California~~ Health and Safety Code) to a residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial structure.

~~(hh)~~ “Project” means cost-effective facilities for the construction, improvement, or rehabilitation of a ~~public water system.~~ PWS. It may include the planning and design of facilities, annexation or consolidation of water systems, source water assessments, source water protection, and other activities specified in the ~~federal act~~ SDWA.

~~(ii)~~ “Public Agency” means any city, county, district, joint powers authority, or other political subdivision of the state that owns or operates a ~~public water system~~ PWS.

~~(jj)~~ “Public Water System” or “PWS” means a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) individuals, pursuant to the SDWA.

“Receiving Water System” is defined in Section 116681 of the Health and Safety Code

~~(kk)~~ “Recipient” means a ~~legal entity~~ Legal Entity that enters into a DWSRF ~~financing agreement~~ Financing Agreement with the State Water Board.

~~(ll)~~ —“Regional Project” means ~~a project to provide a consolidated source of supply, treatment facilities and/or other system components to address the existing public health problem for each participating public water system(s). A regional project may include the extension of water to~~

~~defined geographical areas within the reasonable vicinity of the project, served by individual domestic wells or by water systems that do not meet the definition of a public water system; such defined geographical areas are limited to those in which it is demonstrated that the source of domestic water does not meet primary drinking water standards.~~

~~(mm) “Restructured Water System” means the single public water system which results from the consolidation of two or more water systems.~~

~~(nn) “Safe Drinking Water Act” or “SDWA” means the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq.), including any amendments thereto.~~

~~(oo) “Service Area” means all of the geographical area that is currently served by a public water system PWS.~~

~~(pp) “Severely Disadvantaged Community” or “SDAC” means the entire service area of a community water system CWS in which the median household income MHI is less than sixty percent (60%) of the statewide median household income.~~

~~(qq) “Small Community Water System” or “Small CWS” means a community water system CWS that serves no more than 3,300 service connections or a yearlong population of no more than 10,000 persons.~~

~~(rr) “Soft Costs” or “Allowance” means an amount of money for eligible planning, design, value engineering, construction management, environmental, and administration costs of the pProject.~~

~~(ss) “State” means the State of California.~~

~~“State Small Water System” means a system for the provision of piped water to the public for human consumption that serves at least five, but not more than 14, service connections and does not regularly serve drinking water to more than an average of 25 individuals daily for more than 60 days out of the year.~~

~~(tt) “State Water Board” means the State Water Resources Control Board.~~

~~(uu) “Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity” or “TMF” means the ability of a public water system PWS to plan for, achieve, and maintain long term sustainable compliance with drinking water standards, thereby ensuring the quality and adequacy of the water supply. (Ssee Appendix C)~~

~~(vv) “Urban Water Supplier” means a supplier, either publicly or privately owned, providing water for municipal purposes either directly or indirectly to more than 3,000 customers or supplying more than 3,000 acre-feet of water annually, pursuant to Section 10617 of the California Water Code.~~

~~(ww)~~ “Useful Life” means the estimated period of time over which the ~~DWSRF financed~~funded facility will serve its intended purpose in a cost-effective manner from the estimated initiation of operation date.

~~(xx)~~ “USEPA” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

“Waterworks Standards” means regulations adopted by the State Water Board entitled “California Waterworks Standards” (Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 64551) of Division 4 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations).

V.VI. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

A. Intended Use Plan and Capitalization Grant Applications

1. Annually, the Division will prepare an IUP for the State Water Board’s consideration and submittal to the USEPA. The State Water Board may establish various requirements, conditions, and incentives in the IUP, and may reserve funds for selected classes or types of projects. The IUP will provide information necessary to satisfy USEPA’s requirements including, but not limited to, the availability of and applicable limitations on Non-Repayable Financing, equivalency requirements, the application of financing service charges, set-aside allocations and their planned uses, as well as a Fundable List of projects eligible to receive funding based on their priority and the availability of funds for the year.
2. The Executive Director may amend an IUP adopted by the State Water Board for good cause. The Executive Director must conduct a public review before amending the IUP.
3. The Executive Director or designee may apply for and accept Capitalization Grants and approve amendments to the Capitalization Grants.
4. The Deputy Director of the Division may negotiate and submit workplans for Capitalization Grants to USEPA for review and approval.

A.B. Comprehensive List

1. Purpose of the Comprehensive List

The ~~primary~~ purpose of the Comprehensive List is to catalog and identify potentially eligible ~~future projects and prioritize the marketing, assistance, and application review efforts of for a Fundable List.~~ As the Division staff and management. ~~Areceives DWSRF applications from Applicants, it will assign to each project must be on the current Comprehensive List to be considered for financing, in consultation with the Division of Drinking Water, a category from Section VI.B.2.a of this Policy.~~ Placement of a project on the Comprehensive List does not constitute a commitment to provide financing. However, projects

included on the Comprehensive List may be considered for a Fundable List based upon the criteria included in this Policy.

~~B. Development of the Comprehensive List~~

~~The Comprehensive List identifies projects potentially eligible for assistance from the DWSRF program. As the Division receives DWSRF application packages from applicants, it will assign to each project a category from Section V.C.1 of this Policy. The Division will recommend to the Executive Director, in consultation with the Division of Drinking Water, if necessary, whether the project should be added to the Comprehensive List or whether an existing project should be updated.~~

~~The Executive Director will generally update the Comprehensive List quarterly. The Executive Director may update the Comprehensive List more frequently if necessary or less frequently if there are no new projects to be added. The Comprehensive List will be posted promptly on the State Water Board's website after it has been updated by the Executive Director.~~

~~C.2. Priority System~~

To the maximum extent practicable, priority for funding and placement on the Fundable List will be given to projects which: 1) address the most serious risk to human health, 2) are necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of the SDWA, and 3) assist systems most in need on a per household basis. Projects are ranked by the categories and sustainability score established below to achieve these objectives.

~~4.a. Categories~~

Each project will be assigned to one of the following categories:

Category A - Immediate Health Risk

- Documented waterborne disease outbreaks attributable to the water system.
- Water systems under a court order to correct SDWA violations or to correct water outage problems.
- Total coliform Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations attributable to active sources contaminated with coliform bacteria (e.g., fecal, E. coli, or total coliform).
- Severe domestic water supply outage(s) posing an imminent threat to public health and safety.
- The distribution of water containing nitrates/nitrites or perchlorate in excess of the ~~Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)-MCL.~~

Category B - Untreated or At-Risk Sources

- Surface water or GWUDI sources that are untreated, not filtered, or have other filtration treatment deficiencies that violate federal or state regulations.
- Non-GWUDI groundwater sources that are contaminated with fecal coliform or E. coli and are inadequately treated.
- Uncovered distribution reservoirs.

Category C - Compliance or Shortage Problems

- Water quantity problems caused by source capacity, or water delivery capability that is insufficient to meet existing demand.
- The distribution of water containing chemical or radiological contamination in violation of a state or federal primary drinking water standard (other than nitrate/nitrite or perchlorate).
- Total Coliform Rule violations for reasons other than source contamination.

Category D - Inadequate Reliability

- Non-metered service connections, or defective water meters.
- CWSs, and PWSs owned by public schools, with a single source and no backup supply.
- Distribution reservoirs with non-rigid covers in active use.
- Disinfection facilities that lack needed reliability features, such as chlorine analyzers or alarms.
- ~~Disinfection deficiencies that violate~~ Violations of the Waterworks Standards related to disinfection.

Category E - Secondary Risks

- The distribution of water that exceeds secondary drinking water standards.
- The distribution of water in excess of a published chemical notification level.

- The distribution of water which has exceeded a primary drinking water standard in one or more samples, but has not violated a running average standard.
- A standby groundwater source that exceeds a primary drinking water standard.
- ~~Deficiencies that violate~~Violations of the Waterworks Standards (other than those already covered above).

Category F - Other Projects

- Deficiencies attributable to the water system that address present or prevent future violations of health-based standards (other than those already covered above).

~~2. Other Factors~~

~~b. Other factors are used in prioritizing the review of projects within a category, and do not affect a project's category. A project that includes or supports one or more of the following~~Bonus Score

Projects with a higher aggregate bonus score will receive priority over other projects within the same category. A project will be awarded one (1) point per each of the following:

- ~~Disadvantaged Communities: The project~~Project benefits a ~~DAG~~disadvantaged community or ~~SDAG~~a severely disadvantaged community
- ~~Consolidation: The project~~Project will result in the consolidation of water systems.Consolidation (see Definitions, Section V)

~~D. Financing of Projects~~

~~The Division will review and approve financing for projects on the Comprehensive List with complete applications in the order they are ranked — Category A being the highest priority and Category F being the lowest priority. If the State Water Board lacks sufficient funds, whether in the form of a loan or principal forgiveness, to finance all projects with a complete application, then the Division will first fund projects based on the categories established above. The Division may bypass any project where it determines that it is not currently feasible to fund the project. Bypassed projects will remain on the comprehensive list and may be funded at a later date when it does become feasible to fund the project.~~

~~The Division may limit funding to costs necessary to enable a public water system to meet primary drinking water standards, as defined in the California Health and~~

Safety Code, commencing with Section 116270. Lack of funding does not affect the requirement that a funded system must meet TMF.

3. Updating the Comprehensive List

The Division will generally update the Comprehensive List quarterly. The Division may update the Comprehensive List more frequently if necessary or less frequently if there are no new projects to be added. The Comprehensive List will be posted promptly by the Division on the State Water Board's website after it has been updated.

E.4. Project RemovalsRemoval from the Comprehensive List

1.a. The Division will monitor the progress of ~~projects~~ project applications on the Comprehensive List to ensure that ~~a~~Applicants are proceeding expeditiously with their projects.

2.b. The ~~Executive~~Deputy Director of the Division will remove any project from the Comprehensive List when:

- i. The project has been on the Comprehensive List for at least four (4) consecutive quarters, and the ~~a~~Applicant has been non-responsive or has not requested that the project remain on the Comprehensive List;
- ii. The State Water Board so instructs;
- iii. The project has received DWSRF financing or alternative financing for the project;
- iv. The water system ceases to exist or becomes ineligible;
- v. The problem no longer exists or has been corrected; or
- vi. The ~~a~~Applicant requests that the project be removed.

3.c. Projects that ~~we~~are removed from the Comprehensive List may be added again in the future.

F. Intended Use Plan and Capitalization Grant Applications

~~1. At least annually the Division will prepare an IUP for the State Water Board's consideration for delivery to the USEPA. The State Water Board may establish various requirements, conditions, and incentives in the IUP. The IUP will provide information necessary to satisfy USEPA's requirements, including the availability of and applicable limitations on principal forgiveness, the threshold for projects subject to federal cross-cutting requirements, set-aside activities, the availability of refinancing, and a Fundable List of projects anticipated to receive funding based on their ranking, their estimated "readiness to proceed" to funding in that~~

~~particular year, and the amount of funds available for the year. The Executive Director may amend the IUP for good cause after public review.~~

- ~~2. The Executive Director may apply for and accept Capitalization Grants and approve amendments to the Capitalization Grants.~~

C. Fundable List

The purpose of the Fundable List is to identify eligible projects that the State Water Board intends to finance during the state fiscal year.

1. Annual Fundable List

- a. All projects submitted to the Division for DWSRF and its complementary funding sources will be evaluated for placement on the Fundable List. A project must be on the Fundable List to receive financing but placement on the Fundable List does not guarantee financing. A Financing Agreement will be executed for a project on the Fundable List only if the project meets all applicable eligibility requirements and sufficient funds are available.
- b. Annually all applications, with the exception of small DAC and small SDAC applications, will be ranked based on their priority described in VI.B.2 and their readiness to proceed to financing during the next state fiscal year.
- c. Small DAC and small SDAC projects are considered fundable at any time provided they meet all eligibility requirements, and will automatically be added and remain on the Fundable List until:
- i. The project is funded;
 - ii. The problem ceases to exist, or the application is determined to be ineligible for funding;
 - iii. The State Water Board instructs that it be removed; or
 - iv. The Applicant requests that its application be removed.

2. Development of the Fundable List

- a. The Division will sort all ranked planning/design and construction projects on the Comprehensive List, from highest to lowest ranking for potential placement on an annual Fundable List.
- b. The Division will select the highest ranked projects for the Fundable List.
- c. The Fundable List will include projects with the same ranking so long as the aggregate financing amount for the projects is consistent with the funding capacities determined in the IUP.

3. Funding of Projects

- a. All projects on the Fundable List are fundable at any time during the fiscal year covered by the IUP provided they meet all eligibility requirements, are not bypassed, and sufficient funds are available. The Division will monitor progress of all projects on the Fundable List to ensure that Applicants are proceeding expeditiously to construction or implementation.
- b. The Division will review the project applications on the Fundable List with the objective of executing agreements quickly and efficiently giving priority to projects for Small Water Systems serving DACs and SDACs, as well as those projects that address high ranking public health priorities.
- c. The Division may limit funding to costs necessary to enable a PWS to meet primary drinking water standards, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, commencing with Section 116270.
- d. Projects on the Fundable List that are not financed by the end of the state fiscal year will be carried over to the subsequent year's Fundable List, unless directed by the State Water Board or the Applicant withdraws its application.

D. Project Bypass

1. The Deputy Director of the Division, or designee, may bypass a project on the Fundable List if it is determined that the project is not ready to proceed to financing.
2. The Deputy Director of the Division, or designee may add a project from the Comprehensive List to the Fundable List if:
 - a. The project is expected to proceed to financing; and
 - b. The aggregate funding amount is consistent with the funding capacities determined in the IUP.

G.E. Interest Rate and Other Charges

1. Generally, the interest rate for DWSRF ~~planning/design and construction financing agreements~~ Financing Agreements will be fifty percent (50%) of the average interest rate paid by the ~~s~~State on general obligation bonds issued in the prior calendar year, rounded up to the nearest one-tenth of one percent. ~~(0.1%).~~ The interest rate will apply to all ~~repayable financing approved during~~ Loans as of the year unless ~~date the~~ Division initiates preparation of the Financing Agreement document for routing and signoff or the State Water Board has identified in the IUP a lower rate for a specific type or category of eligible project approves the financing, whichever is first.

2. The State Water Board may identify a lower rate for a specific type or category of eligible project in the IUP. Reduced interest rates are also provided for certain DACs and SDACs in Section VIII.B of this Policy.

2.3. The State Water Board will utilize the IUP to establish any administrative service charges, drinking water small community emergency grant charges, financing charges, and incentives. The administrative service charge provides funding for administration of the DWSRF program, and the small community emergency grant charge provides a source of grant funding for small DAC and small SDAC emergency drinking water projects. Where a Financing Agreement includes any such charge, the interest rate is correspondingly reduced so that the combined payment of principal, interest, and charge(s) is the same regardless of whether a charge is applied.

H.F. Report to the USEPA

The Division will prepare and send an Annual Report to the USEPA that describes how the DWSRF program met the goals and objectives identified in the previous year's IUP. The report will be posted on the State Water Board's website.

H.G. Report to the Legislature

At least once every two years, the Division will prepare a report to the California Legislature regarding the implementation of the DWSRF Program. The report will be posted on the State Water Board's website.

VI.VII. MATCH FINANCING

The ~~s~~State must contribute capital into the DWSRF equal to twenty percent (20%) of the federal capital contributions (i.e., Capitalization Grants). The State Water Board may offer incentivized financing to ~~r~~Recipients that contribute matching funds through their ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.

A. Availability

The State Water Board will determine at least once each year whether to offer match financing. This determination will normally be made in the IUP.

B. Match Contribution

The Division will normally set the Applicant's match contribution for the project at the proportional level to meet the state's required match. Match financing may be used regardless of whether federal capitalization grant monies are ultimately used for the remainder. Where the current interest environment renders this approach infeasible, the Division may set the Applicant's match contribution at an amount resulting in an imputed interest rate that is competitive with the current DWSRF interest rate for Construction Financing.

B.C. Match Financing Resolution

An aApplicant seeking match financing must submit a resolution passed by the aApplicant's governing body, stating the aApplicant's intent to provide the matching funds in the amount and at the times necessary to complete the project. *Appendix D* contains a model resolution.

C.D. Match Financing Terms

The interest rate on match ~~financing agreements~~Financing Agreements will be zero percent (0%). The principal amount of the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement includes both the amount received from the State Water Board and the matching funds contributed by the rRecipient. The State Water Board may elect to charge a fee to cover the costs of obtaining federal funds. Planning/design ~~financing agreements~~Financing Agreements cannot utilize match financing.

D.E. Disbursements

The rRecipient must certify that it has paid at least the match portion of incurred ~~eligible project costs~~Eligible Project Costs within a particular claim for reimbursement. Such certification must include documentation of payment acceptable to the Division. Once the Division has confirmed payment of the match portion, the remainder of the incurred ~~eligible project costs~~Eligible Project Costs will be reimbursed.

~~VII.~~VIII. **ASSISTANCE FOR DISADVANTAGED AND SEVERELY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

A. A ~~PWS publicly or privately owned Small CWS or Expanded Small CWS that serves a DAC with financial hardship is or SDAC may be~~ eligible for ~~zero percent (0%) interest rate financing.~~Non-Repayable Financing (i.e. principal forgiveness) for a planning/design or construction project if the system cannot afford to repay all or part of the project's Loan. The criteria for determining ~~such financial hardship is the~~ system's ability to afford project financing and the Non-Repayable Financing criteria and terms will be included in *Appendix E*. ~~In addition, the repayment term may be extended to thirty (30) years, provided the repayment term does not exceed the useful life of the project.~~the IUP.

~~A water system which is~~Similarly, a PWS owned by a public ~~agency or a not-school district may be eligible~~ for-profit water company, and whose service area is ~~classified as a DAC may also receive~~ Non-Repayable Financing (i.e. principal forgiveness) for a planning/design or construction project. ~~Principal forgiveness will only be offered if the DAC cannot afford to repay all or part~~Notwithstanding any other term of a loan at the time of the project's credit evaluation. ~~The criteria for determining a DAC's ability to afford a loan are included in~~ *Appendix E*.

~~VIII.~~ **ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERELY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

~~Small community water systems that are owned by a public agency or a not-for-profit water company that serves a SDAC may be eligible to receive up to one hundred percent (100%) principal forgiveness for a planning/design or construction project, as established in the IUP. A public water system this Policy, a PWS owned by a public school district is determined to serve a SDAC and is deemed to have no ability to repay any financing. The Non-Repayable Financing criteria and terms for PWSs owned by public school districts will be included in the IUP.~~

- B. A publicly or privately owned Small CWS that serves a DAC or SDAC is determined to have financial hardship because of their system size and their general lack of economies of scale to financially operate and maintain their water systems. Therefore, a Small CWS is eligible for zero percent (0%) interest rate Planning/Design Financing and Construction Financing.
- C. An Eligible System that serves a DAC or SDAC is eligible for a repayment term of up to forty (40) years for Construction Financing, as provided in Section XI.C.2.

IX. WATER RATE STUDIES

~~Principal forgiveness recipients~~Recipients of Planning/Design Financing may be required to complete a water rate study to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the water system, including the proposed construction project, for at least a twenty (20) five (5) year period from the anticipated start of construction. The rates will generally be expected to be adopted no later than the completion of a planning/design project.

Prior to execution of a construction ~~financing agreement, a recipient~~Financing Agreement, an Applicant must demonstrate ~~sufficient, to the satisfaction of the Division, adopted~~ water rates sufficient to operate and maintain the water system, including the proposed construction project, for a period of at least five (5) years from the anticipated ~~e~~Completion of ~~e~~Construction. The rate adoption must occur prior to the execution of the construction ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.

X. PLANNING/DESIGN FINANCING

An ~~a~~Applicant must submit all documents noted below, unless otherwise authorized by the Deputy Director of the Division for good cause, to obtain ~~planning/design financing.~~Planning/Design Financing. The Division may require that the ~~a~~Applicant submit additional information or certifications necessary or useful to ensure that the financing complies with state and federal requirements. *Appendix F* contains the ~~four (4) packages of an~~ application for ~~planning/design financing.~~Planning/Design Financing. The Division will accept partial ~~packages and~~ applications, but will process complete applications ahead of incomplete applications.

- A. Planning/Design Application Requirements

1. General Information Package

This package includes basic ~~a~~Applicant and project information.

2. Technical Package

~~i. Scope of Work~~

~~a. The applicant must submit a scope of work which includes the tasks to be performed, the deliverables to be developed, and the anticipated budget for the planning/design project. The scope of work is intended to provide the Division with sufficient information to evaluate whether the planning/design project is eligible for financing.~~

a. The applicantA Plan of Study which includes the following components:

i. Description of the water quality and/or quantity problem(s) to be addressed (including information about existing or pending enforcement actions)

ii. Scope of Work, prepared with the following requirements under consideration:

(A) The Applicant must evaluate all feasible alternatives, including consolidation, prior to or during the planning/design project. The evaluation must compare estimated capital, operations and maintenance (O&M) costs over the ~~useful life~~Useful Life of each alternative.

(B) The Applicant must obtain approval from the Division on the selected alternative prior to developing plans and specifications for the eventual construction project. The Division will consult with the Division of Drinking Water, if necessary, to determine if the selected alternative will address the water quality and/or quantity problem(s).

(B)(C) The anticipated environmental impact of each alternative must be evaluated, as required by CEQA/NEPA. Prior to the development of plans and specifications, ~~the applicant should for the eventual construction project, the Applicant is expected to~~ consult with the agencies responsible for implementing local, state, and federal statutes and authorities, and incorporate any recommended design features and measures from those agencies into the project.

iii. The applicant must obtain approval from the Division on the selected alternative. Planning/design project budget

iv. Planning/design project schedule (including deliverables and submittal dates)

b. Water Metering

~~(C) Applicants must contact the Division prior to developing plans and specifications.~~

~~ii. Volumetric Pricing and Water Metering~~

~~a. Section 529.5 of the California Water Code requires that any urban water supplier applying for financial assistance from the state for a drinking water treatment project¹ meet certain volumetric pricing and water metering requirements.~~

~~b. All applicants must certify compliance with water metering requirements of Section 529.5 of the Water Code or that the water metering requirements are not applicable to the Applicant¹.~~

3. Environmental Package

a. The applicant This package includes information and documentation necessary to evaluate applicable state and federal environmental requirements.

~~a.b. Applicants must provide complete and adequate and ~~complete environmental documentation~~ project specific Environmental Documents to allow the State Water Board to fulfill its responsibilities under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to meet federal environmental review requirements.~~

~~b. Applicants that are public agencies, whether lead or responsible agencies under CEQA, will be required to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the planning/design project. In accordance with the Operating Agreement, the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Water Board uses the State Clearinghouse) prior Environmental Review Process (SERP) to execution of the financing agreement. fulfill these requirements. (see Appendix O)~~

4. Financial Security Package

i.a. General Requirements

a.i. The Division will review financial documents to determine the ~~a~~ Applicant's credit capacity as well as the capacity to sustainably operate and maintain its water system.

¹ Projects involving the installation of water supply meters are not required to meet these requirements when applying for financing.

ii. The Division will apply the Credit/Financial Guidelines to review each Financial Security Package or request for securing additional debt (see Appendix E).

b.iii. If the applicant's Applicant's operating budget is unable to support DWSRF financing, the Division will work with the aApplicant to determine alternative methods of financing the planning/design project, if feasible.

ii.b. Reserve and Coverage

a. The recipient may be expected to establish and maintain a restricted reserve until the planning/design financing agreement is repaid if the Division determines that credit considerations require such a reserve.

b.i. The rRecipient must comply with coverage covenants in existing material debt or with the coverage requirements of this paragraph set forth below, whichever covenants or requirements provide greater coverage. The recipient's net revenues at completion of planning/design. The Division will employ appropriate credit criteria to evaluating all pledged to pay all senior debts relying on the PRF must be at least 1.2 times the highest year's senior debt service, and the net revenues pledged to pay all debts must be at least 1.1 times the highest year's aggregate debt service. sources of repayment.

ii. The Recipient's pledged sources of repayment for the Loan, in any fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the project is completed and until the Loan is repaid, must be at least the sum of (a) 1.2 times the total senior (D^{senior}) and parity (D^{parity}) annual debt service payable from the pledged sources and (b) 1.0 times the subordinate ($D^{\text{subordinate}}$) annual debt service payable from the pledged sources, as reflected in the following formula, unless the Division determines that credit considerations allow a different debt service coverage requirement:

$$\text{PRF} \geq [1.2(D^{\text{senior}} + D^{\text{parity}}) + 1.0(D^{\text{subordinate}})]$$

iii. The Applicant may pledge revenues, assessments and/or special taxes to repayment of a Loan.

iv. The Division may apply to the DWSRF transaction the additional debt test and rate covenant as set forth in an Applicant's existing master trust indenture or similar debt document.

iii.c. Additional Debt

a.i. The State Water Board normally expects the DWSRF debt obligation obligation's lien status to be on parity with the aApplicant's senior/first tier debt obligations, unless the Division determines that credit considerations support a different result lower lien status.

~~b.ii.~~ Additional obligations secured by the PRF may be senior to DWSRF obligations in the following circumstances:

- (A) The DWSRF ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement provides for one hundred percent (100%) principal forgiveness; ~~or~~
- (B) The senior obligation(s) predates the DWSRF obligation, ~~and the recipient~~Applicant meets the coverage requirements of ~~Section X.A.4.i~~this Policy, ~~and the Deputy Director of the Division determines that such additional obligation(s) will not negatively affect existing or proposed DWSRF bonds~~; or
- (C) The senior obligation meets the conditions set forth in Section X.A.~~43.c.iii-d~~ of this Policy.

~~c.~~ Additional obligations secured by the PRF may be on parity with the DWSRF obligations under the following conditions:

- ~~(A) The applicant's non-subordinate debt is rated "A," or higher, by at least two of the nationally recognized rating agencies; or~~
- ~~(B) The applicant is a SDAC and the Division determines that the applicant meets the coverage requirements of Section X.A.4.ii, and
 - ~~1) It would be economically burdensome for the applicant to obtain nationally recognized ratings; or~~
 - ~~2) Requiring additional debt to be subordinate to the DWSRF obligation will unduly restrict the applicant from obtaining future system debt necessary for water quality improvements.~~~~

~~d.iii.~~ ~~The applicant~~Applicant may refund ~~senior~~ debt with new ~~senior~~ debt if all of the following conditions are met:

- (A) The new ~~senior~~ debt refunds or refinances ~~existing debt senior to an existing DWSRF obligation~~Existing Debt with the same lien position as that Existing Debt;
- (B) The new ~~senior~~ debt has the same or earlier repayment term as the refunded ~~senior~~ debt;
- (C) The new ~~senior~~ debt service is the same or lower than the ~~existing debt~~Existing Debt service; and
- (D) The new ~~senior~~ debt will not diminish the ~~a~~Applicant's ability to repay its DWSRF obligation(s).

- iv. Pledged Additional obligations that meet the coverage requirements of this Policy and secured by the PRF may be on parity with the DWSRF obligations.
 - v. Assessment-backed financing should be a closed lien pledge. No additional debt subsequent to the DWSRF financing will be permitted to be secured against the assessment except for refunding consistent with this Section of this Policy.
 - vi. Special tax-based financing will require the Division's consent for additional debt.
- iv.d. Proposed Loan Security/Pledge of Revenue and Funds (PRF)
- i. An applicant that is a public agency This is not required if the Applicant is eligible for one hundred percent grant or principal forgiveness funding.
 - ii. The Applicant must submit a resolution or ordinance adopted by its governing board which pledges one or more identify all sources of existing revenue and funds as security for to be pledged.
 - iii. If using real property, the financing agreement. Appendix G contains sample PRF resolutions. Applicant must provide at least two appraisals of the value, how the value was determined, and whether the property is currently pledged as security on any other debt.
 - iv. A PRF may be a special tax, user fees, ~~water rates and charges~~, or a special assessment, provided that the ~~a~~Applicant has the authority to control and pledge the PRF. The PRF may also include liens on real property and other appropriate security liens.
 - v. An applicant that is not a public agency A privately owned Applicant must document its authority to bind itself to the financing agreement Financing Agreement and pledge the grant security in relevant revenues. It must also submit draft documents in support of filing a Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) lien with the Secretary of State.
- v.e. Existing Debt
- a.i. If the ~~a~~Applicant has no other debt, the Agency's Authorized Representative must verify this.
 - b.ii. The ~~a~~Applicant must submit a schedule of all debt secured by the PRF, along with a copy of each relevant debt document. This schedule will be an exhibit to the financing agreement Financing Agreement and will rank ~~existing debt~~ Existing Debt according to priority in relation to the proposed DWSRF debt (senior, parity, or subordinate).

f. Debt Management Policy

Where the Applicant is a local government, it must submit a copy of its debt management policy.

vi.g. Financial Statements and Budgets

a.i. The aApplicant must provide three (3) years of financial statements, preferably audited financial statements. The financial statements must include the current year (if available) and the two previous years, or three previous years if the current year has not yet been completed. If the PWS is privately owned, the aApplicant must provide tax returns involving the PWS for the most recent three (3) years. ~~All applicants must also provide any adopted budget for future year(s).~~

b. The aApplicant must identify any restricted funds and the reason for the restrictions.

~~c. The applicant must identify all sources of security to be pledged. If using real property, the applicant must provide at least two appraisals of the value, how the value was determined, and whether the property is currently pledged as security on any other debt.~~

ii. The Applicant must provide any adopted budget for future year(s) and a projected budget through first payment. Budget projections may include, designated tax, assessments, and/or fee or service charges (as applicable).

d.iii. The aApplicant must provide its current average residential water rate and calculations employed to represent such a rate. If the average residential water rate is expected to increase following submittal of an application as a result of previously adopted water rate increases, then the aApplicant shall provide the anticipated average residential water rates and an adopted schedule for their implementation.

vii.h. Resolutions and Ordinances

i. The aApplicant must submit resolutions or ordinances authorizing submittal of the application, authorizing the match component (if match financing is requested), and designating an Authorized Representative by title as a signatory to all relevant financing documents and supporting materials.

ii. The aApplicant must also submit resolutions or ordinances documenting rate setting in compliance with applicable laws, including Proposition 218 or CPUC California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) approval, as applicable.

viii.i. Governing Authorities

Applicants must have the authority to do all the following:

a.i. Operate a ~~public water system~~ PWS;

b.ii. Assess fees for domestic water supply on property owners and consumers in the targeted area or community;

c.iii. Legally bind, or cause to be legally bound by the subject system, affected individual property owners in the targeted area or community to accept and pay for domestic water supply from the subject system;

d.iv. Hold, or cause to be held by the subject system, all necessary water rights or legally contract for the water supply needed to supply the targeted area or community;

e.v. Acquire and/or construct necessary facilities;

f.vi. Acquire necessary rights to an adequate water supply source;

g.vii. Enter into a ~~financing agreement~~ Financing Agreement with the State Water Board on behalf of the targeted area or community;

h.viii. Assess and/or charge homeowners, as necessary, to fund any part of a project not provided as DWSRF financing and to operate and maintain the project for the long-term;

i.ix. Enter into contracts, as necessary, with adjacent or neighboring PWSs for water supply sources;

j.x. Enter into contracts, as necessary, with adjacent or neighboring PWSs for the purposes of consolidation. This includes the authority to transfer existing facilities (e.g. wells and distribution pipelines) to achieve a consolidation or regional solution; and

k.xi. If the project involves an extension of water service from an existing PWS, undertake the formation necessary to cover the targeted area or community, including LAFCO approval of a boundary extension, annexation, or formation of a new CWS or a regional authority;

ix.j. Material Events, Existing Debt, and Debt Limits

a.i. The ~~a~~ Applicant must submit information regarding current, prior, or pending material events (e.g. bankruptcy, defaults, litigation, Grand Jury findings or indictments).

~~b.ii.~~_____ The ~~a~~Applicant must identify any conditions in related debt obligations that must be satisfied prior to executing the DWSRF ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.

~~c.iii.~~_____ The ~~a~~Applicant must identify any debt limit to which it is subject.

~~x.k.~~_____ New Tax, Fee, Charge or Assessments Projections

~~If a new tax, fee, charge, or assessments will be a PRF, The Applicant must~~ provide budget projections based on the proposed taxes, fees, charges, or assessments if a new tax, fee, charge, or assessment will be a PRF.

~~xi.l.~~_____ Relevant Agreements

The ~~a~~Applicant must provide a copy of any relevant service, management, operating, or joint powers agreements for the proposed project with a summary explanation of the shared financial and management responsibilities of each party.

~~xii.~~ Legal Opinion

~~The applicant will be expected to submit an opinion from counsel upon execution of the financing agreement, satisfying the Division and the Division's counsel as to concerns material to the financing. The State Water Board does not authorize execution by its designee without such an opinion.~~

~~xiii.m.~~ California Public Utilities Commission and Surcharges

~~If the PWS is regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), then the applicant~~The Applicant must submit the following documentation if regulated by the CPUC: 1) CPUC authorization for the PWS to enter into a DWSRF ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement and incur debt for a DWSRF financed project, and 2) CPUC authorization for a surcharge to be pledged as repayment for a DWSRF ~~l~~oan.

B. Eligible Planning/Design Costs

1. Eligible costs include the preparation of planning/design documents, including but not limited to:
 - a. Feasibility studies and project reports
 - b. Plans and specifications
 - c. Financial analyses
 - d. Engineering and design documents
 - e. Environmental review and documents

- f. Legal costs and fees
- g. TMF assessments and documents
- h. Capital improvement plans
- i. Asset management plans
- j. Water rate studies
- k. Planning financing application

l. Test wells

m. Temporary easements for planning purposes

2. Ineligible Project Costs

a. Land acquisition that is not an integral part of the project

b. Water rights

c. Motor vehicles used for employee transportation or for the transportation of materials

d. Laboratory fees for routine compliance monitoring

2.3. Eligible planning and design costs that were incurred by the aApplicant prior to the Division approving the application Eligible Start Date of a planning/design Financing Agreement may be reimbursed, provided all applicable state and federal requirements have been met. If a rRecipient incurs eligible planning/design costs before the execution of a financing agreement Financing Agreement, it does so at its own risk.

3.4. The aApplicant may include a eContingency amount in its application to reimburse unforeseen eligible costs. The inclusion of a eContingency amount is subject to credit review and approval by the Division. If the credit review shows the aApplicant can afford repayment, the financing agreement Financing Agreement may include the eContingency amount.

C. Planning/Design Financing Terms

1. Interest

Interest The interest rate shall be determined as specified in Section VI.E.1 of this Policy, and interest will accrue from the date of each disbursement and continue to accrue until the financing agreement Financing Agreement is fully amortized. The rRecipient will be invoiced accrued interest during the project, in accordance with Section XVII. BA of this Policy.

2. Amortization Period

Repayments will be amortized by equal ~~semi~~annual payments over five (5) ~~or ten~~ (10) years. ~~Repayments shall begin, whichever the Applicant selects, unless restructured. The first amortized principal and interest repayment shall be due~~ no later than one (1) year ~~from following the~~ completion of the planning/design project. ~~As a courtesy, the Division will issue a revised payment schedule after the Recipient submits an acceptable final disbursement request. The grace period on the payment is specified in Section XVII.C.2 of this Policy.~~

3. Restructured Planning/Design Financing

- a. ~~If the applicant intends to refinance the~~The balance of a planning/design financing ~~principal~~Financing Agreement may be restructured as part of ~~executing~~ a DWSRF construction ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement. ~~If the Applicant intends to restructure the planning/design Financing Agreement as part of a DWSRF construction Financing Agreement,~~ then the scope of work must ensure development of all documents necessary for construction financing approval. ~~The recipient must complete the planning/design project prior to the submission of a construction financing application.~~
- b. ~~The balance of a planning/design financing agreement may be restructured as part of a construction financing agreement. The~~The balance of the planning/design ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement will carry the financing terms applicable to the construction ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.
- c. Interest will accrue on the ~~planning/design financing~~Planning/Design Financing balance upon execution of the construction ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement per the terms of the construction ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.
- d. Approval of ~~planning/design financing~~Planning/Design Financing does not obligate the State Water Board to provide subsequent ~~construction financing~~Construction Financing.

XI. CONSTRUCTION FINANCING

An ~~a~~Applicant must submit all documents noted below, unless otherwise authorized by the Deputy Director of the Division for good cause, to obtain ~~construction financing~~Construction Financing. The Division may require that the ~~a~~Applicant submit additional information or certifications necessary to ensure the project complies with state and federal requirements. *Appendix H* contains the four (4) packages of an application for ~~construction financing~~Construction Financing. The Division will accept partial packages and applications, but will process complete

applications ahead of incomplete applications. Priority will be given to projects on the Fundable List.

A. Construction Application Requirements

1. General Information Package

This package includes basic aApplicant and project information.

2. Technical Package

i.a. Project Report

The aApplicant must submit an engineering report, or its equivalent, that contains the information outlined in *Appendix HG* as appropriate to the project. Engineering reports must be signed and stamped by a registered Professional Engineer. The contents of the report outlined in *Appendix HG* are not prescriptive, but are intended to provide the Division with sufficient information to evaluate whether the project is eligible for DWSRF financing, meets applicable technical requirements, and is likely to meet applicable objectives and standards.

a.i. The aApplicant must evaluate all feasible alternatives. For aApplicants seeking ~~construction financing~~ Construction Financing, an analysis of alternatives must be submitted as part of the application.

b.ii. The aApplicant must evaluate consolidation of the subject system with nearby water systems. If consolidation is deemed infeasible, the aApplicant must discuss the reasons for that determination.

c.iii. The selected construction project must be the most long-term, cost-effective solution. The engineering analysis required as part of the application must compare estimated capital and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs over the projected term of the financing agreement Financing Agreement or over a twenty (20) year period, whichever is longer. The evaluation must analyze the technical effectiveness of each alternative.

ii.b. Technical, Managerial, and Financial Capacity

a.i. The aApplicant must provide a completed TMF assessment using the appropriate form in *Appendix C*.

b.ii. The Division will review the TMF assessment for the subject system to ensure all mandatory elements of TMF have been met, or will be achieved upon eCompletion of eConstruction.

c. Water Rights

- i. Section 5103 of the Water Code requires water diverters to submit records of water diversions to the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights. If the Applicant is not current on these submittals, the Division will not execute a Financing Agreement or disburse any funds until the reports are submitted unless the Deputy Director determines that (a) the DWSRF financing will assist the Applicant in complying with the reporting requirements, and (b) the Applicant has submitted to the State Water Board a one-year schedule for complying with the reporting requirement.
- ii. The Applicant must provide information to allow the Division to determine whether a petition for change of water rights must be filed and approved with the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights for the project.

iii.d. Water Conservation and Urban Water Management

a. Water Conservation

~~Commencing with construction of the project and continuing throughout the reasonably expected useful life of the project, the recipient is responsible for the implementation of practices substantially equivalent to the urban water conservation "best management practices" of the California Urban Water Conservation Council.~~

- i. Volumetric Pricing and All Applicants that are Urban Water Suppliers must comply with the provisions of Division 6, Part 2.6 of the Water Code (commencing at section 10610).

b.ii. Water Metering

~~All Applicants must certify compliance with water metering requirements of Section 529.5 of the California Water Code provides that urban water suppliers must meet certain volumetric pricing and water metering requirements in order to apply for state financial assistance for a drinking water treatment project. All applicants must certify compliance with or that the water metering requirements are not applicable to the Applicant.~~

c. Urban Water Management

~~The Urban Water Management Planning Act requires that urban water suppliers prepare and adopt an Urban Water Management Plan that includes specific elements, pursuant to Section 10631.5 of the California Water Code. Applicants that are urban water suppliers must comply with this Act to receive financing.~~

3. Environmental Package

i. General

~~a. The applicant~~This package includes information and documentation necessary to evaluate applicable state and federal environmental requirements.

~~a.b. Applicants~~ must provide ~~adequate and complete environmental documentation~~and adequate project specific Environmental Documents to allow the State Water Board to fulfill its responsibilities under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to meet federal environmental review requirements. ~~Projects may be required to comply with federal cross-cutting requirements, as applicable per Section V.F of this Policy.~~In accordance with the Operating Agreement, the State Water Board uses the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) to fulfill these requirements. (see Appendix O)

~~b. Early in the planning stage, the applicant should consult with agencies responsible for implementing local, state, and federal statutes and authorities, and incorporate any recommended design features and measures from those agencies into the project. The applicant should consult with the Division to ensure that the project meets all DWSRF environmental requirements. The State Water Board will coordinate consultations with the appropriate federal authorities when an environmental compliance issue arises or with other federal agencies that have roles in approving or financing the project.~~

~~c. The State Water Board will consider any comments received on draft CEQA documentation and will require the applicant to resolve or address any issues that arise from comments. The applicant must resolve all environmental issues, including obtaining the appropriate permits and approvals (e.g. concurrences and approvals under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act) prior to commencement of construction. The financing agreement may include applicable terms and conditions of the permits and approvals.~~

~~ii. Environmental Analysis Documents~~

~~a. Applicants that are public agencies must provide the final, project-specific environmental document, associated reports, and supporting documents showing compliance with CEQA to receive DWSRF construction financing. An applicant may use a previously prepared CEQA document, provided it is consistent with Section 15153, 15162-15164, 15168, or 15221 of the CEQA Guidelines, and the CEQA document provides an adequate project-specific environmental analysis. If applicable, the applicant must also provide supporting documentation to the State Water Board to comply with federal environmental cross-cutting requirements.~~

~~b. If the environmental document for the project was completed more than five (5) years prior to the expected execution date of the financing agreement, or if the environmental document does not provide a project-specific environmental analysis, the applicant must re-evaluate the project's environmental conditions in an updated environmental document (e.g., Addendum, Amendment, Supplemental, or Subsequent environmental document) and complete the applicable public participation requirements. The applicant must provide a copy of the final updated environmental document with the corresponding public participation and notification documents.~~

~~iii. The State Water Board's Role as Responsible Agency~~

~~a. As responsible agency, the State Water Board will complete its environmental review and make findings and determinations consistent with the CEQA Guidelines and the Operating Agreement.~~

~~b. Applicants that are public agencies must follow the CEQA Guidelines, complete the CEQA process as the lead or responsible agency, and provide the State Water Board with final CEQA documentation.~~

~~c. The State Water Board, when acting as responsible agency, will file the appropriate public notification with the State Clearinghouse following the execution of a financing agreement.~~

~~d. Applicants that are public agencies must submit the draft CEQA document to the State Clearinghouse for a minimum thirty (30) day public circulation and comment period. This requirement also applies to any Amendment, Subsequent, or Supplemental environmental documents of previously prepared CEQA documents.~~

~~e. Applicants that are public agencies must file either a Notice of Determination or a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse in accordance with CEQA guidelines following the applicant's project approval and adoption/certification of the CEQA document and findings.~~

~~iv. The State Water Board's Role as Lead Agency~~

~~a. Where the State Water Board is the CEQA lead agency because the applicant is privately owned (such as a mutual water company or investor owned utility), the applicant must provide final drafts and appropriate CEQA documentation, consistent with the CEQA guidelines, for the State Water Board's use.~~

~~b. The State Water Board, when acting as lead agency, will file the appropriate public notification with the State Clearinghouse following the issuance of a financing agreement.~~

4. Financial Security Package

This package includes information and certifications necessary to evaluate the financial security of the Applicant and the proposed Financing Agreement.

i.a. General Requirements

a.i. The Division will review financial documents to determine the aApplicant's credit capacity as well as the capacity to sustainably operate and maintain its water system, including the proposed construction project.

ii. ~~If the applicant's budget is unable to support DWSRF financing, the~~ The Division will apply the Credit/Financial Guidelines (see Appendix E) in the review of each Financial Security Package or request for securing additional debt.

b.iii. ~~_____ If the Applicant's finances cannot support the funding request, Division staff will work with the applicant~~ Applicant to find a way to determine alternative methods of financing the construction finance the project,(s), if feasible.

ii.b. Coverage and Reserve and Coverage

a.i. The rRecipient will normally be expected to establish and maintain, until the financing agreement Financing Agreement is repaid in full, a restricted reserve equal to ~~two semiannual~~ one year's debt service ~~payments that may be accumulated during from available cash prior to the first ten (10) years of the loan repayment term~~ construction completion date, unless the Division determines that credit or tax considerations support a different result. ~~The recipient shall make deposits into the restricted reserve account in an amount and as frequent as instructed by the Division.~~

ii. The rRecipient must comply with existing coverage covenants ~~in existing material debt~~ or with DWSRF coverage requirements, whichever covenants or requirements provide greater coverage. ~~Where net revenues are~~ The Division will employ appropriate credit criteria to evaluating all pledged, the recipient's net revenues at completion sources of construction repayment.

(A) The Recipient's pledged to pay all senior debts relying on sources of repayment for the Loan, in any fiscal year following the PRF fiscal year in which the project is completed and until the Loan is repaid, must be at least the sum of (a) 1.2 times the highest year's total senior (D^{senior}) and parity (D^{parity}) annual debt service, and payable from the net revenues pledged to pay all debts must be at least 1.4 sources and (b) 1.0 times the highest year's aggregate subordinate (D^{subordinate}) annual debt service. Where payable from the pledged sources, as reflected in

the following formula, unless the Division determines that credit considerations allow a different debt service coverage requirement:

$$\text{PRF} \geq [1.2(D^{\text{senior}} + D^{\text{parity}}) + 1.0(D^{\text{subordinate}})]$$

(B) The Applicant may pledge revenues, assessments are pledged, other appropriate covenants and conditions and/or special taxes to repayment of a Loan.

b.(C) _____ The Division may be imposed accept covenant requirements as stated in an Applicant's existing master trust indenture or similar debt document if such covenant requirements meet the Division's credit review risk assessment. (see Appendix E, Section B)

iii.c. Additional Debt

a.i. The State Water Board normally expects the DWSRF debt obligation obligation's lien status to be on parity with the applicant's existing Applicant's senior/first tier lien debt obligations, unless the Division determines that credit considerations support a different result lower lien status.

b.ii. _____ Additional obligations secured by the PRF may be senior to DWSRF obligations in the following circumstances:

(A) The DWSRF financing agreement Financing Agreement provides for one hundred percent (100%) principal forgiveness; or

(B) The senior obligation(s) predates the DWSRF obligation, and the recipient Applicant meets the coverage requirements of Section XI.A.4.ii this Policy, and the Deputy Director of the Division determines that additional obligation(s) will not negatively affect existing or proposed DWSRF bonds; or

(C) The senior obligation meets the conditions set forth in Section XI.A.4.iii. dc. iv of this Policy.

e.iii. _____ Additional obligations that meet the coverage requirements of this Policy and that are secured by the PRF may be on parity with the DWSRF obligations under the following conditions:.

(A) The applicant's non-subordinate debt is rated "A," or higher, by at least two of the nationally recognized rating agencies; or

(B) The applicant is a SDAC and the Division determines that the applicant meets the coverage requirements of Section XI.A.4.ii and:

~~1) It would be economically burdensome for the applicant to obtain nationally recognized ratings; or~~

~~2) Requiring additional debt to be subordinate to the DWSRF obligation will unduly restrict the applicant from obtaining future system debt necessary for water quality improvements.~~

~~d.iv.~~ The applicant Applicant may refund ~~senior~~ debt with new ~~senior~~ debt if all of the following conditions are met:

- (A) The new ~~senior~~ debt refunds or refinances ~~existing debt senior to an existing DWSRF obligation~~ Existing Debt with the same lien position as the Existing Debt;
- (B) The new ~~senior~~ debt has the same or earlier repayment term as the refunded senior debt;
- (C) The new ~~senior~~ debt service is the same or lower than the ~~existing debt~~ Existing Debt service; and
- (D) The new ~~senior~~ debt will not diminish the ~~a~~ Applicant's ability to repay its DWSRF obligation(s).

~~v. Assessment-backed financing will be a closed lien pledge. No additional debt subsequent to the DWSRF financing will be permitted to be secured against the assessment except for refunding consistent with this Section of this Policy.~~

~~vi. Special tax-based financing will require the Division's consent for additional debt.~~

~~iv.d.~~ Proposed Loan Security/Pledged Revenue and Funds (PRF)

~~i. An applicant that is a public agency~~ This is not required if the Applicant is eligible for one hundred percent (100%) grant or principal forgiveness funding.

~~ii. The Applicant must submit a resolution or ordinance adopted by its governing board, which pledges one or more~~ identify all sources of existing revenue and funds as security for the financing agreement. Appendix G contains sample resolutions. to be pledged.

~~iii. If using real property, the Applicant must provide at least two appraisals of the value, indicate how the value was determined, and indicate whether the property is currently pledged as security on any other debt.~~

iv. A PRF may be a special tax, user fees, ~~water rates and charges,~~ or a special assessment, provided that the aApplicant has the authority to control and pledge the PRF. The PRF may also include liens on real property and other appropriate security liens. Typically, assessment-backed financing will be combined with a revenue pledge.

v. ~~An applicant that is not a public agency~~A privately owned Applicant must document its authority to bind itself to the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement and ~~pledge the grant security in~~ relevant revenues. It must also submit draft documents in support of filing a UCC lien with the Secretary of State.

v.e. Existing Debt

a.i. If the aApplicant has no other debt, the Agency's Authorized Representative must verify this.

b.ii. The aApplicant must submit a schedule of all debt secured by the PRF, along with a copy of each relevant debt document. ~~This schedule will be an exhibit to the financing agreement and will rank existing debt according to priority in relation to the proposed DWSRF debt (senior, parity, or subordinate). (e.g. indenture, official statement, installment agreement, loan, or note, etc.).~~

f. Debt Management Policy

Where the Applicant is a local government, it must submit a copy of its debt management policy.

vi.g. Future Capital Needs

a.i. The aApplicant must describe its capital improvement and asset management plans, and the long-term indebtedness needed to fund its future capital improvements. The aApplicant must provide any formal capital improvement and asset management plans to the Division.

b.ii. Unless otherwise specified in the PWS's capital improvement plan that is acceptable to the Division, a budgeted cost for the future replacement of the construction project will be factored into the credit analysis.

vii.h. Financial Statements and Budget

a.i. The aApplicant must provide three (3) years of financial statements, preferably audited financial statements. The financial statements must include the current year (if available) and the two previous years, or (3) three previous years if the current year has not yet been completed. If the PWS is privately owned, the aApplicant must provide tax returns involving

the PWS for the most recent three (3) years. ~~All applicants must also provide any adopted budget for future year(s).~~

~~b.~~ The ~~a~~A Applicant must identify any restricted funds and the reason for the restrictions.

~~c.~~ ~~The applicant must identify all sources of security to be pledged. If using real property, the applicant must provide at least two appraisals of the value, how the value was determined, and whether the property is currently pledged as security on any other debt.~~

~~ii.~~ The Applicant must provide any adopted budget for future year(s) and a projected budget through first payment. Budget projections may include designated tax, assessments, and/or fee or service charges (as applicable).

~~d.iii.~~ The ~~a~~A Applicant must provide its current average residential water rate and calculations employed to represent such a rate. If the average residential water rate is expected to increase following submittal of an application as a result of previously adopted water rate increases, then the ~~a~~A Applicant shall provide the anticipated average residential water rates and an adopted schedule for their implementation.

i. Tax Questionnaire and Reimbursement Resolution

All Public Agency ~~A~~ Applicants must provide certain information for the State Water Board's tax counsel to assess the Applicant's ability to receive DWSRF funds from tax-exempt revenue bond proceeds and submit a Reimbursement Resolution. While the Reimbursement Resolution establishes a potential date for reimbursement, the actual date and limitations for eligible costs will be stated in the Financing Agreement.

viii.j. Resolutions and Ordinances

The ~~a~~A Applicant must submit resolutions or ordinances authorizing submittal of the application, authorizing the match component (if match financing is requested), and designating an Authorized Representative by title as a signatory to all relevant financing documents and supporting materials. The ~~a~~A Applicant must also submit resolutions or ordinances documenting rate setting in compliance with applicable laws, including Proposition 218 or CPUC approval, as applicable.

ix.k. Governing Authorities

Applicants must have the authority to do all the following:

a.i. Operate a ~~public water system~~ PWS;

- ~~b.ii.~~ _____ Assess fees for domestic water supply on property owners and consumers in the targeted area or community;
- ~~c.iii.~~ _____ Legally bind, or cause to be legally bound by the subject system, affected individual property owners in the targeted area or community to accept and pay for domestic water supply from the subject system;
- ~~d.iv.~~ _____ Hold, or cause to be held by the subject system, all necessary water rights or legally contract for the water supply needed to supply the targeted area or community;
- ~~e.v.~~ _____ Acquire and/or construct necessary facilities;
- ~~f.vi.~~ _____ Acquire necessary rights to an adequate water supply source;
- ~~g.vii.~~ _____ Enter into a ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement with the State Water Board on behalf of the targeted area or community;
- ~~h.viii.~~ _____ Assess and/or charge homeowners, as necessary, to fund any part of a project not ~~provided as receiving Non-Repayable~~ DWSRF financing and to operate and maintain the project for the long-term;
- ~~i.~~ ~~Enter into contracts, as necessary, with adjacent or neighboring PWSs for water supply sources;~~
- ~~j.ix.~~ Enter into contracts, as necessary, with adjacent or neighboring PWSs for the purposes of consolidation. This includes the authority to transfer existing facilities (e.g., wells and distribution pipelines) to achieve a consolidation or regional solution; and
- ~~k.x.~~ _____ If the project involves an extension of water service from an existing PWS, undertake the formation necessary to cover the targeted area or community, including LAFCO approval of a boundary extension, annexation, or formation of a new CWS or a regional authority.
- ~~x.i.~~ Material events, ~~existing debt~~Existing Debt, and debt limits
 - ~~a.i.~~ The ~~a~~Applicant must submit information regarding current, prior, or pending material events (e.g., bankruptcy, defaults, litigation, Grand Jury findings or indictments).
 - ~~b.ii.~~ _____ The ~~a~~Applicant must identify any conditions in related debt obligations that must be satisfied prior to executing the DWSRF ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement.
 - ~~c.iii.~~ _____ The ~~a~~Applicant must identify any debt limit to which it is subject.
- ~~xi.~~ ~~New Tax, Fee, Charge or Assessments Projections~~

~~If a new tax, fee, charge, or assessments will be a PRF, provide budget projections based on the proposed taxes, fees, charges, or assessments.~~

~~xii.m.~~ Relevant Agreements

The ~~a~~Applicant must provide a copy of any relevant service, management, operating, or joint powers agreements for the proposed project with a summary explanation of the shared financial and management responsibilities of each party.

~~xiii.~~ Legal Opinion

~~The applicant will be expected to submit an opinion from counsel upon execution of the financing agreement, satisfying the Division and the Division's counsel as to concerns material to the financing. The State Water Board does not authorize execution by its designee without such an opinion.~~

~~xiv.n.~~ California Public Utilities Commission and Surcharges

If the PWS is regulated by the ~~California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)~~,¹ then the ~~a~~Applicant must submit the following documentation: 1) CPUC authorization for the PWS to enter into a DWSRF ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement and incur debt for a DWSRF financed project, and 2) CPUC authorization for a surcharge to be pledged as repayment for a DWSRF ~~loan~~Loan, or to support the operations and maintenance requirements associated with the project.

B. Eligible Construction Costs

~~To~~Project costs are eligible to the extent consistent with federal and state authority.² ~~The~~The following are general categories of eligible and ineligible costs. The ~~applicant's engineer~~Applicant must ~~identify-segregate the~~ eligible and ineligible costs. When cost categories include a combination of eligible and ineligible costs, the ineligible costs will be estimated on an incremental basis.

1. Eligible Project Costs

- a. Treatment facilities, including monitoring equipment, process control systems, back-up reliability equipment, start-up costs, purchase of property, rights-of-ways, and easements for land that will be an integral part² of the treatment process;

² Integral part means only the land that is necessary to accommodate the treatment facilities, including reasonable administration, employee parking, and laboratory building space directly related to their operation. Land whose purpose is meant to

- b. Water sources if necessary to comply with state or federal drinking water standards, including drilling costs, equipment, structures to protect the quality of source water, and purchase of source capacity in another water system. Treatment facilities on a new source are eligible if required for the source to be utilized²;
- c. ~~Consolidation where the project involves the restructuring of two or more PWSs into a single PWS, with water systems physically interconnected. Typical consolidation~~Consolidation project costs, including but not limited to connection fees, source capacity charges, costs to secure or develop new water sources to meet the additional demand, and legal fees for preparation of documents are eligible²;
- d. Value appraisal and the cost of purchasing a water system may be eligible as specified in the IUP;
- e. Pipelines and water mains that are integral to the project and are necessary for the project to function properly. Purchase of property, rights-of-ways, and easements must be confined to the pipelines for which it was acquired;
- f. Installation and replacement of Private Laterals to an existing residential or school structure by an Eligible System, including purchase of easements to maintain control of such infrastructure³;
- f.g. Implementing measures needed to comply with TMF requirements, including conducting water capacity/demand analyses, technical evaluations, and the development of operations plans;
- g.h. Equipment and additional capacity to provide fire protection as required by the applicable governing fire code and incidental appurtenances for fire protection such as fire hydrants;
- h.i. InstallationPurchase and installation of water supply meters⁴;
- i.j. Backflow prevention devices if: (1) installation is required for operation of the project, and (2) the responsibility for installation of such devices rests with the PWS;

provide a buffer zone around treatment facilities, public parking, or reserved for future expansion is not eligible.

³ To establish and maintain DWSRF eligibility for the installation of a Private Lateral, an Eligible System must incur the installation cost of the Private Lateral and ensure its operation and maintenance for its Useful Life.

⁴ If a construction project involves the installation of water meters, the ~~re~~Recipient shall implement volumetric pricing and begin charging volumetric rates no later than one year following the project completion date.

~~j-k.~~ Contingency for change orders approved by the Division for increased costs provided the costs are eligible, consistent with the approved scope of the project and the credit review;

~~k-l.~~ Stationary and mobile equipment integral to the project. Equipment must be dedicated to the storage, treatment, or distribution facilities for which it was purchased;

~~l-m.~~ Preparation of the construction application, and planning/design documents, construction management, engineering, and administration;

~~m-n.~~ Preparation of environmental review documents, and mitigation measures, such as landscaping, when mandated by state and/or federal agencies;

~~n-o.~~ Necessary insurance related to the construction contract~~;~~;

2. Ineligible Costs

a. Land acquisition that is not an integral part of the project;

b. Facilities that are constructed primarily to serve future growth;

c. Construction of dams or rehabilitation of dams;

d. Construction of facilities primarily used for irrigation systems;

~~d-e.~~ Water rights, except when acquired through physical or managerial consolidation with another water system;

~~e-f.~~ Reservoirs or rehabilitation of reservoirs, except for finished water reservoirs and those reservoirs that are part of the treatment process and are on the property where the treatment facility is located;

~~f. Private laterals beyond the public right-of-way;~~

g. Decorative items (art work, sculptures, reflective ponds, fountains, etc)~~;~~);

h. ~~Operation and maintenance costs and extended~~Extended warranties for equipment and act of God, flood, and earthquake insurance costs;

i. Motor vehicles used for employee transportation or for the transportation of materials;

j. Laboratory fees for routine compliance monitoring;

k. Operation and maintenance expenses except to the extent they are used in the startup and testing of the completed project unless otherwise authorized by the law;

I. Laboratories, except those necessary for operation of a treatment facility.

3. ~~Eligible~~ The Division may reimburse eligible Allowances (Soft Costs) as well as identified, eligible pre-purchased material and equipment costs that were incurred by the applicant prior to the Division approving the application may be reimbursed Eligible Start Date of an associated construction Financing Agreement, provided all applicable state and federal requirements have been met. ~~If a recipient incurs eligible equipment or material~~ Construction costs incurred before the Division's execution of a construction Financing Agreement are at the Applicant's risk. Starting construction before the State Water Board has completed environmental review may render a construction project ineligible for financing agreement, it does so at its own risk. Additionally, changes to laws or requirements that occur prior to execution of a Financing Agreement may affect some or all funding eligibility.
4. Costs previously disbursed under a planning/design ~~financing agreement~~ Financing Agreement are not eligible for reimbursement in a construction ~~financing agreement~~ Financing Agreement.
5. The Division will determine eligible capacity of the project and related facilities using the metrics and limitations established in *Appendix H*, prior to financing approval. The capacity of the project and related facilities must be consistent with any applicable environmental constraints.
6. The Contingency amount may be used to pay for eligible change orders approved by the Division. Contingencies are subject to credit review and approval by the Division.

C. Construction Financing Terms

1. Interest

~~Interest~~ The interest rate shall be determined as specified in Section VI.E.1 of this Policy, and interest will accrue from the date of each disbursement and continue to accrue until the financing agreement Financing Agreement is fully amortized. The ~~r~~ Recipient will be invoiced accrued interest only during construction of the project, in accordance with Section ~~XVII.BXVI.A~~ XVII.BXVI.A of this Policy.

2. Amortization Period

- a. Repayments will generally be amortized by equal semiannual payments beginning over 30 years, or the Useful Life of the financed project, whichever is shorter for PWSs not serving a DAC or SDAC.
- b. Repayments will generally be amortized by equal annual payments up to 40 years, or the Useful Life of the financed project, whichever is shorter for Eligible Systems serving a DAC or SDAC.

- c. The first amortized principal and interest repayment will be due no later than one (1) year from the project completion date over twenty (20) years, unless an extended period is approved per following Completion of Construction in accordance with Section ~~VII~~XVI.C for PWSs not serving a DAC or ~~VIII~~SDAC.
- d. The first amortized principal and interest repayment will be due no later than 18 months following Completion of this Policy Construction in accordance with Section XVI.C for Eligible Systems serving a DAC or SDAC.

XII. FINANCING AGREEMENTS

A. Financing Approval

1. The ~~r~~Recipient may receive a ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement based on the estimated ~~eligible project costs~~Eligible Project Costs after an application for its project has been reviewed and approved.
 - a. For routine, noncontroversial, fundable projects the Executive Director, Deputy Director of the Division, or designee, may approve and execute planning/design and construction ~~financing agreements~~Financing Agreements and amendments. Non-routine or controversial, fundable projects will be considered by the State Water Board.
 - b. Upon review and approval of required documents, the Division will prepare a ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement. The Division will not disburse funds until the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement is executed and all conditions for disbursement set forth in the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement have been met.
2. The Division may issue a notice to an ~~a~~Applicant that: (1) identifies costs eligible for DWSRF financing, (2) identifies terms that will be applicable to a ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement provided that specific conditions are met, and (3) establishes the conditions that must be met before a ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement will be executed.
3. Legal Opinion(s): At closing, the Applicant will be expected to submit an opinion, satisfactory to the Division's counsel, from its general counsel and, if relevant, its bond counsel, substantially similar to the templates in Appendix Q.
4. Applicants may start construction prior to execution of the Financing Agreement but are not guaranteed financing approval and an executed Financing Agreement. (see Section XI.B.3)
5. The Applicant must submit a resolution authorizing the Loan transaction at closing.

B. Execution of the Financing Agreement

The Executive Director, Deputy Director of the Division, or designee, may execute agreements and amendments on behalf of the State Water Board for projects with ~~an~~ approved applications. The State Water Board will not disburse funds until after a ~~financing agreement~~ Financing Agreement has been executed.

1. Conditions and Expiration Date(s)

Financing ~~a~~ Agreements may include appropriate conditions and expiration dates to ensure that projects are completed successfully and expeditiously in conformance with applicable requirements. ~~The Deputy Director or designee may waive or amend a financing agreement expiration date for good cause. If a~~ Recipient misses an expiration date or fails to fulfill a condition of the agreement, and does not receive such an extension or amendment of the condition, it may need to reapply for DWSRF funding.

2. Allowances (Soft Costs)

The Soft Cost amounts in the Financing Agreement will be based on the amount requested by the Applicant and approved by the Division.

2.3. Compliance with Federal and State Statutes and Authorities

The ~~r~~ Recipient must agree to comply with, and require its contractors and subcontractors to comply with, all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations, permits, and all applicable local ordinances, specifically including, but not limited to, environmental, procurement and safety laws, rules, regulations, permits, ordinances, and labor compliance requirements. The Financing Agreement includes the Applicant's certification that the Applicant has complied, or will comply, with a non-exclusive list of federal and state laws, as well as any other applicable federal and state laws. Additional details regarding the following federally-mandated requirements are contained in the Appendices:

3. ~~Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)~~

~~a. For projects to which federal cross-cutting authorities apply, the recipient must comply with DBE requirements. The DBE Program is a federal program designed to increase the participation of DBEs. (see Appendix J contains required forms, reporting and additional guidance on DBE requirements.)~~

4.b. Davis-Bacon Wage Requirements (see Appendix O)

~~All planning/design and construction financing agreements will contain Davis Bacon provisions (including appropriate wage determinations and required clauses in bids and contracts, verification of registration in approved U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship Programs, conducting wage rate interviews, collection/review of weekly payroll and compliance statements, posting applicable wage and whistle blower notices at construction sites), no matter when construction commenced or commences.~~

c. American Iron and Steel (AIS) (see Appendix O)

5.4. Procurement Procedures

- a. When contracting for professional services (e.g. professional engineering, environmental, land surveying, project management), Recipient must implement procedures that ensure such services are engaged on the basis of demonstrated competence, qualifications, and at reasonable prices. See Appendix KJ for guidance on the engineering firm selection process.
- b. Recipients that are public agencies must comply with applicable state or local bidding requirements when contracting for construction work. Privately owned water systems are required to comply with the procedures and requirements set forth in Appendix LK. The Recipient must certify that it has complied with all applicable contracting requirements.
- c. Neither the USEPA nor the State Water Board will participate in resolving bid or contractual disputes. The Recipient will have sole responsibility to resolve all bid or contractual disputes. The State Water Board will not reimburse legal or other costs associated with such disputes.

C. Financing Agreement Amendments

1. The Division will use the bids, proposals, and purchase orders accepted by the Recipient, along with the requested Contingency amount to determine if a financing agreement Financing Agreement amendment is necessary. Cost increases will be evaluated on a case by case basis, and are subject to the Recipient's credit capacity.
2. If an amendment is approved, the Division will incorporate its eligibility decisions into an amended financing agreement Financing Agreement and send the amendment to the Recipient for signature. The amended financing agreement Financing Agreement must be executed prior to disbursement of costs associated with project changes identified in the amendment.
3. The project completion date may be revised by amending the financing agreement Financing Agreement, if necessary. The revised project completion date will be established by mutual agreement between Recipient must obtain the Division's consent for a revision with sufficient advance notice as required by the Division and the recipient.
4. Change orders will be reviewed on a case by case basis- by the Division. The Recipient must cover change order costs until such costs are approved by the Division. The Division will disencumber any unused funds, including Contingency, at the end of the project.
5. Where the financing agreement Financing Agreement provides for one hundred percent (100%) principal forgiveness, the total amount of DWSRF principal

forgiveness cannot exceed the limits established in the IUP or the amount made available by USEPA. The Division will not approve an amendment which results in these limits being exceeded.

6. All project changes that result in costs that exceed the approved budget, ~~for which~~that the Division ~~has determined~~determines it cannot finance, will be the responsibility of the ~~r~~Recipient.

XIII. DISBURSEMENTS

All disbursements are subject to federal and state requirements and/or limitations notwithstanding any provisions of this Policy. ~~A recipient~~Disbursement of funds is contingent on execution of a Financing Agreement, and the State Water Board will not disburse funds until after an agreement has been executed. A Recipient must submit disbursement requests in a timely manner and at the discretion of the Division to ensure the timely and expeditious use of DWSRF funds. Costs submitted to the Division must have been incurred, but the ~~r~~Recipient does not need to have actually paid the costs before requesting reimbursement. The Division will not disburse any funds ~~for construction~~ until the ~~r~~Recipient adopts any required rate increase, assessment, surcharge, or other charge and demonstrates the rates, assessment, surcharge, or other charge, were adopted in accordance with the legal requirements the ~~r~~Recipient is subject to for the setting of rates, assessments or other charges to customers. (Publicly owned water systems are generally subject to Proposition 218 requirements. See California Constitution, article XIIC and XIID; ~~U.S.C. Section 53750, et seq.~~)

A. Disbursement Requests

1. The Division will send the ~~r~~Recipient a copy of the required forms to request reimbursement with the ~~financing agreement. The applicant will be expected to submit a resolution or ordinance designating an Authorized Representative by title as a signatory to budget and claim forms.~~Financing Agreement. Appendix ML contains claim forms and instructions for requesting disbursements.
2. The ~~r~~Recipient must ensure that adequate local funding is available to pay its consultants and contractors in case the disbursement is not processed before payment to the consultant or contractor is due.
3. The Division will base disbursement on the amount of money currently due and payable to a consultant, contractor, or vendor for eligible costs incurred, minus any amounts previously disbursed by the Division.
- 3.4. _____ In limited circumstances, principal, interest and fees on ~~bridge financing~~Bridge Financing may be eligible for reimbursement. Applicants should contact the Division with the terms of such ~~bridge financing~~Bridge Financing prior to securing funds or establishing a credit line.

4.5. ~~_____~~ The ~~r~~Recipient must certify that work has been completed and that claimed costs were incurred. The ~~r~~Recipient must submit invoices or other documentation acceptable to the Division to substantiate the reimbursement of ~~soft costs~~eligible costs. Ineligible or unsubstantiated costs will not be reimbursed.

~~5. The Division may reimburse eligible pre-purchase material and equipment costs that were incurred prior to the execution of the financing agreement. The recipient must submit invoices or other documentation acceptable to the Division to substantiate the reimbursement of such costs.~~

~~6. The Contingency amounts may be used to pay for eligible change orders approved by the Division.~~

B. Final Disbursement

1. The ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement will establish a deadline for submittal of the final disbursement request. The complete final disbursement request must be received by the Division in a timely manner. The final disbursement request will not be processed until the Project Completion Report is submitted per Section XV of this Policy.

2. Prompt submittal of the final disbursement request is the responsibility of the ~~r~~Recipient. If the Division has not received the complete final disbursement request and the Division has not issued prior approval to submit the final disbursement request at a later time, the undisbursed balance of the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement is subject to deobligation.

XIV. CONSTRUCTION

A. ~~Pre-~~Project Conference or Media Events

The ~~r~~Recipient must notify the Division of any significant press or public media events (e.g., ground-breaking or ribbon-cutting) related to the project with at least ten (10) days' notice.

B. Interim and Final Inspections

1. ~~Interim~~The Division should conduct interim inspections during construction ~~may be conducted.~~

2. ~~A~~The Division will conduct a final project inspection ~~will be conducted. A due date for submission of the Project Completion Report will be established in the financing agreement.~~

C. Progress Reports

At least quarterly, the ~~recipient~~ Recipient must submit progress reports on the status of project activities starting with the issuance of the executed ~~financing agreement~~ Financing Agreement and ending upon final disbursement. The reports must contain at least the following information:

1. A summary of progress to date including a description of progress since the last report, percent complete, percent invoiced and percent schedule elapsed;
2. A listing of change orders including amount, description of work, and change in contract amount and schedule;
3. Any problems encountered, proposed resolutions, schedule for resolutions and status of previous problem resolutions; and
4. A summary of compliance with environmental conditions, if applicable.

XV. PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

The ~~recipient~~ Recipient must notify the Division that its construction project was completed by submitting a Project Completion Report signed by a registered engineer to the Division and the District Office of the Division of Drinking Water. The Project Completion Report must be submitted on or before the due date established ~~per Section XIV.B.2 of this Policy in the Financing Agreement~~. The Project Completion Report must describe the project, describe the water quality or quantity problem the project sought to address, discuss the project's likelihood of successfully addressing that water quality or quantity problem in the future, and summarize compliance with environmental conditions, if applicable. Additional Project Completion elements may be required by the Division on a case-by-case basis.

~~XVI. RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS~~

~~All recipients are required to maintain separate project accounts in accordance with federal requirements, as specified in the financing agreement. (See OMB Circular A-133)~~

~~XVII.XVI. FINANCING PAYMENTS~~

- A. Interest and other charges, if applicable, will accrue on all disbursements on the date of each disbursement. During a planning/design or construction project, the ~~recipient~~ Recipient shall pay interest to the State Water Board on all financing disbursements. Interest accrued on financing disbursements ~~cannot~~ will not be deferred. The Division will invoice the ~~recipient semiannually~~ Recipient annually on interest accrued during the project.

- B. The Division will issue a final payment schedule after the ~~r~~Recipient submits an approvable final disbursement request. The final payment schedule will include the following:
1. The interest rate, administrative service charges, and other charges as appropriate, if applicable;
 2. The final ~~loan~~ principal amount including interest, charges, and fees, if applicable; and
 3. A complete amortization table.
- C. The ~~r~~Recipient must make its first ~~semiannual~~annual amortized principal and interest payment ~~not later than one year following the project completion date,~~ as established in the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement and any amendments thereto.
1. As a courtesy, the Division will normally send a payment notice approximately thirty (30) days before the payment due date, but prompt payment remains the responsibility of the ~~r~~Recipient.
 2. The ~~r~~Recipient will have a ten (10) day grace period, after which time the State Water Board may assess a penalty in the amount of costs incurred for lost interest earnings, staff time, bond default penalties, and other costs incurred or flowing from the late payment. Any penalties will be deposited in the DWSRF account. Penalties will not change the principal balance of the ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement and will be treated as a separate receivable in addition to the ~~semiannual~~ payment due.

~~D. All payments are to be sent to:~~

~~DWSRF Accounting Office
State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: DWSRF Program
Post Office Box 1888
Sacramento, CA 95812-1888~~

D. Prepayments

Loan prepayments require the consent of the Deputy Director of the Division. See Section XII of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Debt Management Policy.

E. Loan Compliance and Monitoring

1. All Loan Recipients must submit audited financials to the Division annually for at least the first 5 years of the repayment term and possibly for every year until full Loan repayment. Where the Loan has been pledged as security for the Board's

revenue bond debt, the Division will review audited financials every year until full Loan repayment.

2. Rate Stabilization Fund transfers may be viewed as supplemental revenue to System Revenues, for purposes of complying with the Debt Service Coverage requirement on an occasional basis during the repayment term and may require notice.
3. Where SRF revenue bond proceeds funded any portion of a Loan, the Division will review tax compliance documentation on that Loan annually.

XVII. RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Recipients must maintain separate project accounts in accordance with federal requirements as specified in the Financing Agreement. (See 2 CFR, Part 200, Subpart F). In most cases, the records retention period will be thirty-six (36) years.
- B. Recipients shall maintain project accounts according to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the uniform accounting and reporting procedures set forth in publications of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants or its successor, or by any other generally accepted authority on such procedures, and includes, as applicable, the standards set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board or its successor.

XVIII. BOARD RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY

- A. Prior to approving any ~~financing~~Financing Agreement, the State Water Board reserves the right to modify this DWSRF Policy as necessary to provide for effective and equitable use of DWSRF funds, including:
 1. Reducing the eligible funding amount for any project for ~~due~~-cause;
 2. Conforming to applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, or agreements, including but not limited to the Operating Agreement, the Capitalization Grant Agreement, and agreements related to any DWSRF revenue bonds.
- B. The Deputy Director of the Division may update and amend the DWSRF Policy Appendices and create new Appendices, unless doing so would require additional approval by USEPA or the Executive Director, as necessary for administrative or procedural changes not in conflict with this Policy.

XIX. DISPUTES

- A. Approvals or actions taken by the Division's predecessors pursuant to statutes, regulations, and policies in affect at the time of the approvals or actions remain valid. Division approvals or actions after the effective date of this Policy that conflict with or are inconsistent with approvals or actions taken by the Division's predecessors will be resolved by the Deputy Director of the Division.
- B. An ~~a~~Applicant or ~~r~~Recipient may appeal a staff decision within thirty (30) days to the Deputy Director of the Division or designee, for a final Division decision. An ~~a~~Applicant or ~~r~~Recipient may appeal a final Division decision to the State Water Board within thirty (30) days. The Office of the Chief Counsel of the State Water Board will prepare a summary of the dispute and make recommendations relative to its final resolution, which will be provided to the State Water Board's Executive Director and each State Water Board Member. Upon the motion of any State Water Board Member, the State Water Board will review and resolve the dispute in the manner determined by the State Water Board. Should the State Water Board determine not to review the final Division decision, this decision will represent a final agency action on the dispute.
- C. Where a ~~financing agreement~~Financing Agreement has been executed, the dispute and remedies provisions of that agreement will control, and the dispute provisions of this section are inapplicable.