

CFI Process Overview

EVALUATION SHEET

District staff review CFI applications and develop concise one-page evaluations of potential projects. The staff evaluation is divided into six sections: project identification, description, evaluation, strategic goals, funding, overall scoring and recommendation.

Project Identification: Project Number, Title, Cooperating Entity (Cooperator), Risk Level and whether it is a Multi-Year Project.

Description: Concise description of the project including benefits and costs.

Evaluation: Includes six sections (Initial Application Quality, Project Benefit, Cost Effectiveness, Past Performance, Complementary Efforts, and Project Readiness) with scoring criteria associated with each section.

Strategic Goals: Separate section tied to the District Strategic Plan. If project does not meet a Regional Priority or Strategic Initiative the project will not be recommended for funding.

Overall Scoring and Recommendation: Based on staff evaluation and scoring in both the evaluation and strategic goals sections. A project with a 1A Priority means it is an ongoing project approved for multiple years. With multi-year projects applicants are required to request funds through the CFI cycle each year.

Funding: Identifies the funding sources for the project including the District's share, Cooperator's share, as well as any other outside funding. Funding from prior, proposed and future fiscal years is provided.

CFI SCHEDULE

August:
CFI Workshop and
Application Period Open

October:
Application Period Closes

October–February:
Application Review
and Preliminary Scorings
Assigned

February:
Preliminary Scorings
Presented

April:
Final Scorings presented
and Project
Presentations

September:
Final Budget Approved

RISK LEVELS

Type 1

Requires the least amount of involvement of District staff time to track the progress, ensure the project is consistent with the contract scope of work and sign off on reimbursements to the Cooperator.

Type 2

Requires more staff involvement to review the Cooperator's contracts with consultants and contractors to ensure the scope and budgets are consistent with the District's cooperative funding contract.

Type 3

District staff involved in the design phase of the project and may provide meaningful guidance based on the District's experience, expertise and regional understanding that would lead to opportunities to enhance the water resource benefits and efficient use of limited funding.

Type 4

District is the lead in managing the project activities.

CFI Process Overview

All Project Type Criteria

Initial Application Quality – 0 or 5 points based on the assessment of the application submitted the first Friday of October. Scores are either 0 points for not enough information to properly evaluate the project for funding consideration or 5 points for all information was provided at the time of application.

Past Performance – 0, 2 or 5 points are assigned to Cooperators based on whether projects are on plan and expending budgeted funds per funding requests.

Criteria	Highest Points Possible	Scoring Criteria
Initial Application Quality	5	All Project Types
Project Benefits	25	Project Type Specific
Cost Effectiveness	25	Project Type Specific
Past Performance	5	All Project Types
Complementary Efforts	10	Project Type Specific
Project Readiness	10	All Project Types
Strategic Goals	25	All Project Types
Total Score	105	

Project Readiness – 0-10 points are a sum of two sub criteria: start date (5) and program/construction ready (5). Start date (0-5 points) – start date refers to the date in which expenditure will begin (not encumbering funds or procuring services) 5 points if project starts on or before December 1, 2 points if project starts on or before March 1, 0 points if starts after March 1, Program or Construction is Shovel Ready (0-5 Points) – Conservation Program is already established and implementation of conservation elements will begin on or before December 1 = 5 points. Study supports and aligns schedule with Governing Board prioritized initiatives = 5 points. WMP with available LIDAR as of December 1, 2025. Design and permitting will be completed and project is out for construction bids on or before December 1 = 5 points. 0 points for projects that are not shovel ready by December 1.

Strategic Goals - Scored 25 points if project aligns with both a Strategic Initiative and a Regional Priority, a flood protection project or for water quality projects consistent with the Executive Order 19-12. Scored 20 points if project aligns with multiple Strategic Initiatives. Scored 15 points if project aligns with a Strategic Initiative but not a Regional Priority. If project does not meet a Regional Priority or Strategic Initiative the project will not be recommended for funding.

Project Type Specific Criteria

Project Benefits (0-25 Points), Cost Effectiveness (0-25 Points) and Complementary Efforts (0-10 Points) are scored based on metrics developed through analysis of previous projects and efforts that support continued success of the project type being evaluated. Example – For Water Quality Project Type criteria: The pounds of Total Nitrogen (TN) removed, and the receiving water body determine the project benefit score. The cost per pound of TN removed is used to score cost effectiveness. The complementary efforts are scored based on the number of initiatives the Cooperator has implemented to improve water quality such as having a dedicated stormwater fee, street sweeping program, pet waste ordinance, fertilizer ordinance, and/or active education campaign.

METRICS FOR SCORING COST EFFECTIVENESS

Water Supply Projects					
ProjectType	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
Study	Cost 25-50% greater than a similar study	Cost 10-25% greater than a similar study	Cost within +/- 10% of a similar study	Cost is 10% or more less than a similar study	N/A
Reuse (cost/gpd)	\$13 - \$10	\$10 - \$8	\$8 - \$5	\$5 - \$2.5	< \$2.5
Brackish RO, Surface Water, Seawater, Other (cost/gpd)	>\$40	\$40-\$30	\$30-\$20	\$20-\$10	< \$10
Conservation (cost/1000 gallons saved)	\$6.00 - \$5.50	\$5.50 - \$4.50	\$4.50 - \$3.00	\$3.00 - \$2.50	< \$2.50
Water Quality Projects (cost/lb. of pollutant removed)					
ProjectType	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
Total Nitrogen (cost/lb.)	>\$375	\$375-\$300	\$300-\$225	\$225-\$150	< \$150
Natural Systems Restoration Projects (cost/acre restored; cost/linear foot restored)					
ProjectType	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
Shoreline Restoration (\$/lf.)	\$1250-\$900	\$900-\$750	\$750-\$650	\$650-\$500	≤\$500
Hydrologic Restoration	\$21k-\$18k	\$18k-\$9k	\$9k-\$4k	\$4k-\$1500	≤\$1500
Combined Elements	\$100k-\$75k	\$75k-\$54k	\$54k-\$28k	\$28k-\$15k	≤\$15k
Flood Protection Projects					
ProjectType	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
BMPs (benefit/cost ratio) Required Projects Over \$500k	0.50 < 0.70	N/A	> 0.70 < 0.90	> 0.90 < 1.10	≥ 1.10
BMPs (when benefit/cost ratio is not available for projects under \$500k)	Higher than Other Projects	N/A	Similar to Other Projects	N/A	N/A
WMP Urban (cost/sq. mile):	\$119k-\$104k	\$104k-\$91k	\$91k-\$79k	\$79k-\$72k	<\$72k
WMP Rural (cost/sq. mile):	\$29k-\$24k	\$24k-\$19k	\$19k-\$15k	\$15k-\$12k	<\$12k
WMP Mixed (cost/sq. mile):	\$60k-\$49k	\$49k-\$37k	\$37k-\$24k	\$24k-\$19k	<\$19k
WMP Update Urban (cost/sq. mile):	\$609k-\$48k	\$48k-\$38k	\$38k-\$29k	\$29k-\$27k	<\$27k
WMP Update Rural (cost/sq. mile):	\$16k-\$12k	\$12k-\$9k	\$9k-\$7k	\$7k-\$5k	<\$5k
WMP Update Mixed (cost/sq. mile):	\$30k-\$26k	\$26k-\$23k	\$23k-\$18k	\$18k-\$16k	<\$16k

METRICS FOR SCORING PROJECT BENEFIT

Water Supply Projects					
Project Type	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points	+5 Points
Reuse (MGD)	< 0.2 MGD	0.2-0.66 MGD	0.66-1.5 MGD	> 1.5 MGD	Regional priority in the Strategic Plan
Brackish, Surface Water, Seawater, or Other (MGD)	< 0.5 MGD	0.5-1.0 MGD	1.0-5.0 MGD	> 5.0 MGD	Regional priority in the Strategic Plan
Regional Pipeline, Pumping Station, or Storage tank	N/A	Two or more water utilities or local gov with an RWSA-approved interlocal agreement.	Submitted by RWSA to service a single member at completion.	Submitted by RWSA to service two or more members at completion.	Regional priority in the Strategic Plan
Conservation (gal.)	1,000-5,000	5,000-10,000	10,000-25,000	25,000-50,000	> 50,000
Water Quality Projects (lb. of pollutant removed and waterbody)					
Project Type	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	+10 Points	
Total Nitrogen (lbs.)	50-100 lbs.	100-1000 lbs.	>1000 lbs.	Impaired, SWIM or Ridge Lakes Waterbody	
Restoration Projects (acre restored; linear foot restored)					
Project Type	5 Points	10 Points	15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
Shoreline	400-700 LF	700-1000 LF	1000-1250 LF	1250-1500 LF	> 1500 LF
Hydrologic	12 - 30 acres	30 - 90 acres	90 - 200 acres	200 - 400 acres	> 400 acres
Comprehensive Ecosystem	1 - 2 acres	2 - 4 acres	4 - 6 acres	6 - 25 acres	> 25 acres
Recharge Restoration (benefits)	The total score for Recharge Restoration Projects is based on the sum of the following individual benefits: Project in priority area for recharge (8 points) + Project directly benefitting an MFL and/or aiding in mitigation of saltwater intrusion (8 points) + Project with quantifiable potable water benefits (4 points; regional suppliers only) + Project with quantifiable water quality benefits (5 points).				
Flood Protection Projects					
Project Type	10 Points		15 Points	20 Points	25 Points
BMPs (benefits)	Benefits are from benefits cost ratio spreadsheet provided by Cooperator. Points assigned = street flooding (0-5 points) + number of vehicles (0-5 points) + structure flooding (0-5 points) + number of structures (0-5 points) + and intermediate (3 points) or regional system (5 points).				
Watershed Management Plans and Updates	Within the top 30 of the ranked Gap Watershed List (Plans) Partial Planning Unit, within the top 30 of the ranked WMP Update List (Updates) Within the top 40 of the ranked WMP Update List, if update is justifiable (Updates)	Partial Planning Unit, within the top 15 of the ranked Gap Watershed List (Plans) / within the top 20 of the ranked WMP Update List (Updates) Entire Planning Unit, within the top 25 of the ranked Gap Watershed List (Plans) / within the top 30 of the ranked WMP Update List (Updates)	Partial Planning Unit, within the top 5 of the ranked Gap Watershed List (Plans) / within the top 10 of the ranked WMP Update List (Updates) Entire Planning Unit, within the top 15 of the ranked Gap Watershed List (Plans) / within the top 20 of the ranked WMP Update List (Updates)	Entire Planning Unit, within the top 5 of the ranked Gap Watershed List (Plans) / within the top 10 of the ranked WMP Update List (Updates)	