PECHANGA BAND OF INDIANS

WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024

Funding Opportunity Number

R23AS00109

Project Title:

Developing a long-term strategic water plan for the Pechanga community to accommodate current and future growth that establishes sustainable water systems, addresses current water quality challenges, and expands water production capabilities within the Pechanga reservation.

Pechanga Band of Indians

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Submitted to:

Department of the Interior,

Bureau of Reclamation,

Water Resources and Planning Office

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Technical Proposal

Executive Summary

The Pechanga Band of Indians located in Temecula, Riverside County, California submits this proposal on May 22, 2024, for the WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024 Task A: Water Strategy Grant to conduct planning to support water supply and management solutions (e.g. domestic water supply projects for disadvantaged communities, drought resilience and ecological resilience) as a Category 1 – Tribal applicant.

The work to be performed under this project will occur within the boundaries of the Pechanga Indian reservation, a federal reservation located in Riverside County California. It will provide essential planning and water strategies to assure continued water availability, quality, and sustainability to our community members. It will assist us in addressing current concerns for continued access to quality water sources and our ability to meet future needs by identifying sustainable water practices; water security, quality, and reliability; it will create an integrated water management system; identify and plan for climate change resilience actions and will provide public awareness and education.

We will identify sustainable options for potable and reclaimed water, explore groundwater options for expanding water production on the reservation and work with critical stakeholders and our community to identify and sustain quality water access for now and in the future. It will aid in strengthening our knowledge and capabilities in addressing our limitations on existing water resources while striking a balance between managing our risks, protecting our environment and critical water supplies, and planning for continued economic growth and development with our reservation confines. This planning effort will update, or replace, the Pechanga Tribe's Water Plan and incorporate the current Drought Contingency planning set to be completed this year, 2024. It is anticipated that this Water Plan update will be completed by March 31, 2028.

Project Location

This project will encompass planning and strategies for water accessibility across the Pechanga Reservation to include the development of a new school, a proposed 80-acre recreational area, existing government center and a proposed residential community located on the northern boundary of the reservation. This plan will incorporate tying into existing water systems that support government, school, resort and casino and any upgrades necessary to accommodate existing concerns with water quality and volume available.

The Pechanga Reservation, 33.462760° north latitude and 117.111712° west longitude, is in the semiarid southwestern portion of County of Riverside in California. The region is characterized by a Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers, and cool, wet winters. The Tribe lies within the Santa Margarita Watershed south of the City of Temecula and State Highway 79, and approximately 25 miles north of the City of Escondido via I-15. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the Reservation boundary and the immediate vicinity. **Error! Reference source**

not found. Error! Reference source not found. shows the Pechanga Creek sub-watershed. It extends approximately seven miles from its confluence at Temecula Creek to its headwaters near the eastern limit of the Reservation. The majority of the Pechanga Creek Watershed lies within the Reservation property. Below is a map that shows the existing and the proposed areas of development.

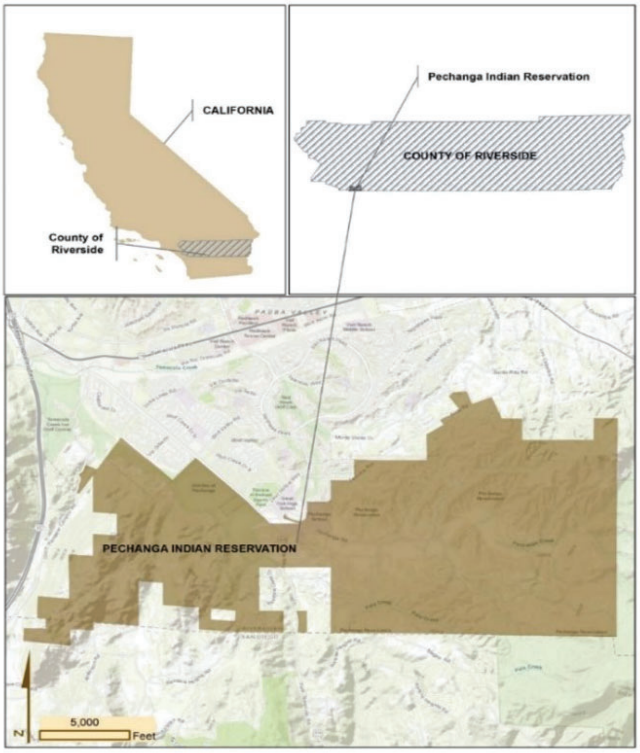

Figure 1. Geographic Location of the Pechanga Indian Reservation.

Project Description

The purpose and significance of this strategic water planning will aid the Tribe in strengthening our knowledge and understanding of the limitations of our existing water resources while striking a balance between managing our risks and planning for economic development critical to the growth and future of our reservation. Further, it will allow the Tribe to continue our stewardship of the land and provide direction and preparation for when climate change inevitably requires us to pivot and adapt the way we use our precious resource and successfully demonstrate our resilience.

A sound strategic plan for water use will assist us in managing and preparing for water use on the reservation, and it will also leverage support from local and regional stakeholders and create strong partnerships that can assist with guiding us through the rapidly changing regulatory landscape that challenges the ways we use and deliver drinking water to our community.

This will help us to develop long-term strategies for managing our community growth. It will accommodate developing a sustainable water plan for potable and reclaimed water, addressing water quality challenges by identifying water treatment solutions, and through exploration of groundwater will help us in expanding water production possibilities within the boundary of the reservation**.**

The tribe will utilize the assistance of a consultant, who will be hired to review the current strategic water plan and update, or replace, the plan to include current and future needs and identify key challenges and opportunities facing the potable and non-potable water systems. The plan will establish short-term and long-term goals for system improvement and growth. The consultant will develop strategies to address infrastructure needs, regulatory requirements, and community expectations and provide a framework for enhancing operational efficiency, reliability, and resilience of the water supply.

The consultant will also conduct a thorough assessment and based on the findings develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the water system. The strategic plan will define clear and achievable goals and objectives aligned with the tribe's mission and vision. It will identify priority areas for investment, improvement, and innovation. The plan will provide an outline of strategies and action plans for achieving the defined goals, including timelines, responsible parties, and performance metrics. The consultant will engage stakeholders and facilitate workshops, focus groups, or meetings to gather input, feedback on the strategic plan and ensure transparency and inclusivity in the planning process to foster stakeholder buy-in and support. The strategic plan shall incorporate stakeholder feedback and operational staff comments and make necessary revisions before becoming finalized. The consultant will prepare a comprehensive document outlining the strategic objectives, strategies, action plans, and implementation steps and provide a presentation of the materials to all stakeholders and water system staff for presentation to the Tribal Water Board and Pechanga Tribal Council.

The following goals and objectives of this project are to identify, plan and execute water strategies for sustainable water management, water security and reliability, integrated water management systems, resilience to climate change and public awareness and education on the Pechanga Indian Reservation. This grant would provide the ability to update our existing water plan, incorporate our drought plan initiatives, identify and plan projects to achieve our water goals and work toward realizing sustainable water systems for our community.

1. Strategic Planning for Sustainable Water Management: Ensure long-term availability of water resources to meet current and future needs.

   Objective 1 – Update the tribe's water plan, include all stakeholders in the development process and identify actions necessary to assure future water sustainability, develop sustainable water options for potable and reclaimed water; and identify and promote sustainable use practices.

   Objective 2 – Incorporate water conservation measures identified in drought contingency plan.

Objective 3 – Protect and preserve water quality by developing a operations plan and addressing water quality challenges by identifying water treatment solutions.

2. Water Security, Quality and Reliability: Ensure reliable access to safe and clean water for all users.

Objective 1 – Assess the current condition of the water infrastructure and develop a plan for maintaining or constructing a reliable water infrastructure.

Objective 2 – Evaluate old and existing water sources to reduce dependence on a single supply. Develop plan for reliable access to additional water sources. Exploration of groundwater for expanding water production possibilities

Objective 3 – Establish emergency response plans for water-related crises.

Objective 4 – Develop integrated water distribution hydraulic study that considers multiple uses and users.

3. Integrated Water Resource Management: Coordinate and integrate various aspects of water management.

Objective 1 – Foster collaboration among stakeholders (tribal government, tribal community, and industrial users).

Objective 2 – Coordinate water management activities outside the reservation boundaries to gain feedback and evaluation.

4. Resilience to Climate Change: Build resilience to climate variability and change in water management practices.

Objective 1 – Assess vulnerability to climate change impacts on water resources.

Objective 2 – Identify and adapt infrastructure and management practices to changing climate conditions.

Objective 3 – Promote water-efficient technologies and practices.

Objective 4 – Identify and promote sustainable use practices.

5. Public Awareness and Education: Raise awareness about water conservation and the importance of responsible water use.

Objectives 1 – Educate the tribal community about the value of water resources and the need for conservation.

Objective 2 – Promote water-saving behaviors and practices.

Objective 3 – Provide accessible information on water issues and initiatives.

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion A. Project Benefits

Developing this plan will be extremely beneficial to the Tribe by identifying and addressing potential threats to water supply reliability and redundancy. Prioritizing actions that specifically target these threats and outlining clear strategies for mitigating them is essential for ensuring the sustainability and resilience of water resources and infrastructure.

Currently, the Tribe's water system is divided into three distinct pressure zones, the Pechanga Resort and Casino (PRC) zone, the commercial zone, and the reservation zone. Within those zones, 77% of the groundwater produced is produced in the PRC zone and 23% of the groundwater produced is produced in the commercial zone with 0% groundwater produced in the reservation zone. This configuration necessitates the need for a water pumping station to pump water from the PRC zone to the reservation zone to serve the approximate population of 600 Pechanga tribal members and approximately 200 connections comprising of residential and governmental buildings on the reservation. Having an extensive plan to reduce the risk of water outages by identifying aging infrastructure and population growth proactively can help reduce the likelihood and severity of disruptions to water availability.

By identifying and addressing potential threats to water supply reliability, extensive planning will help to ensure a more stable and consistent water supply for the Tribe. This reliability is crucial for sustaining livelihoods, economic activities, environmental health, and anticipated growth. Planning allows for a thorough assessment of risks to water supply, including factors such as climate change impacts, population and economic growth, infrastructure vulnerabilities, and contamination risks. Having a comprehensive plan will assist the Tribe with optimizing resource allocation by prioritizing identified actions that address threats to water supply reliability and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively. Investments can be directed towards projects and initiatives that offer the greatest potential for safeguarding water resources and minimizing risks, maximizing the return on investment for the Tribe.

The planning process will also investigate the possibility of rehabilitation of old wells that have existing poor water quality issues and identify the pros and cons and benefits of installing treatment. By reevaluating old wells and exploring new treatment technologies, wells that have been deemed "unsuitable for drinking" may have another opportunity to produce drinking water while optimizing resources and maximizing return on investment compared to developing a new well.

Developing a strategic plan could help in identifying multiple options for prioritizing drinking water projects that could result in a boost of production of approximately 100-

acre feet annually, offsetting the water demands of the reservation by nearly 50%. Having a strategy to provide an option of an additional loop transporting water to the reservation increases water reliability and redundancy to the community and eliminating the dependence of one booster pump station and eliminating a single point of failure.

Incorporating water management strategies yields advantages for both the land and natural ecosystems, given water's critical importance for our future. Such planning not only ensures accessibility for present and future generations but also implements conservation techniques, resulting in reduced energy consumption. Moreover, it fosters public health and well-being while supporting ecological equilibrium by guaranteeing water availability for wildlife habitats. The implementation of water conservation measures outlined in the Drought Contingency Plan is pivotal.

In strategizing Pechanga water management, attention to environmental concerns is paramount. This entails identifying and addressing problematic areas, alongside the development of water recapture and sustainable systems. Additionally, it serves as a platform for fostering education and raising awareness about individual and community-based water conservation efforts.

Pechanga's water planning endeavors will rigorously adhere to existing environmental mitigation and compliance commitments. The blueprint will intricately integrate all water-related facets outlined in the ongoing Pechanga Climate Action Plan. Collaboration with the Pechanga Environmental Department and its dedicated staff will be paramount throughout the planning process, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable approach.

Criteria B- Inclusion of Stakeholders, Stakeholder Support, and Previous Planning Efforts

The Tribe recognizes the importance of contribution and participation of multiple stakeholders and tribal community in the development of a strategic planning process. The Tribe will appoint a Strategic Planning Task Force including representatives from Tribal government, water consultants, tourism and recreation, environment, and public health. The Strategic Planning Task Force will meet regularly to identify the current and future needs of the water system, discuss the results of the water system assessment, and develop priorities with response actions. The first group is made up of a selection of Pechanga Tribal Government’s Departments and Pechanga Water Board of Directors to assist and work directly with the contractor to develop and implement an effective water system strategic plan. This group consists of representatives from the following: Tribal Council, Development Corporation, Education, Public Works, and Environmental Department. Identified representatives include Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Rancho California Water District (RCWD). While the Task Force members are expected to meet monthly, stakeholder meetings are planned to occur once every four months.

Collaboration among stakeholders brings together diverse perspectives, expertise, and resources, leading to innovative solutions that might not be possible compared to working independently. Collaboration through gathering information and perspectives will enhance the decision-making process that can result in more informed, well-rounded choices that consider a broader range of factors and potential impacts.
Developing this strategic water plan will provide a framework to evaluate current and future water demands, assess the existing water resource, analyze our water supply infrastructure, and identify and conduct water quality analysis to possess a greater understanding of our ability to serve our community. This plan will also assist the tribe in considering climate and environmental factors that will affect water quality and quantity, help identify and implement conservation measures, and justify the need to develop hydrological models and simulation tools to aid in planning and decision making. All these tools will be used to continuously monitor and evaluate our water system and provide conclusive data useful in the development of yearly reporting to tribal leadership.

In 2020 the Pechanga Band applied for and received a Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) WaterSMART Drought Response Program, Drought Contingency Planning grant to develop a new comprehensive Drought Contingency Plan that involved a concerted effort from a diverse group of stakeholders that involved assessing, planning, community engagement, and a list of mitigation actions that provides usefully information but needs to be refined and incorporated in the future water strategic plan. The drought contingency plan addresses only a single element of a much-needed water strategic plan that is essential for ensuring water security and safeguarding the well-being of both present and future generations.

There is no opposition to this project. The Tribal government, the Water Board and the community recognize the necessity and benefits of this planning effort.

Criterion C—Ability to Meet Program Requirements

The Pechanga Water Strategic Plan will address the three specific required Project components, as follows:

Component 1: Outreach and Partnership Building:

Project requirements for outreach and partnership building encompass several key elements crucial for successful implementation. Firstly, a well-defined set of objectives must be established and clarifying the desired outcomes. Following this, a thorough analysis of the target audience is imperative to tailor outreach efforts, accordingly, understanding demographics, preferences, and behaviors. Identifying potential partners and stakeholders aligned with these objectives then becomes paramount, requiring meticulous research and evaluation.

A comprehensive communication strategy will be devised, encompassing various channels such as email, social media, and face-to-face interactions to reach out to the community, tribal leaders, and prospective partners. Alongside this, specific partnership opportunities must be identified, ranging from workshops, attending community gatherings, and providing opportunities for input and participation throughout the process.

Adequate resource allocation, including budget, personnel, and time, will be necessary to support these efforts. Additionally, establishing measurable metrics for evaluation throughout the process are vital for building sustainable relationships and achieving long-term success in outreach and partnership endeavors.

Developing a preliminary strategic plan for review and commentary serves as a pivotal step in the organizational planning process. It acts as a guiding document that aligns the proposed strategies with the overarching goals and mission of the tribe. By sharing this draft with stakeholders, including employees, management, and tribal members the strategic planning process can gather diverse perspectives and invaluable insights. This inclusive approach not only enhances the quality of the plan by leveraging the collective expertise of stakeholders but also fosters a sense of ownership and commitment among those involved. Furthermore, soliciting feedback at this stage enables the tribe to identify potential risks, challenges, or overlooked opportunities, thereby allowing for necessary adjustments and improvements to be made before finalizing the strategic direction.

In essence, the process of reviewing and commenting on the draft strategic plan promotes transparency, collaboration, and continuous improvement within the tribe's plan. It facilitates open communication channels, ensuring that stakeholders are informed, engaged, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to the strategic planning process. By embracing this approach, the tribe can not only develop more robust and effective strategies but also cultivate a culture of adaptability and responsiveness to navigate the complexities of water resource management.

Component 2: **Analyses, Scoping and Planning Activities**:

The project starts with a thorough analysis aimed at identifying prevalent issues and discerning existing needs within the water management framework. This entails scrutinizing factors such as water availability, quality, infrastructure condition, and community requirements through methods such as surveys, data analysis, and stakeholder consultations.

Subsequently, the project team explores a range of potential opportunities and alternatives, meticulously comparing and evaluating each against predefined criteria. This process involves assessing feasibility, effectiveness, cost, sustainability, and stakeholder acceptance to prioritize the most viable project concepts.

Lastly, a comprehensive strategy is developed to guide the progression of selected project concepts into implementation. This strategy delineates key steps, resource allocation,

stakeholder engagement approaches, risk mitigation measures, and monitoring frameworks. Collaboration with stakeholders remains central to ensure collective support and success throughout the project lifecycle.

Component 3: Development of a Water Strategy Document:

To effectively address each section of the water strategy document, a methodical approach will be undertaken. First, for the Outreach Summary, a diverse range of engagement methods will be employed, including public meetings, stakeholder interviews, surveys, and digital platforms. These avenues will facilitate broad participation and ensure representation from various stakeholders. Subsequently, the input received will be meticulously reviewed and analyzed to identify common themes, concerns, and priorities. This analysis will serve as the foundation for integrating stakeholder feedback into the planning process, ensuring that the strategy is reflective of the community's needs and aspirations.

Second, in the Statement of Problems and Needs section, a comprehensive assessment will be conducted to identify and prioritize key challenges within the planning area. Through data analysis, consultations with subject matter experts, and field assessments, the specific issues related to water supply, water supply reliability, infrastructure deficiencies, and water management and operations will be delineated. This assessment will provide a clear understanding of the underlying problems, enabling the formulation of targeted strategies to address them effectively.

Lastly, for the Implementation Strategy, a detailed plan will be developed to translate identified solutions into actionable initiatives. This plan will delineate the steps, timelines, responsibilities, and resource requirements for proposed projects or activities within the first five years of the plan. Continuous engagement with stakeholders, proactive management of implementation barriers, and rigorous monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be integral to the successful execution of the strategy, ultimately contributing to a successful strategic plan, outline sustainable water management tools and techniques, and resource utilization.

Existing Models

The Pechanga Tribe has available historic water level elevations, production, and usage records. USGS and Pechanga water department maintain groundwater quality well as Pechanga MODFLOW water modeling programs. In addition, hydrologic and climatic USGS data of the southwest portion of County of Riverside are available.

The Pechanga Tribe welcomes additional technical assistance in the form of many Bureau of Reclamation programs such as WaterSMART water efficiency and water conservation programs. Technical services in the realm of planning, design, and construction of water infrastructure projects, for example, new water storage reservoirs, water booster stations, and water transmission pipelines. Pechanga is interested in

utilizing USBR expertise in hydraulic modeling, water supply forecasting, and water resources planning.

Work Plan

This schedule provides a structured approach to developing a comprehensive water system strategic plan, ensuring all critical phases and tasks are covered within the specified timeframe. Throughout the entire project, holidays and vacations are planned for and accommodated to ensure minimal disruption to the workflow. The project timeline includes buffer periods to account for these breaks, allowing the team to maintain consistent progress while respecting personal time off and federal holidays.

Summary of Key Dates - Milestones, and Timelines

I Preparation and Planning

Estimated (Notice of Award) October 1, 2024 Estimated Completion Nov 15, 2024

Milestone: Approved Detailed Project Timeline and Budget **Nov 15, 2024**

II Assessment and Analysis

Estimated Start Nov 15, 2024 Estimated Completion Feb 28, 2025

Milestone: Project Analysis & Assessment Report Feb 28, 2025

III Goal Setting and Strategy Development

Estimated Start Feb 28,2025 Estimated Completion Jun 30, 2025

Milestone: Goal Setting and Strategy Development Report Jun 30, 2025

IV Strategic Plan Documentation and Finalization

Estimated Start Jun 30,2025 Estimated Completion Sep 30, 2025

Milestone: Strategic Plan Complete Sep 30, 2025

V Project Implementation Plans

Estimated Start Sep 30,2025 Estimated Completion Sep 30, 2026

Milestone: Near Term Projects – Implementation Plans Sep 30, 2026

Work Plan - Scope, Tasks,

Stage I: Preparation and Planning

During the Preparation and Planning phase of developing a water system strategic plan, the focus is on establishing a solid foundation for the entire planning process. This involves several key activities, including scoping the project, assembling the project team, defining objectives and metrics, conducting preliminary data collection, and setting the project timeline and budget. Scoping the project involves clearly defining the boundaries of the water system to be addressed,

identifying key stakeholders, and clarifying desired outcomes. Assembling a multidisciplinary project team ensures that diverse perspectives and expertise are represented, essential for a comprehensive strategic plan. Clear and measurable objectives are established, guiding the planning process and providing a basis for assessing success through identified key performance indicators (KPIs) and metrics. Additionally, preliminary data collection involves gathering relevant information on the current state of the water system, including infrastructure inventory, water quality data, stakeholder input, and regulatory requirements. Setting a realistic project timeline and budget ensures effective resource allocation and helps manage expectations throughout the planning process.

Task 1: Scoping the Project – Project Scope Defined

This task will focus on scoping the project by clearly defining the boundaries of the water system to be addressed, identifying key stakeholders, and clarifying the desired outcomes. This foundational step ensures a shared understanding of the project's scope and goals among all participants, setting the stage for effective planning and execution.

Task 2: Assembling the Project Team

This task will identify and assemble the project team, ensuring that a multidisciplinary group of experts is brought together. This team includes individuals with diverse perspectives and expertise essential for developing a comprehensive strategic plan. By recruiting the right team members early, the project gains the benefit of varied insights and a collaborative approach to tackling the challenges ahead.

Task 3: Defining Objectives and Metrics

Task 3 will ensure clear and measurable objectives are established, along with identifying key performance indicators (KPIs) to guide the planning process. These objectives and metrics provide a framework for evaluating the project's success and ensuring alignment with organizational goals. Establishing these targets early on ensures that all subsequent activities are directed toward achieving the defined outcomes.

Task 4: Conducting Preliminary Data Collection

Task 4 will gather preliminary data for gathering essential information on the current state of the water system. This includes compiling an infrastructure inventory, analyzing water quality data, obtaining stakeholder input, and reviewing regulatory requirements. Collecting this data provides a comprehensive understanding of the existing conditions and sets the groundwork for informed decision-making in subsequent phases.

Task 5: Setting the Project Timeline and Budget

Task 5 will prepare a detailed project timeline and budget. This involves outlining the project's schedule, allocating resources, and estimating costs to ensure effective planning and resource management. Establishing a detailed timeline and budget helps in managing expectations, allocating resources efficiently, and providing a clear roadmap for the project's progress.

Task 6: Timeline and Budget Approved

This task will finalize and approve the project timeline and budget. This step involves reviewing the proposed schedule and financial plan with key stakeholders to ensure alignment with project goals and available resources. Final approval marks the completion of the preparation and planning phase, allowing the project to move forward with a clear, agreed-upon roadmap and a solid foundation for execution.

Milestone: Approved Detailed Project Timeline and Budget Nov 15, 2024

Stage II: Assessment and Analysis

The Assessment and Analysis phase is a critical stage in the development of a water system strategic plan, involving a comprehensive evaluation of the current state of the system to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This phase typically includes a thorough examination of various aspects of the water system, such as infrastructure condition, operational performance, water quality, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder needs. Data collected during this phase is analyzed to identify trends, patterns, and areas requiring attention, providing a foundation for informed decision-making and strategy development. Stakeholder engagement plays a key role in this phase, as input from community members, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders helps to ensure that diverse perspectives and priorities are considered in the assessment process. By conducting a rigorous assessment and analysis, organizations can gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing their water system, laying the groundwork for the development of targeted strategies to address identified needs and achieve long-term sustainability and resilience.

Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines

Task 7: Evaluate Infrastructure Condition – Infrastructure Assessment Completed

In task 7, the focus will be on evaluating the condition of the infrastructure. This involves inspecting physical assets and reviewing maintenance records to determine the current state and functionality of the water system's components. By assessing the infrastructure, the project team can identify areas needing repair or replacement, ensuring a reliable foundation for the water system.

Task 8: Assess Operational Performance – Operational Performance Review Completed

In this task the assessment shifts to evaluating operational performance. This includes reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of current operations, analyzing system reliability, and identifying any operational bottlenecks or issues. Understanding operational performance helps pinpoint areas for improvement, ensuring that the water system operates optimally and meets performance standards.

Task 9: Analyze Water Quality Data – Water Quality Analysis Completed

In task 9, the team will analyze water quality data to evaluate the current state of the water supply. This involves examining various water quality metrics to identify any areas of concern or potential issues. By thoroughly assessing water quality, the team can ensure that the system meets health and safety standards and addresses any problems that may impact the community's water supply and identify where treatment can be installed to improve water quality.

Task 10: Review Regulatory Compliance

In task 10, the focus is on reviewing regulatory compliance. This involves examining the water system's current compliance status with local, state, and federal regulations. The team identifies any regulatory gaps or areas where improvements are needed to ensure full compliance. This review helps in maintaining legal standards and avoiding potential fines or sanctions, ensuring the water system operates within the required legal framework.

Task 11: Engage Stakeholders for Input

Task 11 stakeholder engagement will be prioritized to gather valuable input from the community, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders. This involves conducting meetings and soliciting feedback to understand diverse perspectives and priorities. Engaging stakeholders ensures that the strategic plan reflects the needs and concerns of all parties involved, fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach to water system planning.

Task 12: Compile Assessment Findings

In task 12 the project team compiles the findings from the assessment and analysis phase. This involves synthesizing data on infrastructure condition, operational performance, water quality, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder input into a comprehensive report. This compilation provides a clear overview of the current state of the water system, highlighting key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, which will inform the development of targeted strategies in the next phase.

Milestone: Project Analysis & Assessment Report **Feb 28, 2025**

Stage 3: Goal Setting and Strategy Development

In the Goal Setting and Strategy Development phase, the primary focus is on translating the findings from the assessment and analysis phase into actionable goals, objectives, and strategies to guide the future direction of the water system. This phase involves collaborative engagement with stakeholders to define clear and measurable goals that align with organizational priorities, regulatory requirements, and community needs. Strategies are then developed to achieve these goals, taking into account factors such as infrastructure improvements, operational enhancements, water quality management, and stakeholder engagement initiatives. Throughout this phase, emphasis is placed on identifying innovative solutions, leveraging best practices, and maximizing resources to address identified challenges and capitalize on opportunities for improvement. By establishing achievable goals and implementing targeted strategies, organizations can enhance the resilience, reliability, and sustainability of the tribe’s water

systems, ensuring the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to the community now and in the future.

Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines

Task 13: Define Goals and Objectives

Task 13 will focus on defining goals and objectives based on the findings from the assessment and analysis phase. The project team collaborates with stakeholders to establish clear, measurable goals that align with organizational priorities, regulatory requirements, and community needs. These objectives will guide the development of strategies and ensure that the planning process addresses identified challenges and opportunities for improvement in the water system.

Task 14: Strategies for Infrastructure, Operations, and Water Quality

In task 14 the project team begins developing strategies to achieve the defined goals and objectives. This involves identifying specific actions and initiatives required for infrastructure improvements, operational enhancements, water quality management, and stakeholder engagement. By focusing on practical and targeted strategies, the team aims to address the challenges identified in the assessment phase and capitalize on opportunities for enhancing the water system's performance and sustainability.

Task 15: Innovative Solutions and Best Practices

In task 15 the project team focuses on identifying innovative solutions and leveraging best practices to enhance the water system. This involves researching and incorporating cutting-edge technologies, methodologies, and successful case studies from similar projects. By integrating innovative approaches, the team aims to maximize resource efficiency, improve system reliability, and address the specific challenges identified in the assessment phase effectively.

Task 16: Stakeholder Collaboration

In task 16 the project team collaborates closely with stakeholders to refine and finalize the developed strategies. This involves reviewing the proposed strategies with community members, regulatory agencies, and other key stakeholders to gather feedback and ensure alignment with their needs and expectations. Incorporating this feedback helps to ensure that the strategies are practical, comprehensive, and supported by all parties involved, enhancing the likelihood of successful implementation.

Task 17: Finalize Goals and Strategies

In task 17 the project team finalizes the strategies for the water system's strategic plan. This involves integrating stakeholder feedback, ensuring all strategies align with the defined goals and objectives, and preparing the final strategy document. The finalized strategies provide a clear, actionable roadmap for improving the water system's infrastructure, operations, and water quality, setting the stage for the next phases of documentation and implementation.

Milestone: Goals and Strategies Defined **Jun 30, 2025**

Stage 4: Plan Documentation and Finalization

During the Plan Documentation and Finalization stage, the focus is on compiling all the findings, goals, objectives, and strategies developed throughout the strategic planning process into a comprehensive and coherent document. This involves drafting and refining the strategic plan, incorporating feedback from stakeholders and regulatory agencies, and ensuring that the document accurately reflects the tribe's vision, priorities, and commitments. The plan is finalized through iterative review cycles, with careful attention to detail to ensure clarity, consistency, and alignment with established goals and objectives. Once finalized, the strategic plan serves as a roadmap for guiding future actions and investments in the water system, providing a framework for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. By documenting the strategic plan in a clear and accessible format, the tribe can communicate their vision and priorities to stakeholders, demonstrate accountability, and facilitate informed decision-making to support the long-term sustainability and resilience of the water system.

Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines.

Task 18: Draft the Strategic Plan

In this task, the project team drafts the strategic plan, compiling all findings, goals, objectives, and strategies into a comprehensive document. This involves detailing each aspect of the plan, ensuring clarity and coherence. The draft is then reviewed internally to ensure it accurately reflects the project's vision and objectives, laying the groundwork for stakeholder review and feedback in the subsequent weeks.

Task 19: Review and Refine the Draft

In task 19 the project team focuses on reviewing and refining the draft strategic plan. This involves soliciting feedback from stakeholders, including community members and water board, to ensure the plan aligns with their expectations and addresses their concerns. The team carefully incorporates this feedback, making necessary adjustments to improve the clarity, accuracy, and effectiveness of the plan.

Task 20: Incorporate Feedback and Finalize the Document

In task 20 the strategic plan is finalized and approved. This involves completing the final revisions based on stakeholder feedback and conducting a thorough review to ensure the document is clear, consistent, and comprehensive. The finalized plan is then presented to key stakeholders for formal approval, marking the completion of the documentation phase and setting the stage for implementation.

Milestone: Strategic Plan Complete **Sep 30, 2025**

Stage 5: Implementation Planning

This is where the strategic plan comes to life, as it involves translating the documented goals and strategies into actionable initiatives and developing the project plan to oversee the execution.

This stage will identify projects identified within the first 5 years of the Water plan and will establish Project Implementation plans for these projects. The Project Implementation plans will identify and allocate resources, identify project deliverables and associated tasks for performing the work. Identifying stakeholders and establishing a plan for engaging them to ensure the plan's objectives and intent are being met. It will include schedule and budget estimates to enable the ability to find and secure funding sources. Concurrently, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be established to track progress, assess performance against established metrics, and identify areas for improvement or course correction once project begins. Regular monitoring allows for timely adjustments to strategies and interventions based on emerging challenges or opportunities, ensuring the ongoing relevance and effectiveness of the strategic plan in achieving its intended outcomes.

Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines

Task 21: Identify Key Projects needed within first five (5) years

This task will identify the key projects outlined in the strategic plan for the first five years. This step involves careful consideration of the projects needed, prioritization of the projects, scope definitions and identifying high level resource and budget needs to enable the ability to seek funding resources for implementation.

Task 22: Key Projects- Budget Definition

This task will define for the key projects outlined in the strategic plan for the first five years estimated budget estimates, constraints, timing and potential funding sources that meet the objectives and goals established in the strategic plan.

Task 23: Key Projects- Resource Definition

This task will define for the key projects outlined in the strategic plan for the first five years anticipated resource needs and potential funding sources that meet the objectives and goals established in the strategic plan.

Task 24: Reporting

Monthly, the project team will prepare status assessing the performance toward project deliverables. These reports will provide updates on key performance indicators, budget status, and milestone achievements. Regular reviews involve analyzing the data, addressing any issues, and making informed decisions to keep the project on track. Engaging with water board and stakeholders during these reviews ensures transparency, accountability, and continuous alignment with the strategic goals and community needs.

Final Report:

A written water strategy document will be included with the final performance report that meets program requirements. The Strategy document will address each of the following topics:

- Outreach Summary

- Statement of Problems
- Project Opportunities and Comparison of Alternatives
- Implementation Strategy
- Discussion of lessons learned

PROJECT TEAM

The Pechanga Water Department in collaboration with the Pechanga Water Board and a Project Management contractor will manage the proposed project and will contract with a highly skilled and experienced team of consultants, scientists, licensed professional engineers, and communications experts to assist in developing the Strategic Water Plan. The following Pechanga Tribe team members will work with a selected Project Management consultant to lead the project.

Project Lead, Eagle Jones. Mr. Jones has served as the Director of Water Operations for the Tribe for the past eight years. He is responsible for planning, coordinating, managing, evaluating, and participating in all potable water production, water distribution facility operations, maintenance, and customer service activities. Mr. Jones ensures the adequate storage, supply, quality, and pressure of water complies with federal, state and local regulations. Eagle Jones has served as the Instructor of Water Treatment course at Palomar College since 2008 and is a Certified Drinking Water Operator in the State of California.

Water Operations Supervisor, Raul Esparza. Mr. Esparza has been employed with the Pechanga Tribal Government for fifteen years. Mr. Esparza performs supervisory, administrative, and professional work in planning, organizing, directing, implementing, and supervising the day-to-day operation of the Tribe's potable and reclaimed water distribution system.

Administrative Assistant III, Lynette Stewart. Ms. Stewart has been employed by the Pechanga Tribal Government for eleven years. Ms. Stewart performs reporting, planning, data management, purchasing, contract management, and assists the Pechanga Water Board of Directors and Director of Water Operations.

The development of this plan will not require any new policies for implementation. Upon final review it will be presented to first the Pechanga Water Board and the Water Liaisons for their review and comments. Once all comments are incorporated the Pechanga Comprehensive Water Plan will be presented to the Pechanga Tribal Council for review and approval.

Criterion D—Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities

California has recurrently faced multi-year drought conditions with the most recent multi-year drought (2012-2016) impacting groundwater availability and water supply and resulted in record low precipitation. More specifically, southwestern Riverside County has faced multi-year drought conditions for approximately seven years. As such, communities in the State have been seeking alternative water sources and aggressively promoting water conservation, water

resources planning, as well as implementing sustainable approaches to water supplies as part of solutions for building resilience to drought. Additionally, climate change under extreme events, such as droughts, is not only challenging but groundwater is becoming the most prevailing reserve. As a result, communities in southern California have been proactive in planning and building resilience to droughts and this grant would enhance the Tribe's water resources planning and management efforts to secure water supply and improve water reliability, as well as support the importance of better managing short- and long- term water use considering the current climate variability as climate change impacts continue to threaten the success and longevity that trigger a broad range of effects to water resources resulting in increasing runoff, pollutant loads, more frequent multi-year/seasonal droughts, and pressure on existing systems.

The proposed Pechanga DCP benefits water resources planning and management in the Santa Margarita Watershed, southwest of Riverside County. The proposed project provides support for the Department's priorities, including creating a legacy of conservation stewardship, modernizing our infrastructure through public-private partnerships, and restoring trust with local communities by improving relationships and communication with states, tribes, local governments, communities, landowners, and water users.

The Pechanga Tribe has been environmentally conscious working towards a sustainable and long-term management of their water by actively collaborating with neighbor municipalities and water managers. The Tribal Chairman recently declared their support to the City of Lake Elsinore and local partner to help better manage public safety for the thousands of visitors enjoying the hillsides in Lake Elsinore. Conservation and protection of our natural resources are important values to the Tribe.

Criterion E— Nexus to Reclamation

The Pechanga Reservation is in the Santa Margarita Watershed. The Bureau of Reclamation has funded other projects within the Santa Margarita Watershed such as the Reclamation and Reuse Feasibility Studies, Indirect Potable Reuse Project Feasibility Study, and the Santa Margarita Conjunctive Use Project.

The Pechanga Water Planning area is in the same basin as a Reclamation project. In 2013, the Santa Margarita River Conjunctive Use Project was proposed to improve water supply reliability for both Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Fallbrook Public Utility District by better managing the yields of the lower Santa Margarita River. This feasibility design report was prepared by Reclamation on behalf of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Fallbrook Public Utility District. Additionally, BOR has funded other planning projects within Riverside County. For instance, BOR funded the Drought Contingency Plan developed by Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) located southwest of the Riverside County in the Jacinto River watershed. The Pechanga Tribe has recently worked with the City of Lake Elsinore to conserve and protect natural resources such as Lake Elsinore, which is part of Pechanga's ancestral territory. In addition, wastewater flow in the southern part of EVMWD's service area is

treated at the Santa Rosa WRF operated by the Rancho California Water District (RCWD), who has been proposed as Stakeholder in this project.

The proposed Pechanga Planning project benefits water resources planning, conservation, and management in the Santa Margarita Watershed, southwest of Riverside County.

The Pechanga Water Department does not have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract currently with Reclamation.

The relationship among the Bureau of Reclamation, Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California, Rancho California Water District (RCWD), and Pechanga is built on collaborative agreements to manage and sustain water resources. Pechanga and RCWD jointly manage groundwater pumping from the Wolf Valley Groundwater Basin and delivering imported from Metropolitan Water District (MWD). These efforts are formalized in the Pechanga Settlement Agreement, which involves Pechanga, the United States on behalf of Pechanga, and RCWD, ensuring coordinated water rights and usage.

RCWD is tasked with delivering both groundwater and imported water to Pechanga, maintaining quality standards and receiving compensation for these services. The parties also work together to develop potable and non-potable water supplies to meet future needs, including agreements on recycled water and future desalination infrastructure. This cooperative framework ensures sustainable water resource management for the tribe.

Project Budget

Annual Summary : Personnel					
Escalation	1.05				
		FY2024	**FY2025**	**FY2026**	**Total (to SF424)**
Total Personnel		0	0	0	**$ -**
Fringe Benefits		0	0	0	**$ -**
				27%	
	Total Hours	**Base Rate**	**Base Cost (1)**	**Fringe Benefits**	`
Director of Water Operations	300		0	0	
Water Operations Specialist	150		0	0	
Water Operations Dept Assistant	150		0	0	
Total (to FY2024)			**0**	**0**	
	# Traveling	Per Diem	Transportation	Total Travel	
c Travel				0	
(Purpose)					
Total (to SF424 Travel)			**0**	**0**	**$ -**
d Equipment	**Primary Equipm**	**Support parts**		**Total Equipment**	
Total (to SF424 Equipment)			**0**	**0**	**$ -**
e Materials & Supplies					
Total (to SF424 Supplies)			**0**	**0**	**$ -**
Contractual					
Project Management			$ 77,000.00		$ 77,000.00
Water Engineering Consultants			$ 100,500.00		$ 100,500.00
Scientific & Technical Consultants			$ 95,000.00		$ 95,000.00
Water distribution hydraulic study			$ 65,000.00		$ 65,000.00
Well Evaluations			$ 60,000.00		$ 60,000.00
Total (to SF424 Contractual)			**$ 397,500.00**		**$ 397,500.00**
g Construction					$ -
h Other					$ -
i Total Direct Charges					**$ 397,500**
j Indirect Charge (10%)					$ 2,500
k TOTALS (Sum i+j)					**$ 400,000**
Pechanga % Match					
Indirect application:					**$ 25,000**
Direct Personnel					$ -
Direct Fringe					$ -
Direct Travel					$ -
Direct Supplies					$ -
Contracts (Up to 1st - $25,000)					$ 25,000.00

Budget Narrative
A description of the applicable budget items in the proposed project is provided below.

Salaries and Wages:

Fringe Benefits:

Travel: Not Applicable.

Equipment: Not Applicable.

Materials and Supplies: Not Applicable.

Contractual: $397,500.00

The Tribe has identified the work that will be accomplished by consultants. Procurement methods for all activities have not been identified at this time, however, Pechanga has a standard procurement process in place that meets or exceeds federal procurement guidelines. Identified consultants will include a Project Manager, Scientific Consultants, and licensed professional water engineers that will be assisting the Pechanga Tribe to accomplish the proposed project at cost estimate of $272,500.00.

The Pechanga will also bring on a consulting firm to perform a water distribution hydraulic study, as well as evaluations for an estimated cost of $125,000.00.

Indirect Basis: $25,000

Staff and fringe benefits for the term of the contract will be approximately $120,110.00. This cost along with $25,000.00 of the Consultant costs form the basis for charging an Indirect fee of 10%.

Indirect Fee: $2,500

In absence of an approved Indirect rate, the Pechanga will be using the standard 10% allowable indirect rate for this project. The rate is applied to the above Indirect Basis.

Total Project Cost: $400,000.00

Consisting of: Federal funds from this WaterSMART Grant of $400,000.00.

Addendums:

Environmental and cultural resources compliance (If applicable)

Required Permits and Approvals

Overlap or duplication of effort statement.

Conflict of interest disclosure statement

Uniform audit reporting statement

Restrictions on Lobbying

Addendum: SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.

Letters of Support

Addendum: Official Resolution

Letters of Commitment