

**Bureau of Indian Affairs - Pacific Region**  
**Summary Guidance for Water Program Funding Requests**

The Notice of Revised Instructions for Preparing and Prioritizing Water Program Funding Requests in the Federal Register has important instructions when submitting a proposal for the Water Resources Management, Planning and Pre-development Program (Water Resources Program). The Federal Register contains the scoring criteria (see below) against which each proposal is scored then ranked with other Water Resources Program proposals (about 150 to 200 proposals per year) from all BIA Regions.

Each proposal will be evaluated and given four (4) scores: A) Type of water management proposal {point range of 20 to 60}, B) Cost Effectiveness {point range of 1 to 10}, C) Compliance with Requesting Guidelines {point range of 1 to 10}, D) Efficiency and Accomplishment {point range of 1 to 10}. A total score ranging from 23 to 90 points is possible. However, if proposal contains “Activities Not Eligible for Funding”, those activities will be eliminated from consideration for funding. Activities Not Eligible for Funding are clearly identified as:

- Projects that duplicate work that the BIA has identified as necessary for its efforts, has undertaken, or has completed through its employees or contractors or through arrangements with other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice;
- Projects to design, construct, repair or improve water facilities, including domestic water supply, waste water, and irrigation or dam infrastructure, except to the extent that PIA analyses under the Water Rights Program require such design projects
- Development of recommendations or conditions in hydropower licensing procedures and water quality studies to initiate actions needed to address pollution problems;
- Attorney fees and related expenses for legal services; and
- Administrative overhead costs

The key component to a competitive proposal is ensure the reviewers will place the proposal in the highest Scoring Criteria group. Therefore, the proposal must clearly describe, in a brief paragraph, the type of water management proposal in “Section 3. Type of Request” and benefits of the work. Additionally, in almost all cases, proposals can fit into more than one type category, and “Section 8. Project purpose and description” should support the proposal placement in the highest Scoring Criteria group.

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**Scoring Criteria - Water Resources Program**

A) Type of Water Management Proposal

1. Water Management—Indian Water and Associated Reserved Resources: Assign 50 to 60 points to each request for activities essential for supporting water management activities necessary for the use of tribal water resources or to protect against the encroachment on or management of tribal water and associated reserved resources.
2. Water Management— Coordination/Cooperation/ Consultation/Conservation: Assign 30 to 40 points to each request for activities essential for supporting water management activities necessary for intergovernmental cooperation, consultation, and coordination designed to conserve water and associated reserved resources.
3. Water Management—Other: Assign 20 to 30 points to each request for activities essential for supporting other water management activities not previously listed.
4. Water Planning and Pre- Development—Indian Water: Assign 30 to 40 points to each request for activities essential for the planning or pre-development of tribal water rights.
5. Water Planning and Pre- Development—Other: Assign 20 to 30 points to each request for activities essential for the planning or development of multi-jurisdictional waters.

B) Cost Effectiveness

6. All Water Program Funding—Cost Effectiveness: Assign an additional 1 to 10 points to each request based on the degree of overall cost effectiveness, where the estimated cost of each activity is appropriate for the objectives to be accomplished and the amount requested comports with industry standards and is otherwise reasonable. Examples of cost effectiveness include requests that demonstrate benefits to be gained through leveraging funding from multiple agencies and those that will complete projects more efficiently within the current funding cycle.

C) Compliance with Requesting Guidelines

7. All Water Program/Project Funding—Compliance with Requesting Guidelines: Assign an additional 1 to 10 points to each request based on the degree of adherence to the instructions set forth in this notice.

D) Efficiency and Accomplishment

8. All Water Program/Project Funding—Efficiency and Accomplishment: Assign an additional 1 to 10 points to each request based on the degree of accomplishment in utilizing funds previously provided or anticipated efficiency in utilizing funds in the future.