



# Transmission and Supply Plan Source Evaluation Criteria

August 13, 2009

*The criteria listed here are used in the multi-criteria analysis of Cascade's source options. The bulleted sub-topics are performance measures that will be applied to scoring of the water supply alternatives.*

**Environmental Considerations** – To provide water utility services in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable manner. Specifically this criterion will address:

- Potential impacts or benefits after mitigation
- Energy use

**Financial Considerations** – To provide water utility services in a cost-effective manner. Specifically this criterion will address:

- Capital and operational costs (levelized unit cost, expressed as present value in current dollars)
- Degree of uncertainty in capital and operational costs (accounts for how well defined the project is; unknowns in future contract purchases; and reliance on energy costs)
- Utilization of prior Cascade investments in sources and infrastructure

**Implementation Considerations** – To increase the ease and certainty of project implementation. Specifically this criterion will address:

- Ease of acquiring water rights
- Ease of acquiring other required permits
- Public acceptance
- How well the source either enables or precludes other projects from being developed

**Operational Considerations** – To maximize operational flexibility in the delivery of water. Specifically this criterion will address:

- Operational complexity
- Water quality compatibility with other supplies
- Vulnerability to Potential source contamination
- Flexibility to adjust yield in response to need

**Regional/Intergovernmental Considerations** – To account for institutional complexity of delivering supplies. Specifically this criterion will address:

- Level of control of supply (ownership) –
- Regional value of supply source
- Partnerships and governance (complexity of partnerships and governance issues - how many and difficulty in resolving)
- Institutional hurdles (political and institutional barriers)

**Supply Reliability** – To provide adequate water supplies to meet current and projected demands. Specifically this criterion will address:

- Availability of supply (the degree of certainty that a given source will be available when it is needed, including the effects of climate change)
- Variability of yield (including effects of hydrology and contract provisions)
- Vulnerability to effects of emergency disruptions (e.g. power disruption, earthquake, volcano, or major wildfire in watershed)