



VISION

FOR OUR WATER FUTURE

Initiative Overview



Goals of the Vision

- 1) Elevate water as a **statewide priority** .
- 2) Incorporate water priorities into a **unified, actionable agenda** for the next Administration.





Vision Initiative



Deliverable 1: Policy Framework

Audience: Gubernatorial candidates

Purpose: Elevate water as a priority

Deliverable 2: Detailed Recommendations

Audience: Newly elected Governor

Purpose: Develop pathways to implement priority actions



Priority Actions

*The Vision For
Our Water
Future is a
framework to
advance unified
priorities*



Protect Affordability



PROTECT AFFORDABILITY

Ensure safe and reliable water remains affordable by strengthening sustained state investment and funding partnerships with local, regional, and federal agencies to address rising infrastructure, climate, and regulatory costs. California's ratepayers fund more than 85% of the system. Without predictable investment, these costs will increasingly fall on households, businesses, and farmers.

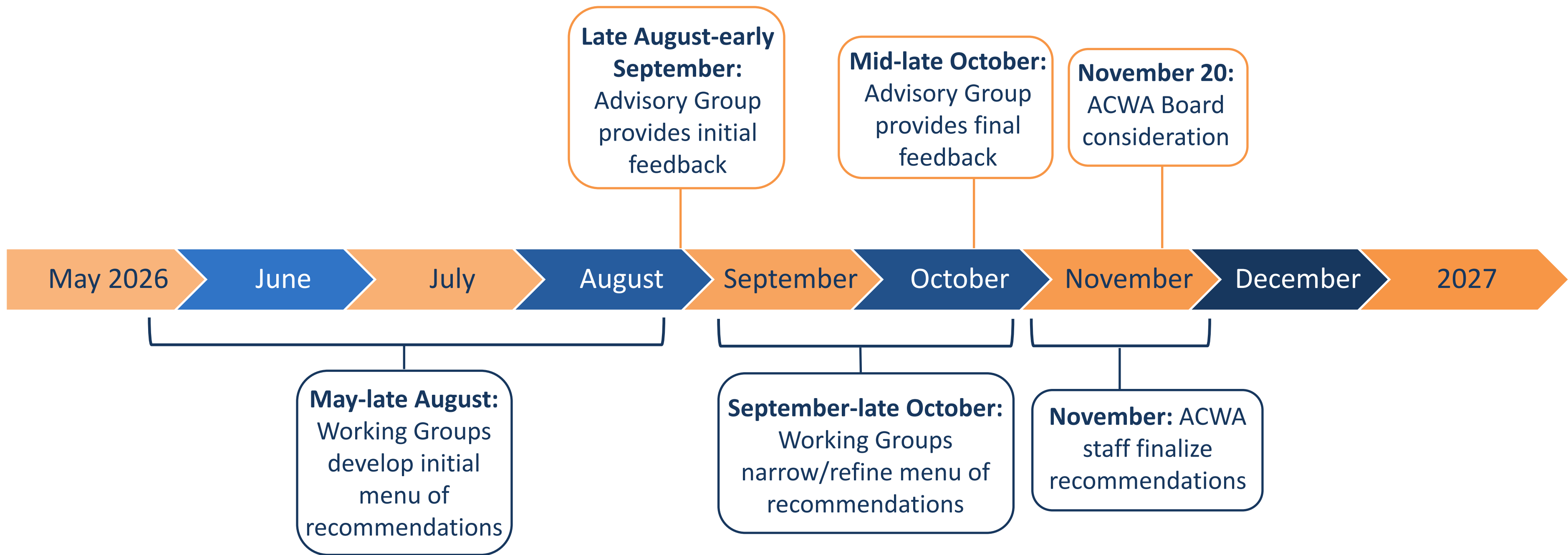
- **Secure Sustainable Water Funding:** Create a reliable sustainable state funding source for water infrastructure that provides predictable, long-term investment. This funding should support critical water infrastructure projects, environmental needs, and California's Human Right to Water while leveraging federal, regional, and local investment.

- **Accelerate Funding:** Improve funding programs and coordination so investments reach projects faster — reducing administrative delays, lowering project costs, and accelerating infrastructure delivery.
- **Integrate Investments Across Sectors:** Align state investments and integrate water infrastructure funding across energy, housing, and climate and hazard mitigation to advance multi-benefit projects and maximize federal, state, and regional investment.

Deliverable 2 - Recommendations



Timeline



Scope



- Not introducing concepts outside of the Priority Action (i.e., Secure sustainable funding)
- Provide actionable direction but not overly prescriptive
- 2-4 recommendations per focus area (i.e., each bullet)

Level of Detail

III

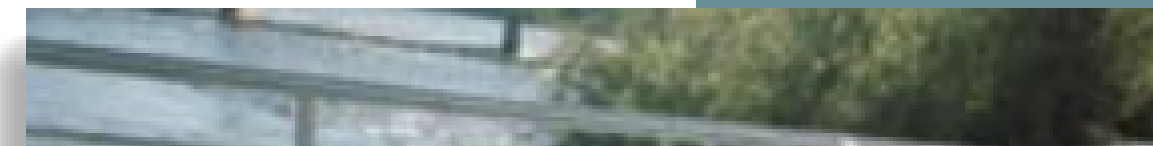
Ensure delivery of adequate Colorado River supplies for Southern California and defend California's rights on the Colorado River.

Goal: ensure that the Colorado River provides adequate water to Southern California.

ACWA recommends that state leaders take the following specific actions to ensure a long-term reliable Colorado River supply for the citizens of California:

1. Complete the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program and issue state endangered species permits for covered activities.
2. Provide continued funding for the Coachella Canal and All-American Canal Lining Projects, and work with federal agencies to fund construction of regulating reservoirs.
3. Continue to support Colorado River supply programs such as the IID transfers and the PVID land management program.
4. Select a preferred alternative for protection of the Salton Sea by December 2006 and implement it in a timely way.
5. Develop an interstate drought and shortage management and reservoir storage recovery protocol for the Colorado River Basin.
6. Defend California's water rights on the Colorado River and oppose changes to the 1968 law that would compel California to accept more shortages during droughts.

Fish ladder at
Anderson-Cotton
Irrigation District



Level of Detail

VI

Support and fund local efforts to expand recycled water use and implement best management practices for urban and agricultural water use efficiency.

ACWA recommends that the state and federal governments take the following actions to support local options such as recycling and conservation:

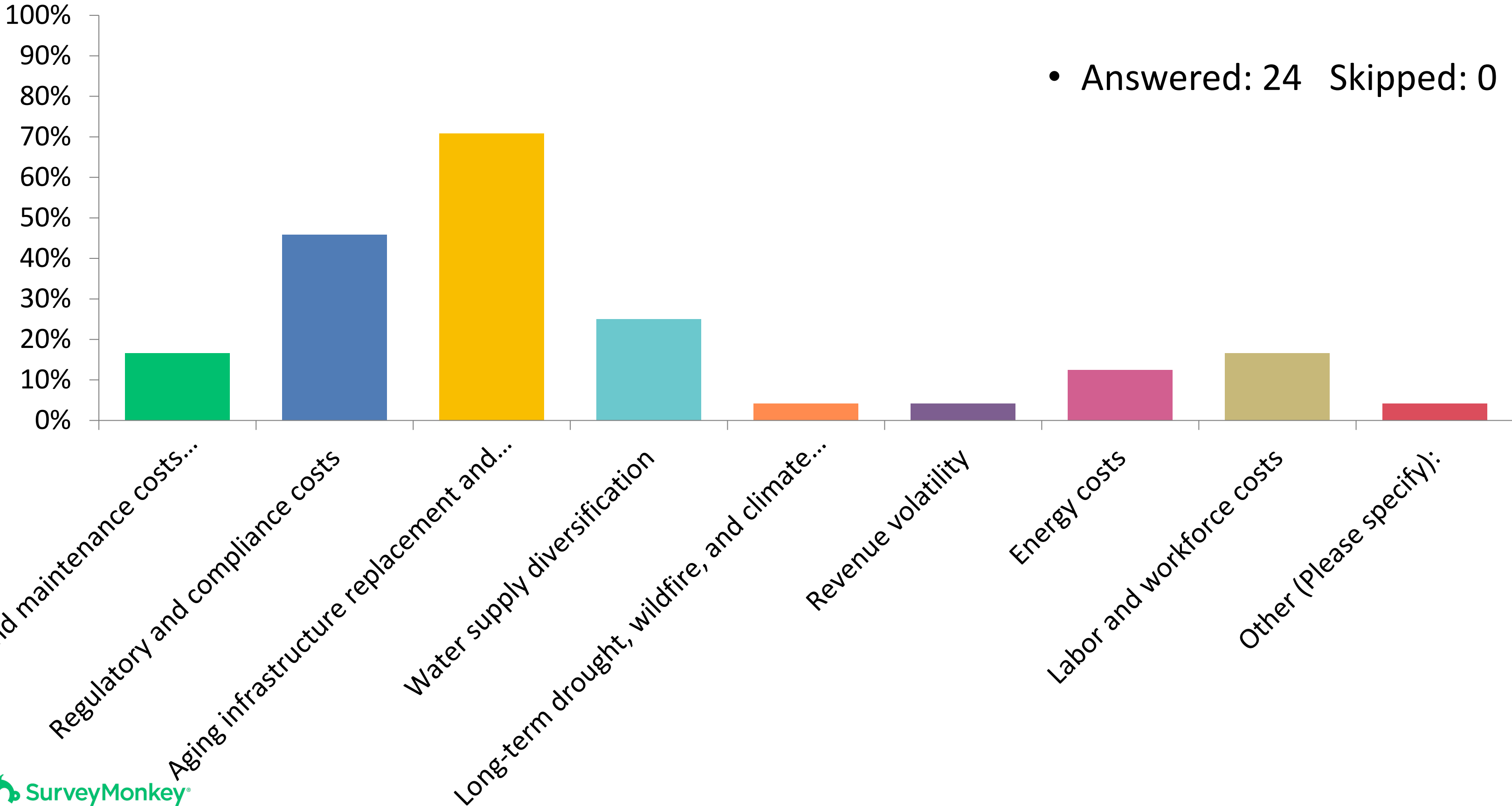
1. Provide appropriate technical and financial assistance, including future water bonds, and necessary implementing legislation.
2. Provide support and resources to help remove the regulatory and financial constraints that often impede development of recycling and water use efficiency projects.
3. Continue to help fund programs and practices that may not be locally cost effective but which, if implemented, provide broad benefits throughout California and the Western states.

Survey Results

https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM_-b7vVUqNjceLZhWnl7HVcLg_3D_3D/

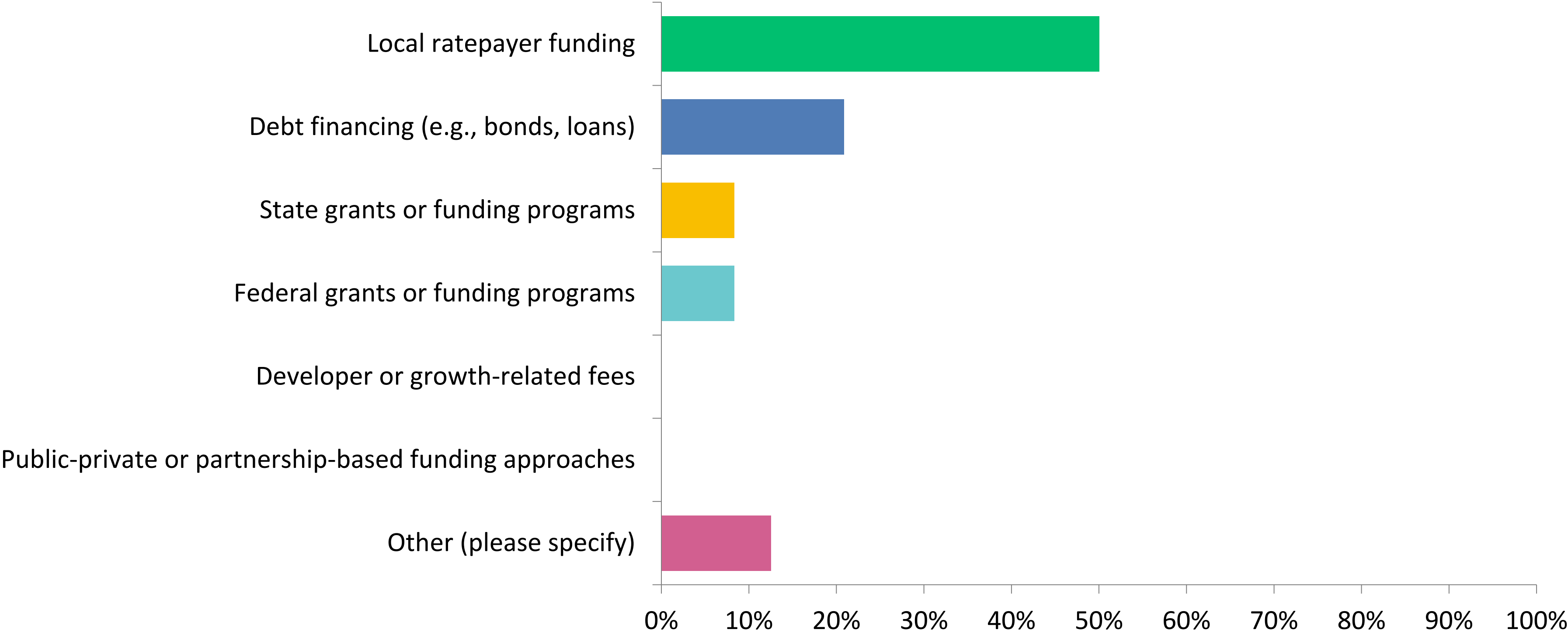


Q1: Which of the following factors is putting the greatest pressure on your agency's ratepayer costs? (Select your top two options)



Q2: Which funding source does your agency regularly rely on to finance major water infrastructure investments?

• Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



Q3: Do you have ideas for a dedicated, long-term state funding approach to support water system affordability and reliability?

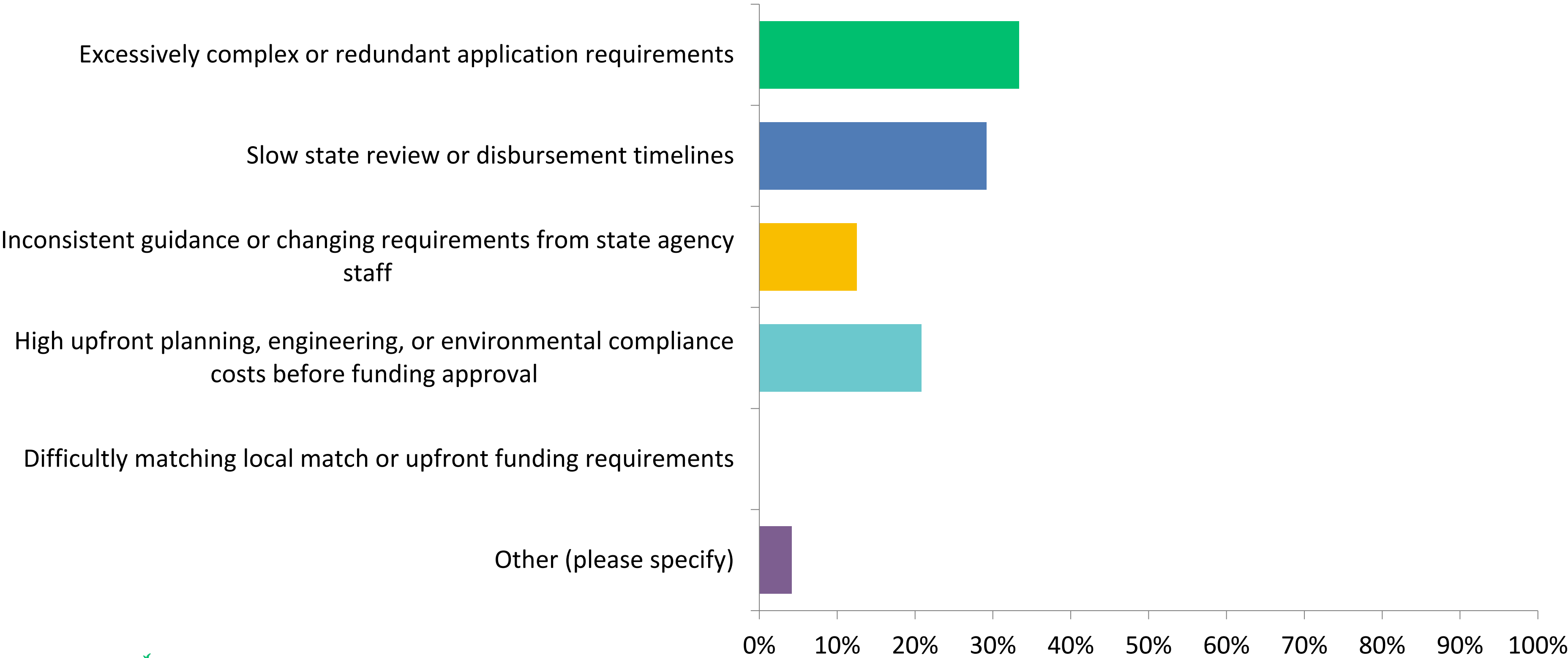
#	RESPONSES
1	A state loan program similar to the Federal WIFIA program.
2	Simplification of the regulatory requirements.
3	No input for this one
4	Emulate affordable housing funding strategies. Provide CA state guarantee to local agency infrastructure bonds to reduce bond interest rates.
5	Better utilization of revolving loans from SRF and additional one time grants from one time money.
6	I program similiar to how LIHWAP operated would work well. The least impact to local agencies so that it limits the impact on our ratepayers - driving costs up more.
7	SNAP funding should go to water and bottled water should only be used in places where there is a MCL violation
8	Fee for Companies that "mine" water for bottled water. They are making upwards of 3000% profit for using the water
9	Enhancing existing SRF program to get more funds out the door
10	let's figure this one out together! :-)
11	Additional funding for major upgrades that will be needed in systems.

Q3: Do you have ideas for a dedicated, long-term state funding approach to support water system affordability and reliability?

12	Headwater agencies face unique challenges associated with high elevation, and the large amount of infrastructure requires dedicated funding sources within state funding approaches.
13	We support the concept in 2739 and there are other ways we have discussed
14	No.
15	None
16	Fix all surface water dams and reservoirs to full capacity. Initiate and fund water purification. Wetlands restoration in all rivers.
17	Finding ways to stretch ratepayer dollars through efficiency and technology. A centralized information and vetting clearinghouse could bring visibility to various local efforts
18	no.
19	Seems like already have programs, just having more \$\$ in them I suppose.
20	Need a way to explore and incentivize private investment in the public water system. The reliability of the public water system is integral to a strong economy; can we engage the private sector in both funding and innovation?
21	AB 2739 would do this.
22	Greater state GO bond funding for large scale water projects with broad benefit to the states (i.e. Sites, DCP, Los Vaqueros, etc) and less strings attached like we saw in Prop 1.
23	A percentage of the State's General Fund Budget. Determining that percentage amount will be the hard part.
24	Creating a streamlined process for accessing available funds and making smaller projects easier to apply for.

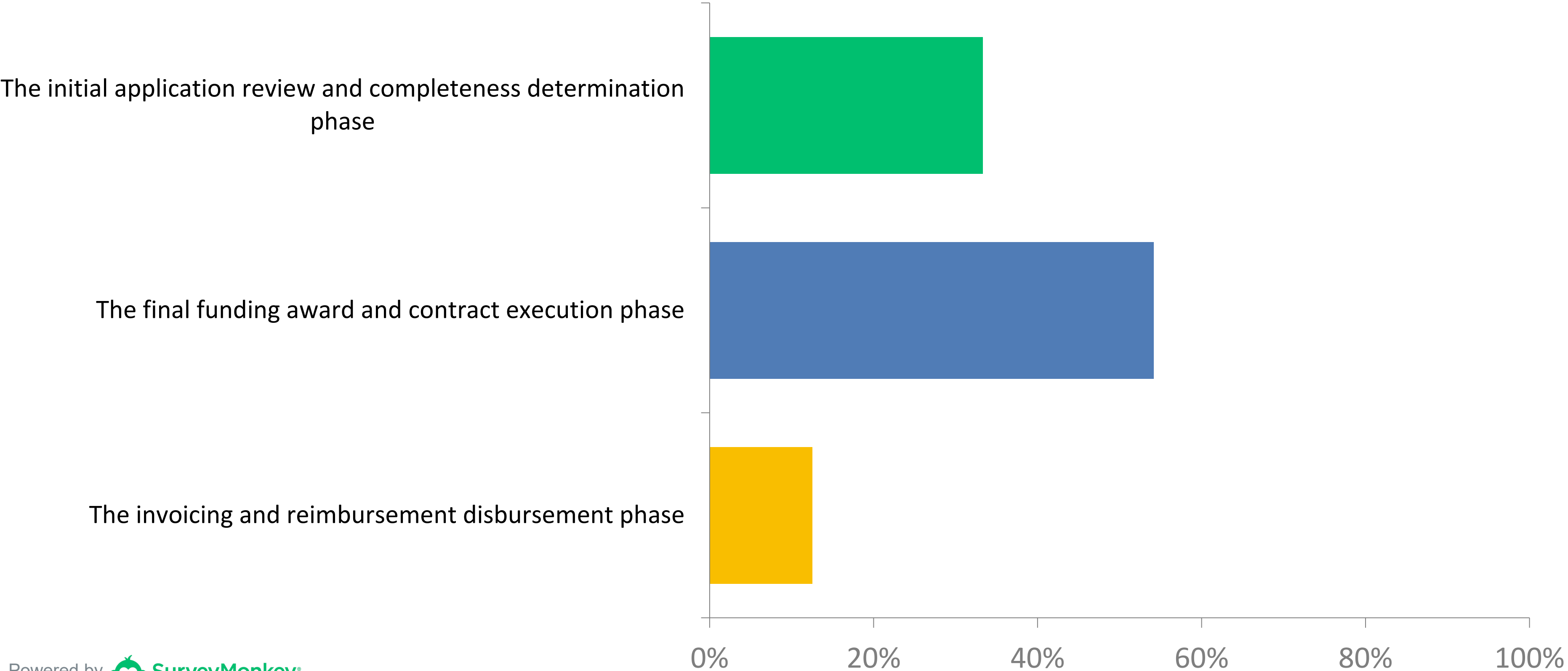
Q4: What is the most significant administrative hurdle your agency experiences during the state grant/loan application and disbursement process?

• Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



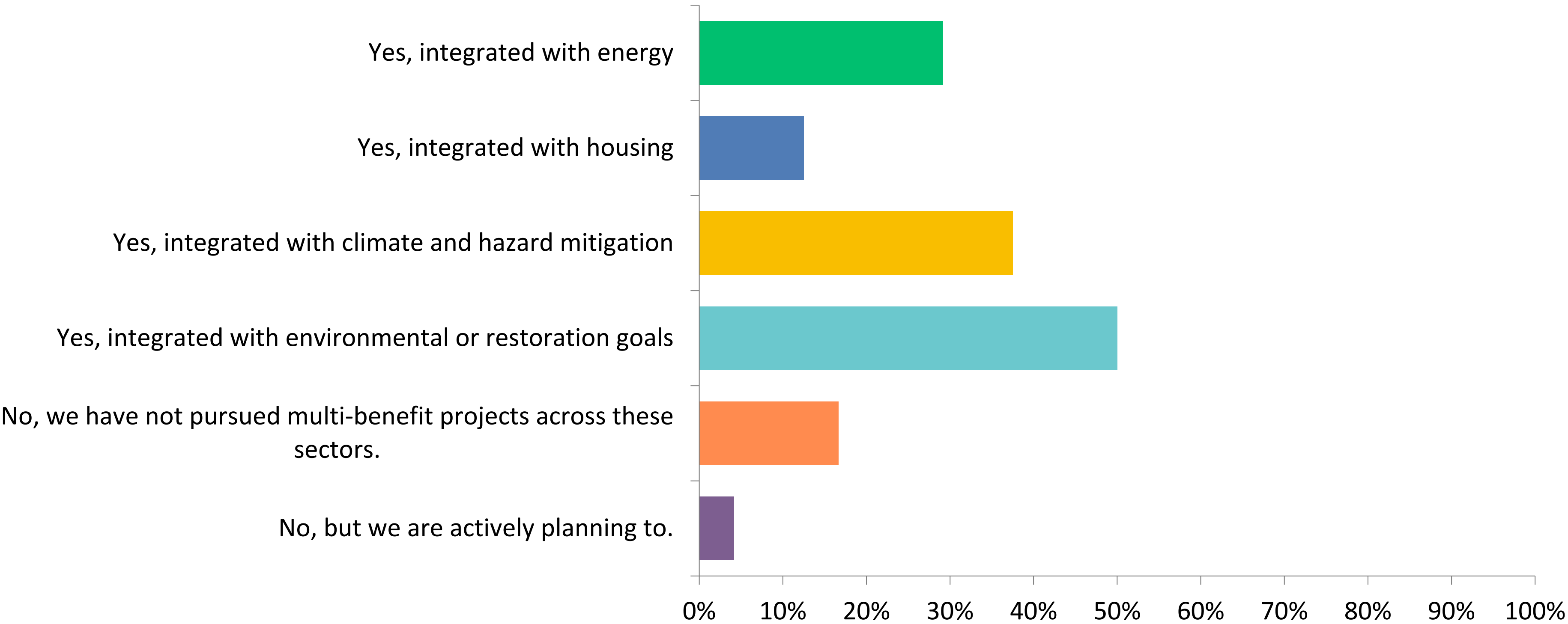
Q5: If the state were to implement statutory deadlines or required review timelines (“shot clocks”) to accelerate funding delivery, where would they be most valuable? (Select the single most critical phase)

• Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



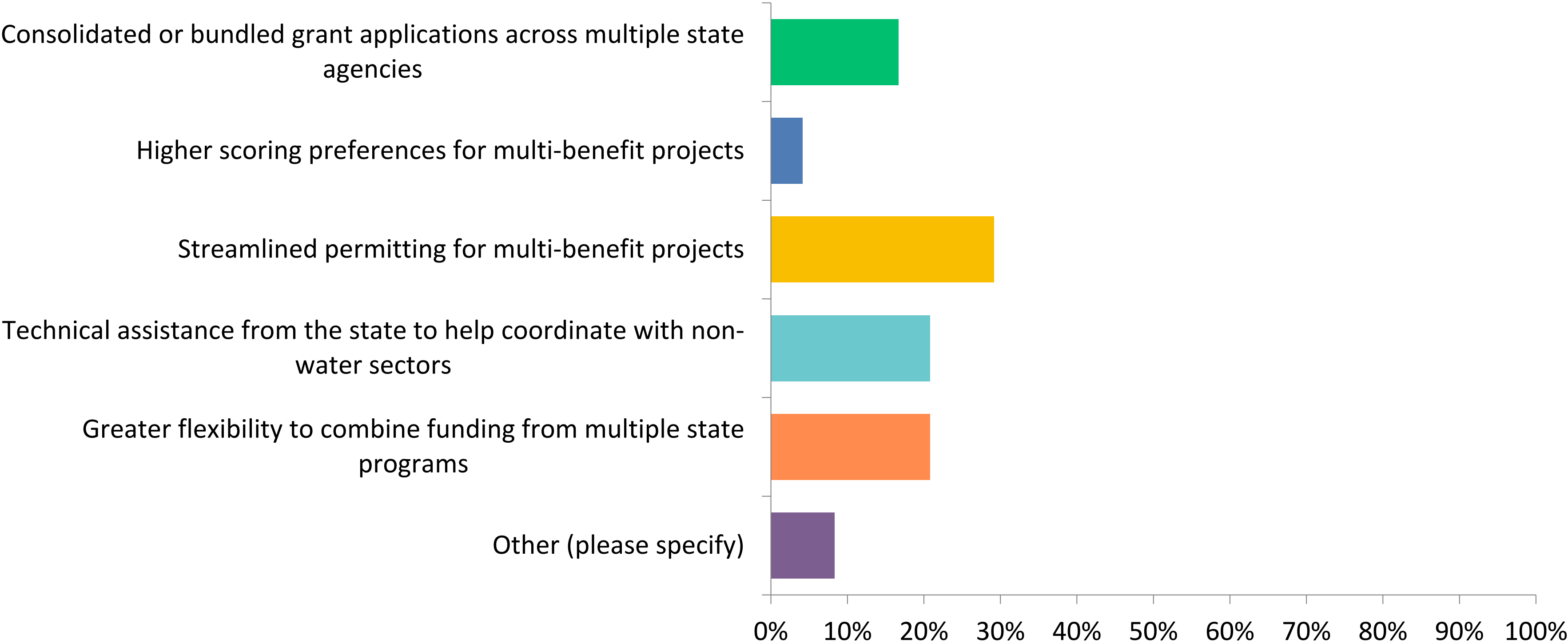
Q6: Has your agency pursued multi-benefit projects that integrate water infrastructure with other sectors or statewide priorities? (Select all that apply)

• Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



Q7: What would most effectively incentivize your agency to develop more integrated, multi-benefit projects across sectors (e.g., energy, housing, and climate and hazard mitigation)?

• Answered: 24 Skipped: 0



Q8: Are there any issues or topics related to the Protect Affordability priority action that aren't captured here and that might inform recommendation development, that you would like the working group to discuss?

- State/federal inconsistency in grant/loan application
- Annual Federal Appropriations has impacted state funding levels. BABA requirements are challenging and costly to comply with increasing project costs. BABA compliance is a requirement of receiving federal funding; however, the State includes BABA compliance with some funding CWSFR/DWSRF depending on equivalency requirements.
- Removing caps on SRF
- Reduce grant application requirements up front but use retention strategies to assure project objectives associated with any grant are met. Have water bonds fund water projects only.
- The increase reliance on loans creates increased pressure on rate affordability
- Long term affordability

Q8: Are there any issues or topics related to the Protect Affordability priority action that aren't captured here and that might inform recommendation development, that you would like the working group to discuss?

- In general how we frame water affordability. The 4% of Median household income number is arbitrary and that is what Fitch Ratings holds us to. Low income programs have lower participation and high administration costs. Finally, we can reduce project costs, but that still does not make water affordable for those struggling now, so I am unsure why the survey asked so many infrastructure questions. Is this a "how to finance a utility" workgroup or a "rate assistance" workgroup?
- Legislatures continuous push with bills to reduce connection/ mitigation fees, and the same issues with ADUs and connections
- State to assist local water districts to apply for federal funding
- Rural agency water funding.
- More awareness in both political parties how water is just not affordable working class households and family farms in SD County. Both parties ignore this issue, and think that high rates are acceptable, and that there is nothing we can do about this. Also get rid of privatization of water as has happened with the Carlsbad Desalination plant.