

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Spring 2016

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IRA Funds Request for ESRM 463 Water Resources Management Owens Valley Field Trip

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Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Linda O'Hirok
Activity Title	ESRM 463 Water Resources Management Owens Valley Field Trip
Activity/Event Date	March 11-13, 2016
Date Funding Needed By	January 15, 2016
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Spring 2015
Proposal #	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	Yes
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	ESRM463ReportOwensValleyFieldTrip2015.docx
Additional Report #1	irareport0530.pdf
Additional Report #2	ReilyPrattOwensValley.docx
Additional Report #3	ItineraryOwensValleyFieldTrip2016.docx
Additional Proposers	Linda O'Hirok
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	Environmental Science and Resource Management
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	\$1650
Amount Requested from IRA	\$3690
Estimated Number of Students Participating	25
Conditions and Considerations	Field Trip
Brief Activity Description	The students in ESRM 463 Water Resources Management will participate in a four-day field trip (March 11-13, 2016) to the Owens Valley to explore the environmental and social impacts of the City of Los Angeles (LA DWP) extraction and transportation of water via the LA Aqueduct to that city. The trip will include visiting Owens Lake, the Owens Valley Visitor Center, Lower Owens Restoration Project (LORP), LA DWP Owens

	River Diversion, Alabama Gates, Southern California Edison Rush Creek Power Plant, June Mountain Overlook, Mono Lake and Visitor Center, Rush Creek Restoration, Paiute Reservation Restoration Pond, and Bristlecone Pine Forest. In preparation for the field trip, students will read their textbook and watch the film Cadillac Desert about the history of the City of Los Angeles, its explosive population growth in the late 1800's, and need to secure reliable sources of water. The trip will include lectures on historical and current water and environmental issues in the City of Los Angeles and the Owens Valley, and discussions on policies, politics, conflicts, conflict resolution, the Public Trust Doctrine and the environment, science and climate change. The guest presenters include Bill Deane and Lori Dermody, biologists from LA DWP, and Michael Prather, an Inyo County Water Commissioner, who will show us the Lower Owens River, diversion, and Alabama Gates, and speak about the history of Owens Valley and the controversies of dewatering and restoration. Larry Freilich from Inyo County Water Department and Steve Stotko from the Southern California Edison Rush Creek Power Plant will discuss energy, climate change, and the restoration of the Owens River. Bartshe Miller from the Mono Lake Committee, will give us a tour of Mono Lake and Rush Creek restoration and talk about the lowering of Mono Lake and its fragile ecosystem, the Public Trust Doctrine, and the California Supreme Court decision to protect Mono Lake. Hillary Behr, an AmeriCorp intern at the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation will show us the restoration pond to protect the endangered Owens Valley pup fish. Lastly, we will tour the ancient Bristlecone Pines and discuss how the 4000 year old trees provide us with historical evidence of climate change. The class will receive a summary of the history of water exploitation in the Owens Valley. For example, in 1900, William Mulholland, Chief Engineer for the City of Los Angeles, identified the Owens River, which drains the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, as a reliable source of water to support Los Angeles' growing population. To secure the water rights, Los Angeles secretly purchased much of the land in the Owens Valley. In 1913, the City of Los Angeles completed the construction of the 223 mile, gravity-flow, Los Angeles Aqueduct that delivered Owens River water to Los Angeles. After 100 years, the controversy is still unresolved and vigorously debated. Students will visit critical water supply facilities for the City of Los Angeles and restoration sites, and discuss factors affecting reliability, safety, quality, quantity, and cost of water resources with respect to mitigate environmental impacts.
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	The field trip will address the goals and objectives of ESRM 463 Water Resources Management. Students will present posters and provide demonstrations at the 5th Annual Water Symposium for Madrona Elementary School and Redwood Middle School in Thousand Oaks, to formulate connections between theory taught in the classroom and things seen and concepts covered during the field trip. Students will demonstrate that they understand the factors influencing water availability in the Southern California and particularly Los Angeles, understand the concepts and principles of water and watershed management, can specify and quantify the important components of water management systems, can define water management problems, can predict external effects, can identify possible causes, and propose and evaluate solutions from both environmental science and resource management perspectives. They will also articulate the process steps of environmental conflict resolution and how the conflicts span borders and a understanding of the role of language and dialogue in policy development. The Owens Valley field trip will provide students an opportunity to understand the objectives of the City of Los Angeles, as well as the politics/negotiations required to accomplish these goals, and negotiate water quantity and quality for their constituents and protect the environment.
Description of Assessment Process	I have learned that students are passionate and understand issues related to water. And they recognize that climate change and overpopulation need to be addressed to adequately conserve and equitably distribute this vital resource. In particular, the unprecedented drought we are currently experiencing requires that students understand these complicated issues I will assess their learning by evaluating their posters and process demonstrations at the Water Symposium, as well as giving a written exam. I had them write reflections of both the Owens Valley Field Trip and Water Symposium. I have attached a few of these reflections from both CSU Channel Islands students and Madrona Elementary students and photographs. I have been quite impressed by the application of concepts they had learned as well as their creativity towards water conservation and water education.
Activity Budget	OHirok2016IRAtravelbudget0428145.xlsx
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	ESRM 463 Course Fee \$1650, \$66/student.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	The primary target audience for ESRM 463, Water Resources Management, and this activity are ESRM students with a focus in Resource Management as well as Environmental Science. However, students from a variety of majors such as Biology, Communication, English, Business, Political Science, and even Art enroll in this course. There will always be a need and thus careers for those with expertise in water resources management.

	Understanding water resources issues, especially water quantity and quality as well as ensuring a balance among water resources for the environment, human consumption, industry, and agriculture are essential to sustain society.
Bring Benefit to Campus	These activities, the Owens Valley field trip and the Madrona Water Symposium, provide students the opportunity to interact with water distribution managers, biologists, hydropower engineers, and those who want to preserve the integrity of the environment for nature's sake. Students see firsthand the impacts of mismanagement, the demise of Owens Lake, and mitigation, judicial restrictions on diverting water from Mono Lake. The Madrona Water Symposium provides CI students the opportunity to share their knowledge of water issues by providing specific demonstrations and explanations to Madrona and Redwood students. CI students must understand the processes and issues to be able to clearly present it to elementary and middle school students. The objective is to engage and mentor the younger students so that they will not only understand process and linkages but more importantly to motivate and excite them to continue to explore the "world of water".
Sustainability	There will always be a need and thus careers for those with expertise in water resources management. Understanding water resources issues, especially water quantity and quality as well as ensuring a balance among water resources for the environment, human consumption, industry, and agriculture are essential to sustain society.
Program Chair/Director	donald.rodriquez
Dean	karen.carey
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Donald Rodriguez
Date/Time	10/5/2015 10:13:42 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-FS-3363

Dean Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	10/5/2015 10:21:46 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-J2-7462

IRA Committee Decision

Decision	—
Comments	—

Actions

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