**Rapid Evaluation Tool for Screening the Potential for Reoptimizing Irrigation Systems**

Does the target dam **control flows** into river features of exceptional value for **ecosystems, livelihoods and/or food production**?

**TARGET RESTORATION SITE**
- Does the target dam control flows into any of the following:
  - Floodplain
  - Wetland
  - Delta
  - Estuary
  - Designated protected aquatic habitats

- **Yes**
- **No**

**OTHER IMPAIRMENT FACTORS**
- Are there other factors in the downstream environment which preclude environmental restoration?
- **Yes**
- **No**

**Control of Flows?**

**INTERVENING TRIBUTARIES**
- Are there intervening tributaries that supersede the flows between the dam and target site?
- **Yes**
- **No**

**NEW INTERVENING DAMS**
- Are new dams eminent that will supersede the flows from the target dam?
- **Yes**
- **No**

**Can the floodplain and reservoir perimeter accommodate changes in inundation patterns?**

**FLOODPLAIN LAND USES**
- Are there permanent settlements or land uses, such as orchards in the floodplain, which cannot be modified or managed to accommodate inundation events?
- **Yes**
- **No**

**RESERVOIR PERIMETER USES**
- Are there human (ex. Recessional agriculture) and/or ecosystem interests (ex. Spawning habitat) which depend on the current fluctuation in storage levels and inundation patterns of the reservoir perimeter?
- **Yes**
- **No**

**Low Potential for Environmentally Beneficial Reoperation**

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Storage and Operations

Does the dam spill water > 5% of storage capacity > 20% of years?

Yes

Aquifer Characteristics

Is there an alluvial aquifer with usable ground water underlying much or all of the irrigation command area?

Yes

Is there perpetually de-watered aquifer storage space (due to historic overdraft)?

No

Yes

If the aquifer is full, would a cone of depression from ground water pumping for e-flows persist over multiple years notwithstanding infiltration of rainwater?

No

Yes

Access to Both Surface & Groundwater?

Do farmers now have access to both surface and ground water?

Yes

Are the soils and geology conducive to rapid infiltration in spreading basins?

No

If farmers have access to surface water (from the reservoir) only, can wells be drilled within the irrigation command area to provide dual access?

No

Yes

If farmers have access to ground water only, can an adjoining surface water delivery system be expanded to provide dual access?

No

Yes

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Figure 17.B. Rapid evaluation tool for screening the potential for reoptimizing irrigation systems.