



November 13, 2015

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch

Keith Wallace
Keith.Wallace@water.ca.gov

Subject: Comments on Draft Awards for Proposition 84 2015 Implementation Grants

Dear Mr. Wallace,

The San Diego Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), representing the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program, sincerely thanks the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for its draft award recommendation to fully fund our *San Diego 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal*. This funding will allow the San Diego region to implement a suite of water management projects and programs that, together, will improve water supply reliability for the region, reduce dependence on imported water, reduce pollution, address needs of disadvantaged communities and tribes, and restore sensitive habitat areas. The proposal included the suite of projects best suited to preparing the San Diego region for future droughts.

The San Diego RWMG also thanks DWR for the strong evaluation score the San Diego proposal received. The score reflects the importance of the projects to the San Diego IRWM region and the strength of the region's local project selection process. We appreciate the continued improvements in clarifying the scoring process, and additional details provided during the application process on how each scoring criteria would be evaluated. Moving forward into future rounds of Proposition 1 IRWM funding, we support and encourage DWR's ongoing efforts at scoring transparency.

We also support DWR's decision to fully fund each of the three applications within the San Diego Funding Area. We thank DWR for recognizing the efforts of the Tri-County Funding Area Coordination Committee (Tri-County FACC), comprising the San Diego, Upper Santa Margarita, and South Orange County IRWM regions, and awarding full funding to each of the three regions. The Tri-County FACC has a history of cooperation and coordination and greatly appreciates that DWR has respected its efforts to fairly distribute funds within the Funding Area. We appreciate DWR's support for the Tri-County FACC's efforts to create a model for cooperation in regards to integrated water management.

Finally, we thank DWR for continuing the streamlined grant application approach, and encourage DWR to continue to implement this approach for future rounds of IRWM funding. We recommend DWR consider further streamlining measures for planning regions that are part of a Funding Area comprised of a single eligible region or more than one region with an adopted/executed funding agreement among all regions, such as implementing a simplified proposal review for such regions.

Again, we appreciate the open process taken to funding IRWM implementation activities and look forward to continuing to work with DWR in the future to further develop our IRWM program. We appreciate the positive award recommendation and are excited to begin work on the suite of implementation projects!

Sincerely,



Mark Stadler
San Diego IRWM Program Manager
San Diego County Water Authority

Cc:

Senator Joel Anderson
Senator Patricia Bates
Senator Marty Block
Senator Ben Hueso
Assemblymember Brian Jones
Assemblymember Marie Waldron
Assemblymember Rocky Chavez
Assemblymember Brian Maienschein
Assemblymember Toni Atkins
Assemblymember Shirley Weber
Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Secretary for Natural Resources, John Laird
Gary Bardini, Department of Water Resources
Paula Landis, Department of Water Resources
Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources

Regional Advisory Committee

Regional Water Management Group

- Toby Roy (co-Chair) and Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
- Lan Wiborg (co-Chair) and Goldy Herbon, City of San Diego
- Ramin Abidi and Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego

Water Supply

- Bill Hunter and Michael Bardin, Santa Fe Irrigation District
- Greg Thomas and Julia Escamilla, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

- Brian Olney and Mark Umphres, Helix Water District
- Jennifer Sabine and Ron Mosher, Sweetwater Authority
- Kim Thorner and Joey Randall, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Water Quality

- Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas and Ligeia Heagy, City of Carlsbad
- Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach and Joe Kuhn, City of La Mesa
- Travis Pritchard and Kristin Kuhn, San Diego CoastKeeper
- Leigh Johnson and Loretta Bates, University of California Cooperative Extension
- Bob Kennedy, Otay Water District and Greg Humora, City of La Mesa
- Mike Thornton and Chris Trees, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority

Natural Resources and Watersheds

- Phil Pryde and Jim Peugh, San Diego River Park Foundation
- Ronald Wooton and Jay Klopfensteinn, Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation
- Al Lau and Arne Sandvick, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
- Kimberly O'Connell and Julie Hampel, UCSD Clean Water Utility
- Patrick Crais and Chris Roesink, California Landscape Contractors Association

DAC/Environmental Justice

- Jennifer Hazard and Oscar Romo, AlterTerra
- Joni Johnson and Olga Morales, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Other Members

- Mark Seits and Brinton Swift, Floodplain Management Association
- Michael McSweeney and S. Wayne Rosenbaum, Industrial Environmental Association
- Eric Larson and Casey Anderson, San Diego County Farm Bureau
- John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
- Katie Levy, San Diego Association of Governments
- Ann Van Leer and Betsy Keithley, Escondido Creek Conservancy
- Robyn Badger and Kelly Craig, Zoological Society of San Diego

Regulatory / Tri-County FACC (Non-Voting)

- Laurie Walsh, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Jack Simes and Leslie Cleveland, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Justin Haessly, Rancho California Water District
- Marilyn Thoms, County of Orange
- John Simpson and Khalique Khan, USMC Camp Pendleton
- Gloria Silva and Emily Fudge, U.S. Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest
- Sean Cush, U.S. Indian Health Services