



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **WW-1**

May 24, 2007

MAY 24 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Ms. Billington:

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT PROPOSITION 50 CHAPTER 8 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGES FOR ROUND 2

The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, is a member of the Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group which is a coalition of eleven public agencies. The current Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program provided the Antelope Valley with a valuable incentive for bringing together a wide range of stakeholders from Federal, State, County, and local government; water agencies and companies; environmental groups; disadvantaged communities; and private businesses. This process has brought partners together who had previously not had the opportunity to work collectively and has led to a new level of cooperation and joint planning by many local and regional entities through the Antelope Valley.

The stakeholders in the Antelope Valley are diligently developing an IRWM Plan that addresses the water resource challenges in the Antelope Valley to position themselves to receive Propositions 50, 84, and 1E funds for their integrated regional strategies and solutions. The stakeholder process is well on its way towards the completion of the Draft IRWM Plan for public review by June 2007, and adoption of the IRWM Plan by December 2007.

We offer the following comments and recommendations to improve the IRWM guidelines and proposal solicitation packages:

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- We support the proposed Round 2 schedule that completes the final approval of grant awards by June 2008. We believe that the schedule reflects the State Water Resources Control Board's March 20, 2007, decision to expedite Proposition 50 Round 2 grant program implementation. We also support the simplified two-step process and the emphasis on the IRWM Plan and project proposal in Step 1 and Step 2, respectively.
- We recommend that the State reduce the maximum grant amount of \$25 million per region. We believe that would benefit more regions in the State.
- Since Statewide Priorities is no longer one of the scoring criteria, we recommend that the State remove it from the IRWM Plan Standards.

We understand that the Round 1 grant application process was very costly and time consuming and appreciate that the State recognized the problem and proposed a solution. We also appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments and recommendations for the State's consideration in developing the grant program guidelines and look forward to working with the State to address our local water resources issues.

Very truly yours,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Director of Public Works



ADAM ARIKI
Assistant Deputy Director
Waterworks Division

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