



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda Adams
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3>
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401
Phone (805) 549-3147 • FAX (805) 543-0397

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 8, 2007

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Tom Howard, Acting Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

3/20/07 BdMtg Item 6
IRWM
Deadline: 3/8/07 12 noon

Lester Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Mr. Howard and Mr. Snow:

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) ON THE CENTRAL COAST; CURRENT PROPOSITION 50 FUNDING PROPOSAL AND FUTURE PROPOSITION 84 ALLOCATIONS

This letter is in support of the recent comments you received from representatives of Central Coast agencies that have adopted, or will adopt in the near future, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans and are seeking grant funding under Propositions 50 and 84 to implement their plans. In that letter, the agencies provide recommendations for you to consider in determining how to complete the allocation process under Proposition 50, while also transitioning into Proposition 84 efforts.

Central Coast Water Board staff strongly supports the Statement of Principles developed by the Central Coast agencies. These principles include advocating for allocating existing Proposition 50 funds, supporting distribution of existing Prop 50 funds to those projects proposed in current recommendations, and strongly supporting the special case request for the Los Osos wastewater project. We commend the Central Coast agencies for their fruitful efforts to collaboratively develop these principles to guide future funding processes so important to water quality in the Central Coast Region.

In the process of developing their Statement of Principles, the Central Coast agencies also strongly supported the special case request for the Los Osos wastewater project, for the following reasons:

- The merits of the San Luis Obispo County region's Step 1 application met the quality and content that resulted in your ranking that plan higher than others that

California Environmental Protection Agency



were invited to Step 2.

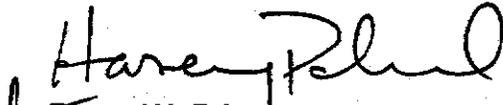
- We believe the project for Los Osos does address a State priority. The need for a resolution to the situation is in fact such a high priority to the State that the State legislature voted *unanimously* in support of special legislation (AB 2701 Blakeslee).
- The County of San Luis Obispo has dedicated significant discretionary funds to help resolve the pollution problem while only requesting the Prop 50 IRWM implementation funds if the County is able to meet tests established in AB 2701 and conditions established by the Governor. This we believe is a fair proposal.

Supporting San Luis Obispo County in its effort to build a community-wide wastewater collection and treatment system in Los Osos is a very high priority for the Central Coast Water Board. This project is important for both local and statewide water-quality reasons. Los Osos borders the Morro Bay National Estuary, one of California's few remaining coastal estuaries. A community wastewater project will put a halt to ongoing septic system discharges to shallow groundwater, which eventually seeps into the estuary. Morro Bay is listed on the nationwide 303(d) list as impaired due to pathogens and the Central Coast Water Board adopted a pathogen TMDL for Morro Bay in 2002.

We ask the State Water Board and Department of Water Resources to give strong consideration to the principles outlined by the Central Coast agencies, and in particular to provide special Proposition 50 funding to the Los Osos project.

If you have any questions, please contact Harvey Packard at (805) 542-4639 or hpackard@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


for Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc: Central Coast Agencies

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