



March 14, 2014

Sent Via Electronic Email

Honorable Chair Longley
and Members of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Re: Consideration of Adoption of a Resolution to allow the Rose Foundation to Administer SEP Funding to Projects Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities

The Community Water Center (CWC) is writing in strong support of Staff's recommendation to partner with the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Rose Foundation) and focus Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funding on disadvantaged communities (DACs). We have full confidence in the Rose Foundation to address serious water quality issues impacting DACs in the Central Valley given their demonstrated institutional, managerial and "on-the-ground" capacity.

The Community Water Center is a non-profit organization that has worked for many years with local residents from several dozen California communities, to improve access to safe, clean, and affordable water. Our efforts working in and for DACs, affirms that there is an unmet need for resources to address contaminated drinking water supplies, especially in small rural communities. This proposed action would go far to address this unmet need and improving quality of life in many of California's most heavily-impacted and underserved communities.

On February 7, 2014, board staff presented this topic as an *Informational Item* and we were encouraged by the Board's interest and public support to move forward with the proposal. We applaud the exemplary leadership shown in developing this program thus far and believe the Rose Foundation will be an exceptional partner in the Central Valley.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your consideration of our comments. Please contact me, or my staff Omar Carrillo, Policy Analyst, at 916-706-3346 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Laurel Firestone
Co-Executive Director