



Sent via Email to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

June 16, 2016

Felicia Marcus, Chair
Members of the State Water Resources Control Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board



SUBJECT: COMMENT LETTER – JUNE 21, 2016 BOARD MEETING – 2016 CWSRF IUP

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Western Recycled Water Coalition (WRWC), I want to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) draft Intended Use Plan (IUP). The WRWC is a partnership of 22 cities, water and wastewater districts, and investor-owned water utilities developing drought-resistant recycled water supplies in California and Hawaii. We appreciate how you and staff have provided such a commitment to funding CWSRF applications, including the \$963 million that was approved at 1% interest for water recycling projects as part of Resolution No. 2014-0015 and Resolution 2016-0008. For some time, we've understood the value of this low-interest financing and have promoted these opportunities to eligible entities. We're pleased that the program has been so successful and grateful for the funding opportunities provided by the SWRCB through the CWSRF and Proposition 1. The SWRCB has been the leader at getting grants and loans out to the eligible and intended recipients, and should be held up as the example of effectiveness, commitment, and professionalism to any State and Federal funding agency.

We also understand the increasing demand this success has put on resources, including funding capital and administration. We support the language in the IUP that states the CWSRF program commitment to "fund as many eligible projects with complete applications as it can during SFY 2016-17 with the financial and programmatic resources available to it." If due to high demand you are faced with the choice between limiting financing for projects or additional bond sales, we encourage you to sell additional revenue bonds, such as authorized in Resolution No. 2016-0002. Projects eligible for funding through the CWSRF are critical to the State for meeting its goals, including increasing sustainable local water supplies, protecting water quality, and addressing sustainability and climate change impacts.

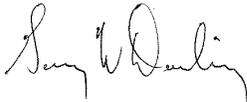
We continue to advocate to our Federal elected leaders on the importance of increased appropriations to the CWSRF. With the current lack of other federal funding opportunities for water recycling and wastewater projects, the CWSRF remains the primary funding opportunity to address critical infrastructure needs.

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We also support the key short-term activity identified in the IUP of incorporating the remaining WRRDA changes into the CWSRF Policy. These changes are important for allowing our investor-owned water utility members the opportunity to seek low-interest financing for their water recycling projects.

Again, thank you for your hard work and dedication to funding projects to efficiently manage our precious water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary W. Darling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary W. Darling
General Manager of Delta Diablo
Lead Agency for the Western Recycled Water Coalition

JS:js

cc: District File No. 90024.04.04
Chron File