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From: DFA\_Grants [mailto:DFA\_Grants@waterboards.ca.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2005 3:14 PM

To: DFA\_Grants

Subject: IRWM: Proposition 50 Step 1 Implementation Grant Applicants, P

PLEASE NOTE:

This email should be shared with the Authorized Representative & Project Director for each application that you submitted for the Integrated Regional Water Management Step 1 Implementation grant.

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This email is being sent to all Proposition 50, Integrated Regional Water Management Step 1 Implementation Grant applicants on the behalf of Mark Cowin, Chief, DWR Division Planning and Local Assistance and Barbara Evoy, Chief State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance.

Thank you for your interest and your application for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received 50 applications requesting \$1.4 billion, far exceeding the grant funding of approximately \$150 million available in the current cycle. While the response to the program demonstrates the great strides that have been made throughout the state in integrated regional planning, the large number and geographic distribution of the proposals indicates that more can be done. The opportunity clearly exists for even greater collaboration and coordination within and between regions and for regions, rather than the State, to define regional priorities.

The IRWM Grant Program Guidelines state the intent of DWR and the State Water Board to award a single grant for a given geographic region, as well as the expectation that all water management activities within a region be integrated. In numerous program workshops, staff discussed the possibility that proposals from adjoining or overlapping regions or proposals that tier off of the same IRWM Plan might be directed to consolidate if selected to compete in Step 2. The magnitude of funding requests, approximately 10 times the available funding, makes it even more critical that regions coordinate more closely to define their priorities and consolidate their efforts.

To allow applicants the time to realize the benefits of additional coordination, we are providing an opportunity for applicants to voluntarily consolidate proposals prior to completion of our evaluation of Step 1 proposals. We believe this opportunity to consolidate will provide additional benefits to the regions and allow DWR and the State Water Board to award the limited grant funds in a manner that better assists regions to meet their priorities. This consolidation may take the form of combining one or more adjacent regions; better integrating the proposals of overlapping regions; or merging separate proposals that tier off of the same IRWM Plan.

To demonstrate the desire to consolidate proposals, applicants must provide the following:

- \* A joint letter, signed by the authorized representative for each applicant, indicating that they intend to be considered as a single proposal. This letter shall be provided in an electronic format, such as a pdf.
- \* That letter must contain each of the following items:
  - \* A list of the Proposal Identification Numbers (PINs) and proposal titles involved and a revised Proposal Title.
  - \* An identification of which previously submitted IRWM Plan(s) (or functionally equivalent document(s)) will serve as the IRWM Plan for the region or
  - \* A brief plan and schedule for developing an IRWM Plan for the consolidated region.
  - \* For adjoining or overlapping regions, a description of the consolidated region, including a GIS shape file showing the revised regional boundaries. For

proposals that tier off of the same IRWM Plan, please indicate whether the previously submitted regional boundaries have changed and if so, describe the changes.

\* A brief description of the revised proposal, including a listing of which projects from each application will and will not be retained in the single consolidated proposal. The revised proposal must fall within the \$50 million cap per grant.

\* A revised cost estimate that is consistent with the revised proposal.

The Guidelines and Step 1 Proposal Solicitation Package can be used to guide preparation of this material. To aid in this coordination effort, maps, by hydrologic region, of the Step 1 proposals are available at:

[www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm](http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm)

Please submit the above-referenced information to: Tracie Billington via email at [tracieb@water.ca.gov](mailto:tracieb@water.ca.gov)

This information must be submitted no later than December 2, 2005 to be considered by the Selection Panel. Absent a response to this letter, DWR and the State Water Board may still require consolidation of individual Step 1 proposals into a single Step 2 proposal.

To obtain contact information for regional proposals with which you may wish to coordinate, please contact Ms. Judy Colvin at [jcolvin@water.ca.gov](mailto:jcolvin@water.ca.gov).

If you have any questions regarding the information required, please contact Ms. Tracie Billington at (916) 651-9226 or Ms. Shahlia Faranhak at (916) 341-5737.

Mark Cowin, Chief  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Local Assistance

Barbara Evoy, Chief  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance