



TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY



Morongo Basin
Pipeline
Commission

April 1, 2016

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Attn: Craig Cross

*Emailed to DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DRAFT 2016 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines. Mojave Water Agency has the following comments to regarding the subject document:

Page 8: Funding Projects in Adjacent Funding Areas:

The Mojave Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan covers approximately 5,372 square miles of the Southern California High Desert. The Mojave IRWM region encompasses a broad range of communities that located in both the Lahontan (3,895 square miles) and Colorado (1,477 square miles) Funding Areas. The Mojave IRWM strongly supports the ability to move funds between multiple funding areas under certain conditions as this brings the region together rather than bifurcating the stakeholders. This is especially important for projects such as regional planning, IRWM region group projects/programs (e.g. conservation programs) and etcetera.

Page 9: Table 1 – Statewide Objectives

Action 4: Protect and Restore Important Ecosystems

California deserts have sensitive riparian ecosystems, arroyos and springs that are frequently dependent on the careful management of the region's water resources. We would like inclusion of desert/arid "Important Ecosystems" in Table 4.

Page 10: Table 1 – Statewide Objectives

Action 7: Provide Safe Water for All Communities

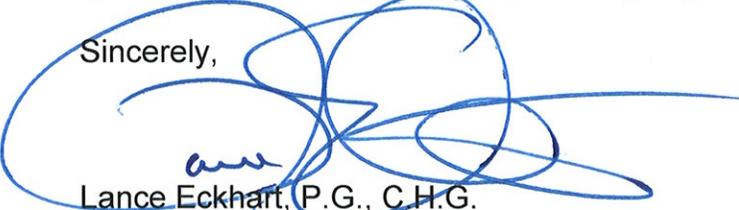
The Mojave IRWM has invested heavily in Disadvantaged Community (DAC) and Small Water System outreach. This program has been locally very successful and hinges upon educating smaller water systems in DACs on Technical, Managerial and Financial aspects of operating a water system successfully. These education and system assessment efforts position said DAC water systems for assistance via State and Federal funding. We believe that Action 7 could be expanded upon to clearly include supporting improvements that result in robust modern infrastructure that will be maintained in the future. Action 7 may also encourage optimization of small water systems working together for multiple benefits and resiliency up to and including a consideration for consolidation if locally supported.

April 1, 2016
California Department of Water Resources
Page 2

Page 12: SB 985: Discusses the need for a Stormwater Resource Plan. We would request Stormwater Resources Plan "or equivalent" be added to the text.

Thank you for allowing for us to comment. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at leckhart@mojavewater.org or (760) 946-7015.

Sincerely,



Lance Eckhart, P.G., C.H.G.
Mojave Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Project Manager

LE:jj