
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

TO: Craig Cross, Project Manager
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FROM: Patty Z. Kouyoumdjian
Executive Officer

DATE: April 1, 2016

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 1 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER
MANAGEMENT (IRWM) PLANNING FUNDS FOR FREMONT BASIN

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2016 Planning Grant Proposal Solicitation Package supported with funds from Proposition 1 (The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014). I am pleased to see that the draft Planning Grant Proposal Solicitation Package proposes to allocate up to \$5M in recognition of the need for funding to develop an IRWM plan to meet current IRWM Plan standards, or to improve an existing IRWM Plan. I encourage you to give first priority in this funding to the three IRWM planning areas in the state that have been accepted through the Regional Acceptance Process (RAP), have a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) in place, but still need to develop an IRWM plan. The Fremont Basin in our Region is one of those three IRWM planning areas. In the Fremont Basin, completion of the RAP along with an established RWMG and an active stakeholder group demonstrates a commitment to the next step in the IRWM process – completion of an IRWM plan.

Funding to complete an IRWM plan will result in providing the Fremont Basin stakeholders with an important comprehensive water management planning tool. It will also afford the necessary next step toward future access of implementation grant funds to help address the myriad water quality and water supply needs of the Fremont Basin. In addition, this will directly benefit some of the many disadvantaged communities in our vast Region, as nearly all of the Fremont Basin is designated as disadvantaged. This will ensure the involvement of disadvantaged communities in the IRWM planning efforts, thus meeting another goal of Proposition 1.

I commend the Department of Water Resources on recognizing the important need for planning funds to develop IRWM plans. I encourage the Department to give priority for funding to those IRWM planning areas accepted through the RAP that have not yet developed an IRWM plan. Please do not hesitate to contact me at patty.kouyoumdjian@waterboards.ca.gov or at (530) 542-5412 if you would like to discuss this further.