



Stakeholders

General Purpose Agencies

City of Camarillo
City of Fillmore
City of Ojai
City of Oxnard
City of Port Hueneme
City of Moorpark
City of Santa Paula
City of Simi Valley
City of Thousand Oaks
City of Ventura
Ventura County Executive Office
Ventura County Public Works Agency
Ventura County Resource Management Agency

Water Suppliers/Wastewater Management/ Special Districts

Calleguas Municipal Water District
Camarillo Sanitary District
Camrosa Water District
Casitas Municipal Water District
Fillmore Irrigation Company
Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency
Golden State Water Company
Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
Ojai Valley Sanitary District
Ojai Valley Water Conservation District
Pleasant Valley County Water District
Saticoy Sanitary District
Triunfo Sanitation District
United Water Conservation District
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Ventura County Waterworks Districts
Ventura Regional Sanitation District
Zone Mutual Water Company

Business Organizations

Building Industry Association
Farm Bureau of Ventura County
Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business

Recreational and Open Space Entities

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Conejo Recreation and Park District
Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Santa Monica Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority

Regulatory Agencies

California Coastal Commission
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Other Agencies/Organizations

Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Water Resources
California Native Plant Society
California Trout
Environmental Defense Center
Friends of the Santa Clara River
Hansen Trust
Matilija Coalition
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nature Conservancy
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Point Mugu Naval Base
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Surfrider Foundation
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Forest Service
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Ventura Hillside Conservancy
Wetlands Recovery Project

March 22, 2016

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

Subject: Comments on the Draft 2016 Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Guidelines, Draft Planning Grant Proposal Solicitation Package, and Draft Request for Proposals for Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

Dear Mr. Cross:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2016 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program Guidelines, Planning Grant Proposal Solicitation Package, and Request for Proposals for Disadvantaged Community Involvement. The Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) respectfully submits the following comments:

General Comments

Our stakeholders greatly appreciate the benefits of the IRWM Grant Program and the support of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) throughout the process. We have been successful in developing an inclusive stakeholder process, preparing two IRWM Plans, and receiving grant funds in the two Proposition 84 Planning Grant rounds and all four Implementation Grant rounds. We have embraced the IRWM process and approach and look forward to continued success in Proposition 1.

Comments Regarding Draft 2016 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program Guidelines

Although the Draft IRWM Grant Program Guidelines do not address the timing of the Implementation Grant solicitation, we strongly urge you to consider releasing these funds in only one round, and no sooner than 2018. First, one round will be more cost-effective for regions than two rounds thereby reducing the cost of application preparation. Second, given the timing of the Disadvantaged Community Involvement efforts and the development of sustainable groundwater management plans and stormwater resources plans, extra time will benefit most regions in order to determine the best projects for implementation as part of their IRWM efforts.

Comments Regarding Draft Request for Proposals for Disadvantaged Community Involvement

- We have begun to coordinate with the Greater Los Angeles IRWM Region (including the Gateway IRWM Region) and the Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Region to address DAC involvement opportunities and preparation of a proposal to submit to DWR for the DAC Involvement funding.
- We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with DWR sooner rather than later, and prior to development of our DAC Involvement proposal. We recommend that the timing for coordination with DWR for preparation of these proposals be extended beyond July 2016, as stated in the schedule in the PSP.
- We would like to confirm with DWR that DAC Involvement funds may be used for activities that go beyond addressing critical water supply and quality needs, such as consideration of flood management, water supply reliability, pollution prevention, and other important water-related issues facing DACs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Sue Hughes
Chair

cc. Russ Bryden, Greater LA IRWM Region
Grace Kast, Gateway IRWM Region
Rick Viergutz, Upper Santa Clara River IRWM Region