



Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

One Water One Watershed

OWOW IS AWARDED "TOP 25" INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT BY HARVARD'S KENNEDY SCHOOL



July 1, 2013

Mr. Mark Cowin
Director, California Department of Water Resources
P. O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Prop 1E IRWM Stormwater Flood Mgt Grant Program Round 2 – City of Ontario Francis St Storm Drain and Ely Basin Flood Control and Aquifer Recharge Project

Philip L. Anthony
Commission
Chair

Dear Mr. Cowin:

Celeste Cantú
General
Manager

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) supports the City of Ontario's request for Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Round 2 funding. Unfortunately, the project is currently not included on the June 12, 2013 DWR Draft Funding Recommendations for the Prop 1E Round 2 Grant program. We would like to request your assistance in reconsidering this project for funding based on the tremendous flood control and stormwater recharge need in our region and due to the inequity of the amount of funding that is provided to other regions compared to this region which received no funding under Prop 1E round 2 but submitted five projects.

Orange
County
Water
District

As you are aware, SAWPA has developed an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRMW) Plan for the Santa Ana Region called the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) plan for the Santa Ana River Watershed that includes parts of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties to accommodate a growing population, to protect our remarkable natural resources, and to ensure safe, reliable water for all residents. The region faces severe water resource challenges. The OWOW plan indicates that additional integrated regional projects like the City of Ontario's stormwater capture, flood control and aquifer recharge project are clearly needed in our region to address these challenges. The City of Ontario has actively participated in the Watershed's OWOW process including staffing the Co Chair the Water land Use nexus pillar.

Western
Municipal
Water District

Eastern
Municipal
Water
District

Further, SAWPA understands that funding to support stormwater capture is needed throughout the State. However, in review of Round 2 funding apportionment, 63% of the funding is proposed for projects in Northern California and 37% for Southern California. We support a greater equity of State funding distribution among worthy projects for these funds.

San
Bernardino
Valley
Municipal
Water
District

We believe the City's program of storm runoff control together with increased storm water capture and recharge is consistent with the Region's IRWM plan and Prop 1E goals. Therefore, SAWPA requests our help in reevaluating the funding ranking of this project.

Inland
Empire
Utilities
Agency

Sincerely,

Celeste Cantú, General Manager
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

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