

**INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SCOPING
MEETING**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY REGIONAL WATER
MANAGEMENT GROUP**

JANUARY 31, 2006

MY NAME IS DAVE RYDMAN. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND TODAY'S MEETING ON BEHALF OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF UPCOMING INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) GRANT PROGRAMS FOR PROPOSITIONS 50, 84, AND 1E. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ANTELOPE VALLEY REGION COULD NOT ATTEND TODAY BECAUSE OF A CONFLICT WITH THE MONTHLY IRWM PLAN STAKEHOLDER MEETING IN PALMDALE THIS MORNING. WE HAVE FOUR (4) KEY RECOMMENDATIONS.

- FIRST, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE STATE ALLOCATE \$196.2 MILLION IN THE REMAINING PROPOSITION 50, CHAPTER 8, IRWM PROGRAM FUNDS TO THE ROUND TWO FUNDING CYCLE TO MAINTAIN STATEWIDE MOMENTUM FOR THE IRWM PROCESS.
- SECOND, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE STATE MAINTAIN THE COMPETITIVE NATURE OF THE IRWM GRANT PROGRAMS AS INTENDED BY THE LEGISLATURE BY NOT AWARDING FUNDS FROM THE PROPOSITION 50, ROUND TWO FUNDING CYCLE TO UNFUNDED ROUND ONE APPLICANTS. NEEDS CHANGE WITHIN COMMUNITIES ... ESPECIALLY IN REGIONS SUCH AS THE ANTELOPE VALLEY WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING HARD AND EFFECTIVELY TO FIND REGIONAL SOLUTIONS FOR REGIONAL CHALLENGES. THIS, WE UNDERSTAND TO BE THE MAJOR FOCUS OF STATE LEADERSHIP AT THIS TIME. TO AUTOMATICALLY FUND ALL UNFUNDED PROJECTS FROM ROUND 1 AS TOP PRIORITY IN ROUND 2 WILL SERVE TO DISENFRANCHISE THOSE WHO ARE FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE THE STATE SHOULD SEEK TO FUND THOSE PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE THE GREATEST RETURN ON THE INVESTMENT.
- THIRD, WE SUPPORT THE STATE'S RECOMMENDATION TO ADMINISTER IRWM GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR PROPOSITIONS 50 (ROUND TWO), 84, AND 1E TOGETHER WITH A SINGLE APPLICATION PROCESS.
- LASTLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE STATE DIRECT A PORTION OF THE PROPOSITION 50, ROUND TWO FUNDS TO PLANNING GRANTS TO ENCOURAGE REGIONS TO INITIATE THE IRWM PROCESS OR TO IMPROVE THEIR IRWM PLANS.

WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE OUR RECOMMENDATIONS AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD TO ADDRESS OUR LOCAL WATER RESOURCES ISSUES. THANK YOU.