



# AVSWCA

Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association

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February 1, 2007

Ms. Tracie Billington  
California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Local Assistance  
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Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ms. Shahla Farahnak  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak:

**RE: ANTELOPE VALLEY REGION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
ADMINISTRATION OF INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS**

As requested, following are the recommendations from the Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association to the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board for administration of upcoming Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant programs for Propositions 50 (Chapter 8, Round Two), 84, and 1E:

- 1. 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.**

The IRWM Grant Program Guidelines published by the State in November 2004 specified that \$380 million in IRWM program grant funds would be administered during two funding cycles: \$160 million for the first funding cycle and \$220 million for the second. It is critical for the Antelope Valley's IRWM Plan process that the State administers the second funding cycle at or near the original funding level.

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The Antelope Valley Region initiated the IRWM process in May 2006 with the expectation to compete for Proposition 50, Round Two funds. Although we recognize the broader value of the IRWM process, stakeholders for the Region were expecting the availability of \$220 million in grant funds to assist in funding critical regional water management projects. The State has already awarded to Round One applicants approximately \$30 million more than originally proposed. Any further reallocation of funds from Round Two to Round One funding cycles should be avoided to maintain statewide momentum for the IRWM process.

- 2. 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.**

In response to the State's November 2006 announcement to award IRWM implementation grant funds to 7 of the 16 finalists, some agencies recommended that the State should consider awarding additional funds to the remaining Round One applicants.

Although this request seems equitable, it is inconsistent with the Legislature's intent for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funds to be awarded competitively (Water Code §79560). A competitive grant program should result in award of funds to the highest rated applicants rather than to all applicants. Applicants from Round One that were not awarded funds will be well positioned for Round Two funds because they have received valuable comments from the State on their original applications.

- 3. Administer IRWM grant program funds for Propositions 50 (Round Two), 84, and 1E together with a single application process.**

The administration of future IRWM grant program funds together with a single application process will facilitate the application process and enable the State to administer the funding programs more efficiently.

- 4. 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.**

The State can effectively encourage Regions that have not yet initiated the IRWM process to begin by allocating a portion of the Proposition 50, Round Two funds to planning grants. Also, Regions that have recently started the process, such as the Antelope Valley, but require financial assistance to leverage local funds can apply for planning grants.

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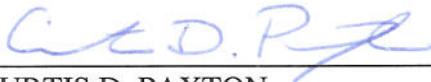
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Enclosed for your reference is a location map and key information on the Antelope Valley Region. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our recommendations for the State's administration of future IRWM grant program funds and look forward to working with the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board to address our local water resources issues.

Very truly yours,



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CURTIS D. PAXTON  
Interim General Manager

CDP/dd

Enclosures

# **ANTELOPE VALLEY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **KEY INFORMATION ON THE ANTELOPE VALLEY REGION**

[www.avwaterplan.org](http://www.avwaterplan.org)

### **Statistical Information**

Geographical Size (square miles)	2,400 square miles
Population (2005 est.)	506,000
Population (2030 est.)	1,118,000
Disadvantaged population (%)	20
Average Annual Precipitation (inches)	8

### **Region Description**

The Region is a triangular-shaped, topographically closed basin bordered on the southwest by the San Gabriel Mountains, on the northwest by the Tehachapi Mountains, and on the east by a series of hills and buttes that generally follow the Los Angeles/San Bernardino County line. The Region encompasses approximately 2,400 square miles in northern Los Angeles County, southern Kern County, and western San Bernardino County, and covers the majority of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK), the largest water wholesaler in the Region, service area. Major communities within the Region include Boron, California City, Edwards AFB, Lancaster, Mojave, Palmdale and Rosamond.

### **Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group**

The Antelope Valley Regional Water Management Group (AVRWMG) was established by means of a Memorandum of Understanding to lead and fund the preparation the Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The AVRWMG consists of the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency, Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association, City of Lancaster, City of Palmdale, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, County Sanitation District Nos. 14 and 20 of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, Palmdale Water District, Quartz Hill Water District, and Rosamond Community Services District.

### **Stakeholder Involvement**

The Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan is currently being prepared with input from over 45 stakeholder groups representing federal, state, county, and local government; water agencies; environmental groups; disadvantaged communities; and private businesses.

### **Current Status**

The AVRWMG initiated the IRWM process in May 2006. To date, the group has completed eight stakeholders meetings and expects to complete the IRWM plan by December 31, 2007.