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Assembly
California Legislature

BILL EMMERSON
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-THIRD DISTRICT

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February 6, 2007

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
Attn: Tracie Billington,
California Department of Water Resources, Division of Planning and Assistance
901 P Street, Room 213-A
PO Box 942836,
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

Re: Proposition 50, Chapter 8, Support of DWR and SWRCB Additional Funding Request

I would like to take this opportunity to lend my support to the recommendations made by the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board on January 23rd and January 30th for projects to be funded under the first funding cycle of Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation Grant Program. This action effectively leverages local funds that are available to implement the projects now, recognizes the significant effort and expense associated with preparing meritorious grant applications through the two-step grant application process, and addresses concerns regarding the north-south funding split. I believe the recommendations for the first round funding is based on the best interests of the State.

Beyond any other region in the state, the rapidly growing population and development in the Santa Ana Watershed has placed increased constraints upon critical water infrastructure to serve the immense water demands. The projects included in the SAWPA grant application will help to address these needs to assure water reliability and drought protection for the future. In addition, by using the integrated regional management approach that was spearheaded by SAWPA, multiple benefits to water supply, water quality improvement, and environmental restoration will be implemented.

As a strong supporter of the Santa Ana IRWMP and the priority projects for the region included in its Proposition 50, Chapter 8 IRMWP grant application, I support the findings of the DWR staff and SWRCB staff that believe that it is important to support the SAWPA grant submittal for inclusion in the first funding cycle of Proposition 50.

Sincerely,

Bill Emmerson

BILL EMMERSON
Assemblymember, 63rd District

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