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Mark DeSaulnier
State of California
Assemblymember, District 11

February 7, 2007

Lester A. Snow, Director
Department of Water Resources
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL PROPOSITION 50, CHAPTER 8 IRWM GRANT FUNDING

Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to express my strong support for the State's proposal to fund additional Implementation proposals which completed Step 2 of Round 1 of the Proposition 50, Chapter 8 grant program.

Construction costs are escalating rapidly, and the matching funds provided for many of the projects included in the Step 2 Implementation Proposals are only offered for a limited period of time. The San Francisco Bay-Delta Region has leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars of local match for its near-term projects, and intends to utilize other state grants which have deadlines for project implementation that are quickly approaching. It is absolutely essential that funding for these projects be awarded in a timely manner, lest access is lost to these matching funds.

Furthermore, I strongly believe that California voters wish to begin reaping the benefits of Integrated Regional Water Management as quickly as possible. The near-term projects included in the Step 2 plans have already completed two rigorous reviews by the Department of Water Resources and the State Board. I am personally aware of high-priority projects, included in the East Contra Costa County Plan, which are already under construction or at 100% design – ready to go out to bid as soon as IRWM funding is awarded, providing full water supply and water quality benefits as early as Spring 2008.

I am confident that immediate disbursement of the remaining Proposition 50 funds towards Round 1 projects will provide maximum benefit to the State of California. I very much appreciate this opportunity to comment, and encourage you to contact me at (916) 319 – 2011 to discuss these comments in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark DeSaulnier".

Mark DeSaulnier

MH/GWD:mh

cc: Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Shahla Farahnak, State Water Resources Control Board
Fran Garland, East Contra Costa County IRWMP
Michelle Pla, San Francisco Bay Area IRWMP
Gary Darling, DDS