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Assembly California Legislature



PAUL COOK
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

February 7, 2007

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-1
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

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

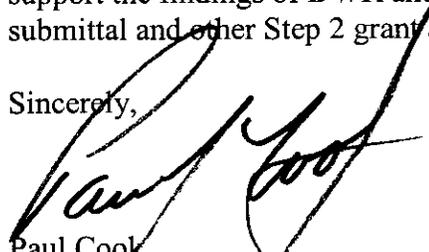
Dear Mr. Snow:

I am writing to show my support for the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board recommendations for additional projects to be funded under the first funding cycle of State 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 this recommendation for increased 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 strains upon critical water infrastructure to serve water demands. The projects included in the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) grant application will help to address these needs to assure water reliability and drought protection for the future. In addition, by using integrated regional management approach, originally 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 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and the priority projects for the region included in its Proposition 50 Chapter 8 IRMWP grant application, I support the findings of DWR and SWRCB staff which illustrate the importance of the SAWPA grant submittal and other Step 2 grant applicants for inclusion in the first funding cycle of Proposition 50.

Sincerely,


Paul Cook
Assemblyman, 65th District