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California State Senate

SENATOR
CHRISTINE KEHOE
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2/20 BdMtg Item 6
IRWM
Deadline: 2/8/07 12pm



February 15, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Funding: DWR proposal to change guidelines

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing to urge you to direct the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to follow and respect the program guidelines established in November 2004 for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 grant funding. The DWR and SWRCB recently proposed to abandon the Proposition 50, Cycle 2 Grant application process in favor of awarding all but \$64 million of the remaining \$195 million of Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funds to nine proposals that were not selected during Cycle 1. This abrupt change of course was surprising to many communities which had actively and collaboratively worked in recent years toward a second round of funding, as the timeline had been established originally. Because of the abrupt change of course, this issue will be discussed during the Legislature's review of the budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

To be competitive in the Proposition 50, Chapter 8 process, the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, and the San Diego County Water Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2005 forming the Regional Water Management Group for the San Diego region. This group was established to work with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders throughout the region to develop the first ever San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), and to submit Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Grant Applications.

The San Diego region has made tremendous progress, and made a considerable investment in funds and staff resources in developing the San Diego region's first ever IRWMP, as well as meeting DWR's Cycle 2 deadlines. The City and the San Diego region is now prepared to apply for Cycle 2 funds, provided the guidelines are not amended to all but preclude new applicants.



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In the spirit of fairness and to remain consistent with the will of the voters to authorize projects throughout the State, I respectfully request that the Administration honor the original plan for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funding and allow agencies to compete for the remaining \$195 million via the second cycle as established.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this important issue.

Sincerely,



CHRISTINE KEHOE
Senator, 39th District

Cc: Tam M. Doduc, Board Chair, State Water Resources Control Board ✓
Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources

CK:lsb

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