

Coastal**Watershed Council**

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

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Asst.
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

7 February 2007

**Re: Northern Santa Cruz County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
and Implementation Grant Proposal**

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello and good day. We are writing to thank you for recommending additional funding above the initial award for the High Priority Master Project list for the integrated water management projects proposed for northern Santa Cruz County. These projects were developed through a collaborative process with many partner agencies, and together, they represent an integrated effort to improve the quantity and quality of water in the region.

The Coastal Watershed Council's mission is to preserve and protect coastal watersheds through community stewardship, education and monitoring. The efforts put forward by each of these projects to ensure adequate drinking water supplies are available while enhancing and protecting coastal watershed health are of critical importance to the region. As a key community organization conducting water quality monitoring throughout the region, we are especially supportive of the inclusion of a monitoring component in the projects list to help measure the health of the watersheds and the effect of the projects being implemented.

We strongly support the SWRCB approving the staff recommendation to fund the Northern Santa Cruz County IRWM for \$12.5 million. This grant will accomplish the critical task of implementing high priority projects and evaluate their successes with a strong monitoring (both on a project and watershed basis) program. It was clear to us during the SWRCB Consolidated Grant Process last year that the SWRCB highly prioritizes measurement and monitoring to evaluate outcomes. We urge you to fund this suite of projects as robustly as you can to ensure adequate resources are available for outcome evaluation.

Sincerely,

Tamara Doan
Director of Programs