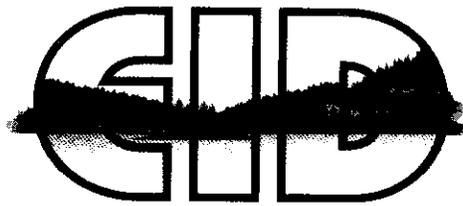


Bill George - *President*  
Division 3  
George W. Osborne  
*Vice President*  
Division 1



## El Dorado Irrigation District

Ane D. Deister  
*General Manager*  
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*General Counsel*

In Reply Refer To: M0207-015

February 8, 2007

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

Shahla Farahnak  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Financial Assistance  
1001 "I" Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahnak,

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) is a current member of the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba (CABY) region and recently adopted the CABY Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) in anticipation of the second competitive funding cycle of Proposition 50.

It is our understanding that the State is now considering elimination of the second cycle for IRWMP funding and disbursing remaining Proposition 50 funds as part of the Proposition 84 program. This proposal diminishes the importance of the IRWMP process, the collaborative effort of the CABY region and the assurances necessary for regional coalitions to embark on long term IRWMP programs. As with so many collaborative efforts, it is difficult to bring different interests together while trying to achieve the overall benefit of a regional, integrated, multi-beneficial approach to water management. Proposition 50 provided the incentive for many water agencies to truly collaborate and partner with land use agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations in an integrated planning program for the first time. Although the benefits of IRWMP's extend beyond Proposition 50, for three years the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has been promising a second round of funding. In fact, DWR staff has been intimately involved in the CABY process providing essential guidance and technical assistance throughout the development. All CABY participants have relied upon the information provided by staff and guidance materials which have repeatedly stated there would be another opportunity for funding under Proposition 50. As you can understand all those that have worked so hard on CABY IRWMP are demoralized and confused by the State's proposal.

The CABY region has been working collaboratively with approximately 80 participants to develop an IRWMP that will meet the Proposition 50 guidelines. In 2005 CABY submitted a planning grant

proposal and an implementation proposal to the first round of Proposition 50. CABY was successful in the planning grant (\$500,000), but was told by the State that we were ineligible for implementation funds because the IRWMP was not developed. This was contrary to the Prop 50 guidelines that allowed plans in development as long as the IRWMP agencies adopted the IRWMP by January 1, 2007. Nonetheless acting in good faith and spirit of cooperation, the CABY regional participants and agencies followed DWR direction by focusing on plan development for the second round of Proposition 50 funding. We are proud of the thousands of hours spent by the CABY agencies and participants in their quest to develop and adopt an IRWMP for the CABY Region. Indeed, the CABY IRWMP was adopted by El Dorado Irrigation District on December 11, 2006 and to underscore the breadth of the Plan's acceptance no less than 23 other organizations had also done the same by January 1, 2007!

We hope DWR will reconsider their recommendation to eliminate a second funding cycle of Proposition 50 funding. Even if additional projects are funded as proposed in the first Proposition 50 cycle, the remaining funds should be made available in a second cycle under the original Proposition 50 criteria. CABY worked under the rules that DWR established in good faith to produce a truly integrated regional plan with a broad stakeholder participation and ultimately endorsement. We strongly urge the DWR to consider the difficult position this places the CABY partners in, in attempting to move forward towards implementation of the IRWMP without an assurance that funding for the projects is available in some just, equitable and timely fashion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. If you have any questions please call me directly at (530) 642-4041.

Sincerely,



Ane D. Deister  
General Manager

ADD/EM:dr

cc: Senator Dave Cox  
Assemblyman Ted Gaines  
Assemblyman Alan Nakanishi  
Lester Snow, Director of the Department of Water Resources  
John Moffatt, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Mike Chrisman, Secretary of Resources  
Linda Adams, Secretary of California Environmental Protection Agency  
Fong Her, Clerk to the Board, State Water Resources Control Board  
Bob Reeb, Reeb Government Relations, LLC  
Hal Furman, The Furman Group  
Association of California Water Agencies