

MONTEREY COUNTY

WATER RESOURCES AGENCY



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CURTIS V. WEEKS
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February 8, 2007

Sent via email and fax, original to follow

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

Re: **2/20/07 BOARD MEETING (Agenda #6, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) – Consideration of Approval of Additional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grants**

Dear Ms. Farahnak:

The Monterey County Water Resources Agency and its partners, City of Soledad, Marina Coast Water District, and Castroville Water District, in PIN #10052 wish to thank the State Water Resources Control Board and staff for evaluating the funding of additional Proposition 50 IRWM Implementation grants. We also wish to recognize the great amount of work that staffs of the Water Board and Department of Water Resources have put into the Proposition 50 program.

Our previous letters and testimony at the Water Board's January 18, 2007 meeting have urged funding of additional Implementation Grant finalist applications from remaining funds in Proposition 50. The recent staff recommendation certainly moves in that direction but leaves several finalist applications only partially funded. It is our hope that Proposition 50 funds can be fully distributed to avoid further delays in moving Proposition 50 funds to water resources projects which are ready to proceed. Full distribution would also best utilize the significant local resources that have been spent by implementation grant application finalists.

Proposition 84 provides additional IRWM funding. We urge continued close relationships between staffs of the Water Board and Department of Water Resources on water related matters, especially coordination of statewide priorities and policies. State staffs have begun discussing ways to improve IRWM planning over the long haul, transcending individual grant funding opportunities like infrastructure bond issues, including seeking local input on methods by which water resources projects can be prioritized on an inter-regional basis. Central Coast water agencies from Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz have begun those discussions.

Shahla Farahnak

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The partners in PIN #10052 remain convinced that its relatively few component projects are worthy of full funding from Proposition 50, clearly meet long-standing statewide priorities, and if funded would facilitate development of broader regional priorities throughout the Central Coast.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis V. Weeks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curtis V. Weeks, General Manager
Monterey County Water Resources Agency

cc: Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources