



Joe Dion, Chair  
Ane Deister, Vice Chair

February 5, 2007

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

Ms. 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:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter. The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a joint powers authority representing the interests of over 20 water suppliers throughout the Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo County region. Integrated regional water planning is central to the RWA's mission, and we take great pride in reaching a key milestone in this region last year with the completion and adoption of the American River Basin IRWMP.

We appreciate the efforts of SWRCB and DWR staff over the past four years to establish a fair, competitive process for the disbursement of Proposition 50 (Chapter 8) grant funds. We believe that our successful grant application from the first funding cycle, along with the six other statewide recipients, is an excellent example of this fair and competitive process. We do, however, have significant concerns about the State's recently announced proposal to change its established process by eliminating the planned "Round 2" grant application process and distribute those funds to several "Round 1" applicants.

We believe the grant program should remain within the established guidelines that were previously developed and announced. The November 2004 grant program guidelines established a Planning Grant program intent on, among other things, "to assist more applicants to become eligible for Implementation Grant funding."

### **Members**

California American Water  
Carmichael Water District  
Citrus Heights Water District  
Del Paso Manor Water District  
El Dorado Irrigation District  
Fair Oaks Water District  
Folsom, City of  
Fruitridge Vista Water Company  
Golden State Water Company  
Lincoln, City of  
Orange Vale Water Company  
Placer County Water Agency  
Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
Roseville, City of  
Rio Linda / Elverta Community Water District  
Sacramento, City of  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
San Juan Water District  
West Sacramento, City of

### **Associates**

El Dorado County Water Agency  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Letter to Ms. Tracie Billington, DWR  
Ms. Shahla Farahnak, SWRCB  
February 5, 2007  
Page two of two

We understand that there have been several legitimate integrated planning processes underway throughout the state that have been scheduled for finalization consistent with State's announced schedule for Round 2. We believe that it is important for the overall credibility of the process that the State not fundamentally change the process on which all grant applicants, including RWA, have relied. A great deal of planning, with associated expenses, has been underway based on the promise of having two rounds of funding. Changing the process in this way will discourage some individual agencies from participating in integrated planning in the future. We want to be clear that we support integrated regional water planning, and we do not question the merits of the other Round 1 applications that you now propose to fund. We urge you to follow your announced process, or modify it in a way that is consistent with the process that all applicants relied on. The proposal you recently announced does not meet this test.

Please feel free to contact me directly at (916) 967-7692 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Edward D. Winkler  
Executive Director