

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1055 Monterey, Room D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408
(805) 781-5450 • FAX: (805) 781-1350



February 6, 2007

Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
State Capitol, Room 5126
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Abel Maldonado
State Capitol, Room 4082
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter Reflecting San Luis Obispo County's Opposition to the Proposed Modifications in Proposition 50 Grant Allocations

Dear Assemblyman Blakeslee/Senator Maldonado:

The purpose of this letter is to express opposition to the proposed changes in Proposition 50 grant allocations. As we understand the proposal, Round Two (2) of the Implementation Grant funding, originally intended to allocate \$220 million to local agencies, is being reduced to zero. Our agency strongly opposes such a change in allocation plans.

In last year's legislative session, the County of San Luis Obispo worked extensively to support passage of Assembly Bill 2701 (Blakeslee), approved by the State legislature on combined votes of 111-0, and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger on September 18, 2006.

AB 2701, which went into effect on January 1, 2007, provides the County of San Luis Obispo with discretionary authority to work on the development of a solution to long standing non-compliance with Resolution 83-13 of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board – a waste discharge prohibition zone within the community of Los Osos. The County has committed \$2.0 million in discretionary spending in the current budget for initial project efforts under AB 2701.

The proposed elimination of Round Two (2) of Proposition 50 Implementation grants, however, excludes the County from competing for Proposition 50 grants on behalf of Los Osos, and impairs the County's ability to address the affordability aspects of the Project, which may be the single greatest issue that has led Project opposition for over 20 years.

In addition, your attention to this letter should also note the attached ranking of the original Proposition 50 Implementation grant applications for Round One (1). The evaluation prepared by staff of the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Board clearly indicate that the Round One (1) Implementation Grant application for San Luis Obispo County outscored several other applications but was excluded from further consideration while the lower scoring applications were allowed to continue and obtain funding. From the evidence before us, the IRWM ranking criteria and funding decisions do not reflect the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) guidelines and create serious questions regarding the overall credibility of a water resource program that intended to improve collaboration and integration of numerous water resource goals and objectives. Consequently, we request that Round Two (2) of \$220 million in Implementation Grant funding is allocated based on a competitive application process as currently established in IRWM guidelines.

Respectfully,



JERRY LENTHALL
Chair, San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

c: County Board of Supervisors
Roger Briggs, CCRWQCB
Lester Snow, Director, DWR
Acting Executive Director, SWRCB
Tracie Billington, IRWM Program, DWR
Shahla Farahnak, IRWM Program, SWRCB