

Inland Empire
 UTILITIES AGENCY*
 * A Municipal Water District

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December 4, 2006

Mr. Lester Snow, Director
 California Department of Water Resources
 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1115-1
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Proposition 50, Chapter 8, 1st Funding Cycle Recommended Project List – SAWPA Addition

Dear Mr. Snow:

On November 13th, the California Department of Water Resources announced the preliminary recommended funding list of projects proposed under the first funding cycle of State Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation Grant Program. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) was not included on the list but was listed as first runner up to selection based on point scoring of the grant application. On behalf of Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the Chino Basin Watermaster as well as numerous local stakeholders throughout the Santa Ana region, **we request that funding allocated to Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation under the second funding cycle be moved to the first funding cycle to allow the SAWPA grant application to be included for funding. We believe this recommendation for increased first round funding is based on the best interests of the State and would meet the requirements to meet the funding target for Southern California.**

The SAWPA application represents the combined interests of many agencies and organizations in implementing water resource improvements for the Santa Ana Region. This region represents one of the most studied and evaluated regions for water quality and water supply in the State. It was the first region to implement a maximum benefit demonstration to protect water quality, while balancing effective water resource management through the use of a multi-agency task force approach and RWQCB involvement. It established the first truly integrated regional water management plan that secured funds for the region under the Proposition 13 Water Bond and is now used as a template for the integrated regional water management planning under Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 State Water Bonds. Under the Proposition 50 evaluation process, the SAWPA integrated plan was ranked among the top integrated plans of the 16 grant applications submitted under Step 2 implementation based on the plan ranking criteria.

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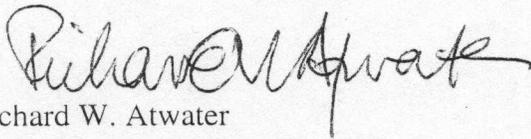
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As a stakeholder and strong supporter of the Santa Ana IRWMP and the priority projects for the region included in its Proposition 50, Chapter 8 IRMWP grant application, **we believe that it is important to support the SAWPA grant submittal for inclusion in the current recommended funding list for Round One funding.** This will leverage the grant preparation funds spent to date, to allow funds originally planned under the second funding round of Proposition 50 to move quicker into implementation. And, by expanding the first round funding list, funds can be expedited to important IRWMP project implementation, particularly in light of the Proposition 84 bond passage.

We appreciate your interest and support of this request.

Sincerely,
INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY



Richard W. Atwater
Chief Executive Officer
General Manager

c.c. Ken Manning, Chino Basin Watermaster
Don McIntyre, SAWPA