

L. Snow

CITY OF



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December 4, 2006

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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. **We support moving funding allocated to Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation under the second funding cycle to the first funding cycle to allow the SAWPA grant application to be included at this time. We believe this recommendation for increased first round funding is based on the best interests of the State and Region.**

The SAWPA application represents the combined interests of many agencies and organizations in implementing water resource improvements for the Santa Ana Region. This region is critical to the continued economic growth of the State. Implementing programs for water supply and quality is imperative to continue our State economy. To that end, SAWPA was the first region to implement a maximum benefit demonstration to protect water quality, while balancing effective water resource management through a multi-agency task force approach and Regional Water Quality Control Board involvement. It established the first truly Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) 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. Many agencies, such as ours, have coordinated with and tiered off of these regional efforts to propose and implement projects. As in our case (and that of our fellow Chino Basin agencies), many of these projects are also very highly ranked in Statewide importance and in the Proposition 50 process.

We believe that it is important to include the SAWPA grant submittal 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. 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.

In conclusion, we appreciate your interest and support of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Jeske', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kenneth L. Jeske
Director, Public Works and Community Services Agency
City of Ontario