



A Nonprofit Housing and Community Development Organization

December 5, 2006

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

Re: Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program, comments on Implementation Grant Proposal Evaluation Results

Dear Ms. Billington:

I am writing this letter to you as a companion to the one sent by Self-Help Enterprises' President Peter Carey. In this letter, I wish to address some broader issues that affect future funding from the Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program (IRWMP) in the San Joaquin Valley as a member of the Water Quality, Supply and Reliability work group of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

We understand that major funding to provide or conserve water supplies, protect and improve water quality, as well as provide flood protection to the State are all part of the IRWMP. We appreciate your agency's willingness to accept comments at this time related to the recent evaluation of Step 2 proposals under this program. However, for the San Joaquin Valley in general, we were left out of the process at the Step 1 stage.

Only one applicant from the San Joaquin Valley (the San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority) made the cut to submit a Step 2 proposal. We are happy to see that this agency's Step 2 proposal is now recommended for funding. However, we are very concerned that more funding has not been made available to fund other needy projects in the San Joaquin Valley.

For example, the Step 1 proposal evaluation results for the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District application gave that agency a score of 82 points. Though several other agencies had scores less than this, they were invited to submit Step 2 proposals, even though the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District was not. This was due to an application ranking criteria that categorized projects within "Overall Statewide Priorities Rankings".

The Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District application, as well as other unfunded San Joaquin Valley applicants, were listed in the "Low" to "Medium-Low" Statewide Ranking criteria. Other San Joaquin Valley applications not invited for Step 2 proposals



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are the City of Stockton and the Kings River Water Conservation District (which received more than 90 points in an earlier Integrated Regional Water Management planning grant application). Applications from UC Merced and the City of Shafter also did not qualify for funding.

Based on the statewide importance of the San Joaquin Valley Region as evidenced by the Governor's Executive Orders to create and retain the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, it is disturbing to see that projects in our area are considered of low statewide significance. The serious overdraft of groundwater in many areas of the valley, compounded by the upcoming loss of water resulting from the recent NRDC/USBR settlement, salinity issues, water quality issues, a tremendous growth rate, and the eventual reduction of winter snow pack storage make the San Joaquin Valley one of the most challenging areas of the country to provide an adequate source of quality water, provide flood protection and at the same time maintain and restore the environment.

Therefore, we request that a reevaluation of statewide priority ranking criteria be considered to more accurately reflect the importance of water issues of Statewide significance in the San Joaquin Valley and that this revised criteria be applied to funding decisions for future IRWMP applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Boyer".

Paul Boyer
Community Development Specialist

cc: Linda Adams, Secretary California Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Chrisman, Secretary California Resources Agency