



Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

*820 Bay Avenue, Suite 128
Capitola, California 95010*

sccrcd@sccrcd.com

*Ph: (831) 464-2950
Fx: (831) 475-3215*

September 30, 2004

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
PO BOX 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
VIA Email: tracieb@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Billington:

As you may be aware, several Santa Cruz County agencies are working together to develop an integrated regional water management plan and establish local priorities. Participating agencies include the County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County Sanitation District, Soquel Creek Water District, City of Santa Cruz, Davenport Sanitation District, Scotts Valley Water District and the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these brief comments on the draft guidelines for the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program dated August 16, 2004.

FUNDING

We suggest increasing the amount of funding available in the first funding cycle to at least \$190 million. This will split the funding more equally between the two cycles, reduce competition in the first round, and expedite implementation of more projects. An additional \$30-\$40 million in the first round might make the difference for some important projects.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

In addition to the 40-40 split, we encourage DWR to take other geographic distribution factors into consideration so that grants are spread as equitably as possible throughout northern California. It is important that coastal areas in northern California not be overlooked, as they face unique and complex water management issues.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of our local coalition.

Sincerely,

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Karen Christensen
Executive Director of Programs, Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District

Cc: Local Coalition partners:
Laura D. Brown, General Manager, Soquel Creek Water District
Rachel Lather, Senior Civil Engineer, Santa Cruz Co Sanitation District & Davenport Sanitation District
Steve Palmisano, Environmental Projects Manager, City of Watsonville
Bruce LaClergue, Water Resources Manager, County of Santa Cruz
John A. Ricker, Water Quality Program Manager, County of Santa Cruz
Rachel Fatoohi, Senior Engineer, Stormwater Management, County of Santa Cruz
John Swenson, Senior Engineer, Roads Division, County of Santa Cruz
Bill Kocher, Water Resources Manager, City of Santa Cruz
Jill Duerig, General Manager, Scotts Valley Water District