



**COUNTY OF SONOMA**  
**PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT**

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September 27, 2004

Ms Tracie Billington  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Local Assistance  
P O Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines

Dear Ms Billington:

I would like to offer comments on the August 2004 proposed guidelines for the grant program under Proposition 50, from the standpoint of a local government applicant. First, I commend you and the staff of the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board for producing readable and comprehensive guidelines. Second, there seems to be a discrepancy between the Statewide Priorities and the Eligible Proposals/Project Types categories. As you know, both these categories come into play when evaluating grants for funding. Although "Storm water capture, storage, treatment and management" is clearly called out as a project type, this category of water project seems to be absent from the list of priorities. To ensure storm water project proposals are competitive with other types of water proposals, I recommend you add the following to the list of priorities:

- Implementation of storm water management programs under Phase I and Phase II of the Clean Water Act implementing regulations.

A third comment is that there are Implementation Projects that are literally "ready to go." This includes projects that address major groundwater quality and public health issues regionally that have completed their environmental review, plans and specifications are complete and revenue and costs matching funds identified. It would be prudent that such projects identified by Regional Water Quality Control Boards be placed on a "Fast Track" to grant award, rather than a two step longer process.

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Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any questions please call Paula Stamp, Stormwater Coordinator at (707) 565-1909 or Ted Walker, Project Manager at (707) 565-8356.

Sincerely,

Pete Parkinson, AICP  
Director

c: Jim Marshall, SWRCB  
Catherine Kuhlman, Executive Officer, NCRWQCB  
Bill Winchester, NCRWQCB