

May 28, 2008

State Water Resources Control Board  
Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building  
P. O. Box 944212  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: 6/3/08 BOARD MEETING, Item 9, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
Adoption of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)  
Implementation Grant Funding List and concurrence with the Department of  
Water Resources' IRWM Implementation Grant Funding List

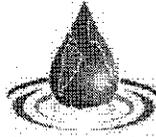
Dear State Board Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the IRWM Implementation grant funding list. The Community Water Center is a non-profit environmental justice organization based in Visalia, California, that works to ensure that all communities can have access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water. On behalf of ourselves and the many disadvantaged communities with which we work, we urge you to adopt the full recommendations of the State Board's and Department of Water Resources' staff, without any revisions. The staff has done a very creditable analysis of the grant applications and projects and made its recommendations within the guidelines of the Proposition 50 grant process.

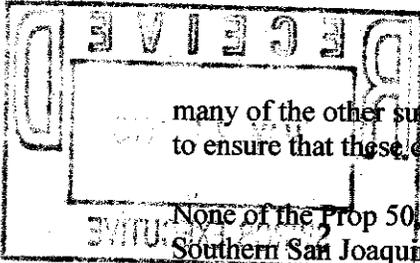
The grant application submitted by Kings River Conservation District for the Upper Kings Basin Water Forum (composed of 5 water/irrigation districts, 9 cities, 3 counties, and at least 12 interested parties) was for \$6,863,682. While the recommended award is for \$6,064,375, the project proponents will be able to complete the projects with additional local funds. To receive less than the recommended amount, completion of the projects could be at risk.

Especially important for the disadvantaged communities with which we work, is the Alta Irrigation District's Traver Groundwater Recharge and Banking Project. This project will not only improve groundwater conditions in the Traver area from the recharge of flood waters, it will provide a water supply to replace through exchange nitrate contaminated groundwater for the disadvantaged communities of Culter and Orosi, and ultimately for

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many of the other surrounding severely disadvantaged communities. This project is vital to ensure that these communities can secure sustainable supplies of safe drinking water.

None of the Prop 50, Round 1 grant funds were allocated to projects located in the Southern San Joaquin Valley. It would seem appropriate that some grant funds be allocated for projects within this area, considering in particular the fact the UKBWF grant application scored so well in the Prop 50, Round 2 grant application process.

In closing, we encourage the Board to approve the staff recommendations without change.

Sincerely,

Laurel Firestone  
Co-Executive Director and Attorney at Law