



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Public Works

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DATE: May 12, 2014

TO: Keith Wallace, Project Manager keith.wallace@water.ca.gov
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

SUBJECT: Draft 2014 Drought Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP)

We recommend the Department of Water Resources (DWR) consider and make the following changes;

1. Allow the authorization and eligibility documentation under Attachment 1 to be submitted after the submittal date. Due to the condensed time frame there is not adequate time get our Board to approve the resolution and the RWMG to approve the acknowledgement form, prior to submittal.
2. The current draft does not indicate a minimum funding amount to assist Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). DWR should utilize the same minimum funding requirement as used for previous Proposition 84 grant awards. Without this minimum standard, DACs will not be addressed in this funding cycle, as they generally do not have the funds available to prepare and submit the grant package. DACs are also the most severely impacted by the drought.
3. Table 9 – Scoring Criteria and Standards. There is not adequate points provided to projects that assist DACs. Without additional scoring preference points, DACs will not be addressed in this funding cycle, as they generally do not have the funds available to prepare and submit the grant package. DACs are also the most severely impacted by the drought.
4. Although the documentation and analysis needed in response to the PSP has been reduced, it is still quite extensive. This process needs to be further streamlined for DACs. Without a streamlined process for DACs, DACs will not be addressed in this funding cycle, as they generally do not have the funds available to prepare and submit the grant package. DACs are also the most severely impacted by the drought.

5. The funding should be appropriated by geographic areas most impacted by the drought. The drought impacts are most severe in the central valley, which has already caused fallowing of irrigated lands, increased unemployment, groundwater overdraft, and subsidence.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kheng Vang', written in dark ink.

Kheng Vang, County Engineer