

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1055 MONTEREY, ROOM D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408-1003 • 805.781.5450



*FRANK R. MECHAM, Supervisor District One*  
*BRUCE GIBSON, Supervisor District Two*  
*ADAM HILL, Supervisor District Three*  
*CAREN RAY, Supervisor District Four*  
*DEBBIE ARNOLD, Supervisor District Five*

May 15, 2014

Ms. Tracie Billington and Mr. Joe Yun  
California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
Financial Assistance Branch  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236  
[tracieb@water.ca.gov](mailto:tracieb@water.ca.gov) and [jyun@water.ca.gov](mailto:jyun@water.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT: San Luis Obispo County Region Comment on the 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Guidelines and PSP, April 2014**

Dear Ms. Billington and Mr. Yun:

In following up on coordinated comments that we submitted together with all six of the Central Coast IRWM Regions, San Luis Obispo County would like to emphasize that the required Plan update deadline of July 1, 2014 is inconsistent with Plan update deadlines previously established for those agencies that received Prop 84 Round 1 grants. Accelerating the deadline from the previously established DWR deadline only serves to reduce resources that are available to address the drought. In summary, and to state it in a positive manner, we are actively developing our drought emergency projects, and the proposal to accelerate the deadline on the Plan update has a negative impact on prioritizing emergency needs.

Our request, therefore, is for adherence to the previously established deadline for agencies that are preparing Plan updates in accordance with existing grant agreements. Our region is on a schedule to update our IRWM Plan to meet current standards in accordance with our Prop 84 Round 1 grant agreement, which includes submittal to DWR in September 2014. If your draft 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Guidelines and PSP stand as proposed, we would need to accelerate our current schedule and redirect resources to expedite our Plan update, which then negatively impact our drought response efforts.

The following provides additional background on the San Luis Obispo County region's drought response efforts.

On March 11, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a local emergency due to drought conditions in San Luis Obispo County (please see [http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Drought\\_Update.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Drought_Update.htm)) and formed a task force made up of multiple County departments to coordinate with all communities in the region on:

- drought monitoring,
- impact assessments,
- responses to emergency health and human safety, and
- public communication and outreach

One element of response is securing funding for projects to address critical water supply needs for our communities most affected by the drought, and the task force has been investigating all financing opportunities. On April 22, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors approved a \$191,373 contract for consultant services to help develop a \$12M IRWM Drought Grant application to pursue funding for five (5) emergency water supply projects. This is a significant cost for a competitive grant program; consequently, it is important to remove non-substantive eligibility requirements like the accelerated Plan update deadline so that the focus can be on getting funding and water to communities in need.

The San Luis Obispo County Region has been active and participatory in the IRWM program since its inception. We are grateful to the State Legislators and DWR staff for this funding opportunity. Please reconsider the timing for submittal of an updated IRWM Plan so that we may prioritize securing funding and implementing projects to secure drinking water for our communities that will likely soon run dry.

Sincerely,

*Bruce Gibson by PAO*

Supervisor Bruce Gibson, Chair



cc: Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian, State Capitol, PO Box 942849, Sacramento CA 94249  
Senator Bill Monning, State Capitol, Room 4066, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office, Sacramento CA 95814  
Caren Trgovcich, Chief Deputy Director, SWRCB, 1001 I Street, Sacramento CA 95814