

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County

May 15, 2014

Ms. Tracie Billington and Mr. Joe Yun
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
tracieb@water.ca.gov and jyun@water.ca.gov

Subject: Santa Cruz Region Comments on the 2014 Drought Solicitation Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package, April 2014

Dear Ms. Billington and Mr. Yun:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments regarding the 2014 Drought Solicitation Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package on behalf of the Santa Cruz IRWM Region. These comments build from comments previously provided by the Central Coast Funding Area on May 12, 2014. The Santa Cruz IRWM Region, its partner agencies and stakeholders have benefited from the IRWM program funding for a number of water resources-related projects and technical studies. It is within this context that we provide the following comments.

1. **Extend the grant preparation timeline from 30 to 60 days.** While we appreciate DWR's efforts to reduce the burden of the grant application, there remains substantial work needed to satisfy the proposal requirements. We feel that it would be in the best interest of our region and DWR to extend the preparation timeline to ensure development of the highest-quality proposal.
2. **Extend the proof of adoption due date.** Our region is currently in the process of updating our IRWM Plan. The schedule for this update took into account technical studies being carried out under a Proposition 84 IRWM Planning Grant as well as a Disadvantaged Communities Outreach Grant. These will inform our updated Plan but will not be completed in time to allow for agencies to review and adopt the updated Plan under the proposed solicitation timeline. Further, our region has an active stakeholder community and the process of adopting the Plan will be difficult to achieve on the draft PSP timeline. Extending the proof of adoption due date will not draw from the intent of expedited funding for drought relief, but will allow for the development of the highest quality plan. We suggest submittal of an IRWM Plan be required within 45 days of the grant application deadline with verification of the Plan adoption by participating agencies submitted to DWR prior to the grant award.
3. **Set a cap, remove statewide competition.** We are in strong support of allocating the \$200 million available in this solicitation on a regional basis. Absent a region-specific methodology, we request that DWR place a funding cap per funding area on the funds available through this expedited round.

Sincerely,



Tim Carson
Program Director
Regional Water Management Foundation