

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Attention: Keith Wallace

Re: Westside IRWMP Comments on 2014 Drought Grant Program Guidelines

Dear Mr. Wallace

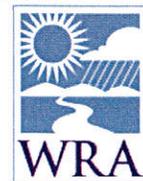
The Westside IRWMP of the Sacramento River Funding Area applauds the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for acting quickly to make funds available for the 2014 Drought Grant Program. The expedited nature of this solicitation is obviously necessary with the drought conditions still being felt statewide. That being said, the Westside IRWMP Coordinating Committee has a few comments on the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) that may make it easier for Regional Plans to apply for these funds as well as make the distribution of these funds as equitable as possible throughout the various Funding Areas.

Westside IRWMP Coordinating Committee comments:

- The allocation of a Funding area should not be capped based on the percentage of the entire allocation. Where warranted, the most compelling grant applications with the best scores and the best projects that immediately combat the most severe drought impacts for applicants in the greatest financial need should be funded.
- Both the project and overall proposal level scoring should be on a sliding scale, not all or nothing point rating
- Applicants should be given at least 45 days from the issuance of the Final PSP to submit a completed expedited grant application and all supporting documents
- Adoption timeline for Round 2 Planning Grant recipients should be clarified-it is not clear whether DWR review needs to occur before adoption. If DWR review is required before adoption then adoption schedule should be relaxed to allow for public noticing associated with public agency adoption.
- Areas with significant DAC population and/or low population density should be graded more favorably than urban areas because of limited resources for preparation of grant documents and required application materials



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- DWR staff representatives assigned to IRWM Plans or sub-regions should be consulted in the application ranking as they are most familiar with the projects and the governing IRWM groups.

Thank you for your consideration with our comments. I can be reached at (707) 455-1105 or at clee@scwa2.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Chris Lee, Chair
Westside IRWMP Coordinating Committee



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