

**YOSEMITE-MARIPOSA INTEGRATED
REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP**

P.O. Box 746, Mariposa, CA 95338
Office: (209) 966-3431 Fax: (209) 742-7508

May 12, 2014

Department of Water Resources
Keith Wallace, Project Manager
Via email: Keith.Wallace@water.ca.gov

RE: Public Comment-DWR DRAFT Drought PSP and 2014 Guidelines

Dear Mr. Wallace,

The Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) is respectfully submitting our concerns and comments to the Draft 2014 Drought PSP and Guidelines.

The Yosemite Mariposa IRWM (Y-M IRWM) is contained within Mariposa County, a small population, rural county in the central Sierra with many DAC communities and water quality and quantity challenges. The proposed DRAFT Drought PSP and 2014 Guidelines, if adopted unchanged, will potentially result in the Y-M IRWM, and other regions, being unfunded in the final round of Prop 84 DWR Implementation funding.

The Y-M IRWM is developing its Plan and currently on schedule to complete it in the last quarter of this year. However, we, along with other regions, must now accelerate the process in order to qualify for the drought funding's probable deadline in early July. This will shorten the time available for project development and selection and could result in less than the highest quality, well-developed project applications that address the state's drought needs, particularly in IRWM regions still in plan development.

With the above circumstances, the Y-M IRWM offers the following suggestions to the draft documents that will, in our estimation, provide equitable distribution of Prop 84 IRWM funds, particularly to those with the highest need.

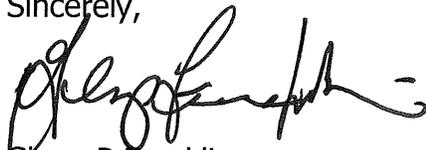
1. Evaluate applications regionally and not statewide.
2. Apply a cap on the amount each funding area receives for drought funding, so that one IRWM does not secure all of the drought funds and so that funds will remain for the final Implementation round funding, particularly those IRWM(s) still in plan development.

3. Set a regional funding cap in proportion to the remaining funding area balance, or 50%, per funding area to insure equity in distribution. All funding for a funding area should not be used in this drought round.
4. Allow at least 60 days from issuance of the final PSP to application date.
5. Projects from regional areas with significant DAC population and/or low population density should be evaluated on a different scale than areas with large populations with greater financial capacity. Additional points should be allowed for these factors to ensure equity in deliverables.

Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to DWR and particularly to the DRW representative to the Y-M IRWM, Anna Aljabiry. Without her continued assistance, support and guidance, we would not be in a position to address and meet the challenges of integrated regional water management in the Yosemite-Mariposa region.

On behalf of the Y-M IRWM and RWAC, we are available to discuss or clarify the above comments should the need arise.

Sincerely,



Glenn P Franklin

Y-M IRWM Project Director

Representative for the Yosemite-Mariposa Regional Water Advisory Council

See attached member listing

Yosemite-Mariposa Regional Water Advisory Council Members

(Y-M RWAC)

Agency/Organization (alphabetical listing)	Contact/ Alternate	Org Type	Statutory Authority Over Water	Signatory Authority
Economic Development Corporation of Mariposa County (EDC)	Barry Brouillette Candy O'Donel- Browne	Corporation	no	Roger E. Biery, President, EDC
Fish Camp Fire/Rescue Association	Donn Harter Barry Green	Non-profit corporation	no	Donn Harter, Chairman-Fish Camp Fire/Rescue Assoc.
Lake Don Pedro Community Services District (LDPCSD) <i>RWMG Member</i>	Ralph Felix Syndie Marchesiello	Community Service District	yes	Ralph Felix, General Manager- LDPCSD
Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) -Fiscal Agent <i>RWMG Member</i>	Glenn Franklin Kathleen Armstrong	Special District	no	Glenn Franklin, President- Board of Directors
Mariposa County Water Agency <i>RWMG Member</i>	Kevin Cann John Carrier	Land Use Authority	yes	Kevin Cann, Chair- Water Agency
Mariposa Pines Mutual Water Company	Carmel Lozano Tom Atkins	Mutual Water Company	yes	Thomas M. Atkins, President-Board of Directors
Mariposa Public Utility District (MPUD) <i>RWMG Member</i>	Mark Rowney Dana Finney	Special District /Public Utility	yes	Dana Finney, Chair- Board of Directors
Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government (MERG)	Len McKenzie Rosemarie Smallcombe	Environmental Stewardship, Non-Profit	no	John Brady, Chair- Board of Directors
Merced Irrigation District (MID)	Hicham Eltal Bryan Kelly	Special District	yes	John Sweigard, General Manager
Ponderosa Basin Mutual Water Company (PBMWC)	Steven Wright Ronald Terry	Mutual Water Company	yes	Steven Wright, President- Board of Directors
Sierra Foothill Conservancy (SFC)	Bridget Fithian Kristen Boysen	Land Conservancy	no	Bridget Fithian, Conservation Director
Upper Merced River Watershed Council (UMRWC) <i>RWMG Member</i>	Holly Warner Anne Steed	Environmental Stewardship, Non-Profit	no	Holly Warner, President- Board of Directors
Yosemite Alpine Community Services District (YACSD)	Karen Glendenning Barry Green	Community Service District	yes	Richard Ryon, President- Board of Directors
Yosemite Area Audubon Society (YAAS)	Bill Downey Bill Ralph	Environmental Stewardship, Non-Profit	no	Lowell Young, President- Board of Directors