

# REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

*a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County*

November 13, 2015

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL:

Keith.Wallace@water.ca.gov

California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
Financial Assistance Branch  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: 2015 IRWM Grant Solicitation Draft Funding Recommendations for Santa Cruz Region

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft funding recommendations for the 2015 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant solicitation. We appreciate DWR's time and effort in developing a comprehensive proposal solicitation package and conducting a thorough application evaluation. As you are aware, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) recommended that the Santa Cruz IRWM Region receive a partial award of 25 percent. This is the Santa Cruz Region's first award under the Implementation Grant Program funded by Proposition 84. This funding will support important projects that improve water supply reliability in our region.

We appreciate DWR's efforts within the mandated competitive grant funding framework to support IRWM Implementation efforts in regions throughout the Central Coast. While DWR's recommendation for a partial funding award of \$1,234,254 is less than we requested, the partial award provides a vital source of funding to advance high priority projects. We are cognizant that the funding needs for projects proposed across the Central Coast Funding Area greatly exceeds the IRWM grant funding available and appreciate DWR's efforts to award Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funding to support multiple regions throughout the Central Coast. On behalf of the Santa Cruz IRWM Regional Water Management Group, we strongly urge DWR to maintain its funding recommendation of 25% at a minimum.

The Central Coast Funding Area includes well functioning and effective IRWM programs. While this benefits water resources management of the Central Coast, it also makes for a competitive funding environment. This was evident on last year's 2014 IRWM Drought grant solicitation when the Santa Cruz proposal was not recommended for funding despite a score of 30 which ranked higher than 15 other regions in the state that were awarded funds. A difference of one or two points on a proposal can distinguish a successfully funded proposal from no funding at all. With each proposal submittal, we strive to be responsive to DWR's questions to merit higher scoring proposals. To help us continue this improvement and inform our future efforts we would appreciate further explanation on several questions that we felt were addressed in our 2015 proposal but were not awarded points. These include:

1. Project Level Evaluation Question 7. Is there a project map that shows the location of the project and the areas and water resources affected by the project?

Project # 2 (Bonita Hexavalent Chromium Treatment Facility) was not awarded a point. We included both a regional location map (Fig. 2-1) and a project site map (Fig. 2-3) with Attachment 2. Similar maps were provided for Projects #1 and #3 which were awarded points.

7807 Soquel Drive / Aptos, CA 95003 / 831.662.2000 / [www.rwmf.org](http://www.rwmf.org) / [www.cfsc.org/rwmf](http://www.cfsc.org/rwmf)

# REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

*a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County*

2. Project Level Evaluation Question 10. If applicable, does the applicant describe the potential adverse impacts of the project?

Project # 3 (Davenport Recycled Water Plant) was not awarded a point. This question was specifically addressed in Attachment 1, page 35 which summarized the potential adverse effects of the project including temporary construction impacts but no long-term adverse physical impacts that cannot be mitigated.

3. Project Level Evaluation Question 11. Does the proposed project effectively address long-term drought preparedness?

Project # 1 (Tait Wells Replacement) was not awarded a point. As detailed in the Attachment 2 Project Justification, the proposed rehabilitation of the Tait Wells significantly improves the City of Santa Cruz's ability to conjunctively manage surface water and groundwater allowing the City to better address supply challenges posed by long-term drought. At present, Tait Wells Nos. 2 and 3 are non-functional and wells Nos. 1 and 4 are failing. The operation of these wells is unreliable, and average annual output is roughly 25 percent of their original capacity. The proposed replacement of the Tait Well unquestionably improves the resiliency and flexibility of operating the City's water supply system. The proposed wells would reliably and sustainably produce 230MGY/706 AFY of high quality water that would benefit the City's long-term drought preparedness.

4. Project Level Evaluation Question 19. Are the costs presented in the Budget reasonable for the project type and the current stage of the project?

Project # 1 (Tait Wells Replacement) was not awarded a point. The project costs are detailed in the Attachment 4; the construction costs are based upon recent bids costs obtained by the City of Santa Cruz and are reasonably supported.

Again, we are eager to receive any feedback you have that would assist our future application efforts. We commend DWR's efforts in implementing the IRWM grant program and the state's investment in regional water management. IRWM efforts in the Santa Cruz Region have been very effective in promoting a collaborative approach to water resource management, implementing high priority water resource projects, and advancing regional self-sufficiency. We look forward to working together to implement the projects contained in the 2015 Implementation Grant application and continuing to advance IRWM efforts in the Santa Cruz region.

Sincerely,



Tim Carson  
Program Director  
Regional Water Management Foundation



Rosemary Menard  
Water Director  
City of Santa Cruz

/John Presleigh/

John Presleigh  
Director of Public Works  
County of Santa Cruz



Ron Duncan  
Interim General Manager  
Soquel Creek Water District