



April 23, 2015

Department of Water Resources
Integrated Regional Water Management Branch

E-mail: dwr_irwm@water.ca.gov

Re: Comments on Proposition 84 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Solicitation PSP

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the grant solicitation guidelines for the final round of Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation grants.

Regional Allocations of 10% for Disadvantaged Communities

We are very pleased to see that DWR plans to award a minimum of 10% of the \$231 million to projects providing direct water-related benefits to disadvantaged communities (DAC). Since five of the eleven funding areas have almost 80% of the available funding in this round, we request that DWR tentatively allocate at least 10% of available funds in each funding area to projects benefitting DACs. By doing so, DWR will maximize the number of disadvantaged community projects that can be funded around the state. Projects benefitting disadvantaged communities are most in need of grant funds and are the least likely to proceed without grant dollars. Without regional allocations for DACs, a single project in one of the five funding areas, which would directly benefit one disadvantaged community, could be awarded all \$23 million. We believe DWR's goal of awarding not less than 10% of the statewide total for projects benefitting DACs should be expanded to include as part of its goal, maximizing statewide the number of disadvantaged community projects that can proceed. This presumes that each funding area has projects benefitting DACs with strong scores, thus the "tentative" allocation for each region.

Augment funding areas with Proposition 1 funds

Funds available for award in this "final" round of Proposition 84 IRWM implementation grants, range from a low of \$4 million to over \$64 million in the 11 funding areas. Three funding areas, including ours, have less than \$5 million remaining. The Colorado River funding area has a number of excellent projects, many directly benefitting disadvantaged communities and greatly enhancing regional drought response efforts. But with only \$4.175 million remaining for the entire funding area, it is clear there is not enough money available in this round to make meaningful progress on our region's highest priority needs. We suspect this may be true in some other funding areas as well.



We understand that Proposition 1 bond funds for IRWM implementation grants are not currently planned for roll out until FY 2016-17 and later. This will delay projects ready to proceed, including those in disadvantaged communities, by a minimum of 2 years. To ensure that at least \$10 million will be available for award in each funding area, we request DWR pursue an augmentation to the budget for FY 2015-16 from Proposition 1 bond funds for those IRWM funding areas with less than \$5 million remaining in Proposition 84 IRWMP funds, so critically needed projects in those regions can be implemented without undue delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Muzik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Muzik
General Manager

