

**Joseph, Trevor M.**

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**From:** Linda Arcularius [hlarcularius@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 3:37 PM  
**To:** Joseph, Trevor M.  
**Subject:** Proposition 84 Round 1 Implementation Draft Funding Recommendations

Dear Mr. Joseph;

I am writing to express my grave concerns about the California Department of Water Resources Proposition 84 Round 1 Implementation preliminary funding recommendations. As an Inyo County Supervisor I have been actively engaged in the development of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). There has been amazing progress made from the initial efforts over three years ago. The formation of a regional organization to address water issues in Inyo and Mono counties met with much skepticism and mistrust which was to be anticipated in an area that's history is so defined by water. Through patience and a well developed public education effort, questions were answered, support was garnered and a group of dedicated and committed individuals persevered to form the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group to address the much needed water resource issues in the region. This achievement was accomplished without Planning Grant funding from the State and exemplifies and is a testimony to the dedication of this Group.

The recent announcement of the Proposition 84 Round 1 Implementation preliminary funding was not only a great disappointment for all those who have worked so hard to have an opportunity to make that first crucial step to begin to address the critical water resource needs of our area as outlined in the IRWMP but it also dealt a critical blow to the support level of many of the constituents that I represent who had believed that putting their initial skepticism and mistrust aside in order to establish the IRWMP would result in the Eastern Sierra region receiving its fair share of Proposition 84 funding. This has been a grass roots effort that self funded itself through the planning phase and then relied upon its own expertise and talent to develop worthy grant proposals only to be disadvantaged by those groups that have the ability to hire professional grant writers in the development of their applications. If this is to be the standard then the Inyo-Mono region will continue to be at a competitive disadvantage and the capacity of the diverse group of stakeholders comprised of public and private water groups, Native American tribes, non governmental groups and members of disadvantaged communities, many of which I represent, will continue to diminish. Please do not let the enthusiasm and optimism that has been such a vital part of the efforts of the IRWMP be replaced with an attitude of "no matter how hard we try" it is the "same old story". Even with the devastating news of \$0 funding, the IRWMP Group is only further motivated to try harder and make their case as to why their funding requests are worth of funding, critical to our communities, and these continued efforts are indicative of the spirit and resolve of the people of Inyo and Mono Counties. Please do not let the merit of these valuable projects be overshadowed by the professional tone of many of the projects that were funded. Those areas that were deemed insufficient can be remedied by further review and with the comments that you have received from many of the project proponents and members of the IRWMP, a greater understanding of the applications can be achieved and hopefully, a determination made, that funding can be made available in the final allocations.

Two projects that are critical to the District that I represent are Project 3, the Round Valley Joint Elementary School's Water Reliability Enhancement Project and Project 7, the CSA 2 Sewer System Upgrade Project. The Round Valley School is actually on property that was donated by my husband's great grandmother and sits on the edge of our ranch that was homesteaded in 1871. My three children graduated from this California Distinguished School and currently our granddaughter attends this amazing school. This project, although small in scope, is huge in need, a reliable water source for school children!! The CSA 2 project is an opportunity for this small community to upgrade its sewer system that is parallel to Bishop Creek, a major tributary to the Owens River, the direct water source that provides on average of over 300,000 acre feet of water to the City of

Los Angeles annually!!). As an elected official in Inyo County, these two projects along with the other projects submitted on behalf of Inyo County residents countywide, are critical to the people that I represent as a Supervisor and to the long term water supply, water quality and ecosystem health needs of this vast, extremely rural and remote part of California.

I would like to add my support to those comments already submitted by Mark Drew and Holly Alpert on behalf of the Inyo-Mono IRWMP; Dr. Bob Harrington, Inyo County Water Director; Keith Pierce, Inyo County Public Works Department; Greg James, Armagosa Conservancy; Darla Heil, Indian Water Commission; and Greg Norby, Mammoth Community Water District., These comments have gone into great detail about the projects, the criteria, the scoring and the ultimate recommendations and I would strongly encourage you to take them into careful consideration as the applications are reviewed in light of the further detail and analysis that these comments represent.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important undertaking and in recognition of the 27 signatories to the Inyo-Mono Memorandum of Understanding and the dedicated individuals that have participated in over 65 stakeholder meetings, please do not let three years of intensive work and dedication go unrecognized by providing \$0 funding to this underserved region of California. Let this be an opportunity to acknowledge grass roots efforts that rely on themselves to serve the communities that they love and to build upon the momentum that has sustained this 3 year long effort against many obstacles, challenges and distrust. The IRWMP is duly formed and extremely active and it is time to support those efforts on behalf of the many communities and the people that have waited long enough. Please contact me if you need further information.

Thank you again for considering these comments.

Linda Arcularius

Inyo County First District Supervisor

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