



A Nonprofit Housing and Community Development Organization

June 10, 2011

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Attn: Mr. Trevor Joseph

Re: Proposition 84 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendation for the Poso Creek IRWM Authority

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposition 84 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Draft Funding Recommendations. Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) strongly supports the recommendation to award \$8,215,000 to the Poso Creek IRWM Authority.

SHE is a private, nonprofit housing and community development organization and our mission is to improve the living conditions of low-income families in the San Joaquin Valley which includes the Tulare Lake Basin Region. Over the past 45 years, SHE has assisted small, disadvantaged communities develop over 100 water and wastewater projects. Such disadvantaged communities (DACs) are recognized as having chronically high rates of poverty and unemployment, with many having an urgent need for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure.

We agree with DWR staff's analysis that the Poso Creek IRWM Authority's proposal thoroughly documents the breadth and magnitude of the program preferences to be implemented including addressing the critical water supply or water quality needs of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) within the region. Included in this proposal are a DAC fund for feasibility-level studies and well destruction program, consolidation of Bishop Acres into the City of Shafter water supply system, North Shafter Sewer hook-up reimbursement fund, and a meter installation program. SHE also supports the breadth of other projects that resolve water supply needs for the overall area. We recommend that all projects selected for funding be implemented and that any reallocation of project funds would require consent by the affected community, entity, IRWMP and DWR.

We understand that DWR provided guidance at the May 31 public meeting that DAC projects must be retained and funded in proportion to the IRWMP-level funding that is recommended. We support this guidance and hope that it is understood by IRWMPs to be a firm requirement. While we are confident in Poso Creek IRWM's commitment to implement the DAC projects included in their proposal, we also perceive a potential risk to some of the smaller, more localized projects in other regions. When IRWM groups are making choices about how to

distribute limited funds, we are concerned that the small particularly severely DAC projects with more limited water supply benefits could be the low-hanging fruit that are cut or downsized from project suites. We suggest that DWR provide guidance that would limit the risk of this consequence.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Paul Boyer of my staff at 559/802-1681.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Carey', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Carey
President/CEO

Cc: Paul Oshel, Poso Creek Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Lauren Bauer, Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan