

Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

**P.O. Box 747 • 975 Teya Road
Lone Pine, CA 93545
(760) 876-1034 FAX (760) 876-8302
Web Site: www.lppsr.org**

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: Trevor Joseph

Re: Inyo-Mono IRWMG's Round 1 Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Joseph:

On behalf of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation (LPPSR), a member of the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Group (Inyo-Mono IRWMG), we are writing to express our concern over the California Department of Water Resources' decision not to fund the Inyo-Mono IRWMG's Round 1 Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Proposal. The LPPSR would like to make the following comments regarding the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant process:

- The Inyo-Mono region is largely a rural area, with many disadvantaged communities (DACs) and Tribes. For an area that is such, the effort and costs associated with preparing project proposals is often higher than is feasible. Other IRWM Groups within the same funding region simply have more resources, and accordingly, the Inyo-Mono IRWMG is always at a competitive disadvantage.
- As an Inyo-Mono IRWMG member that was unable to prepare a proposal for this round of funding in time, we feel we are an example of the lack of resources within the region. Inyo-Mono IRWMG strives to build capacity in order to help the DACs and Tribes complete proposals like these, yet without proper resources this is a very difficult task. The effort put forth for this round of funding is a clear example that all members of the IRWMG and the IRWMG staff are intimately vested in the betterment of the region.
- According to the IRWM Roundtable of Regions (RoR) survey conducted in early 2011, eighteen of twenty regions employed consultants to prepare their Implementation applications. The Inyo-Mono IRWMG members prepared their own project proposals,

and the IRWMG Program Staff helped coordinate with members' application process and prepared the final proposal to be submitted to CADWR. Again, this is an example that the Inyo-Mono IRWMG is at a clear competitive disadvantage to the other regions.

- The Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Round 1 Proposal Solicitation Package emphasized the concept of using funding for DACs. We are, however, uncertain if that has actually happened. It is unclear to us how projects beneficial to DACs were weighted more than projects from affluent regions with lots of resources.

Our desire is to respectfully urge CADWR to revise their Preliminary Round 1 Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Funding recommendations for the Inyo-Mono IRWMG. The members of the Inyo-Mono IRWMG are in a rural, disadvantaged area which is in need of funding for water projects. The projects within our Round 1 Implementation proposal addressed many serious needs within the region including updating water supply systems, updating sewage treatment facilities, creating flood plans, and creating a reliable source of potable water for schools. These are certainly worthy projects in our eyes, and this is a region that greatly needs the assistance from grants like these. Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter supplying feedback to CADWR's Preliminary Round 1 Implementation recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mel O. Joseph". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mel" and last name "Joseph" clearly legible.

Mel O. Joseph, Environmental Director
Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation

Cc: Bishop Paiute Tribe
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
Owens Valley Tribal Environmental Departments
Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group
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