

# REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

*a subsidiary of Community Foundation Santa Cruz County*

June 9, 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: Comments on Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Funding Recommendations**

Dear Mr. Joseph,

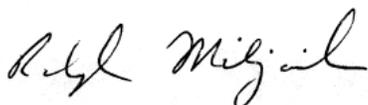
The Santa Cruz IRWM Region supports DWR's continuing efforts to fund integrated water resources projects in the Central Coast region. However, we were surprised to learn that so much of the Central Coast Funding Area allotment is now being committed in the first funding round, contrary to the information that was provided during the solicitation process. Our region and others made the decision not to submit an application in the first round based on the expectation that there would be much more available in subsequent rounds. In future grant funding rounds, we encourage DWR to adhere to its anticipated allocation schedule.

While there are numerous factors affecting an IRWM region's decision to submit a grant application, which is costly and time intensive to prepare, the potential award amount within that grant cycle is a key consideration affecting the decision. The Santa Cruz Region's decision not submit a Round 1 implementation grant application was based, in part, upon the Proposal Solicitation Package's anticipated allocation schedule which indicated \$5.77m would be available for the Central Coast Funding Area. In November 2010, the addendum to the Round 1 PSP increased the maximum grant award for an individual IRWM Region to \$11.5m. The May 2011 recommended funding awards for the Central Coast region total \$17.5m; this is 152% of the revised Funding Area target allocation (November 2010) and a threefold increase over the original anticipated allocation schedule (August 2010).

We are aware DWR faces a multitude of challenges, not the least of which is the state's budget situation, which complicate its ability to adhere to projected timelines and funding allocation schedules. Despite these challenges, we hope that DWR strives for consistency in soliciting and administering the grant program to build trust, engender confidence, and foster local partnerships.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in supporting integrated regional water management.

Sincerely,



Ralph Miljanich  
President of the Board of Directors  
Regional Water Management Foundation