

California State Senate

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SENATOR SHARON RUNNER
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

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May 9, 2011

Mr. Trevor Joseph
Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Joseph:

I am writing in support of the Antelope Valley East-Kern Water Agency's (AVEK) request for funding for development of the Water Supply Stabilization Project (WSSP-2 Project) aimed at improving water recharge and recovery operations within the Antelope Valley. Several years ago, area leaders and agencies recognized the need for regional cooperation and planning with respect to preserving water resources because water needs within the Antelope Valley are highly interconnected and require a broad and integrated approach in order to meet the future needs of the region and, ultimately, the broader interests of Southern California.

The proposed project enhances water supply reliability and flexibility through a water bank/water market that can help reduce the rate of groundwater aquifer overdraft and encourage conjunctive water use locally and inter-regionally. The project will implement a water bank as a mechanism to make water available to meet the existing water supply and ensure the reliability of future demands.

The development of the project including recharge, recovery, and recovery pipeline facilities, is an imported water stabilization program that utilizes water from the State Water Project delivered to the Antelope Valley for groundwater recharge and provides a supplemental supply required during summer peak demand and anticipated dry years. The proposed project includes additional facilities necessary for the delivery of untreated water for direct recharge (via recharge basins) and for wells and pipelines for treated water conveyance.

A total of 20 percent of the Antelope Valley—served by AVEK—is comprised of Disadvantaged Communities. The project will provide a direct benefit to several of these communities that rely on the region's common water resources. For these reasons, I support AVEK's WSSP-2 Project because it will improve water management and efficiency in the region. Implementation of the project will provide regional and local water improvements that are greatly needed.

As the Antelope Valley continues to experience growth, it becomes imperative that water agencies and local governments find innovative ways to enhance water supply reliability. Water banking is a very attractive option. I urge your utmost consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Runner".

Sharon Runner
Senator, 17th District