



*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 Upper Kings Basin 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 \$8,496,000 to the Upper Kings Basin 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 Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority's proposal includes a grouping of projects that will collectively implement multiple program preferences including effectively integrating water management programs and implementing projects that address critical water supply and water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region. Included in this proposal are relatively small but important projects for the small severely disadvantaged communities of East Oroquieta and the Jensen Drummond neighborhood. SHE also supports the breadth of other projects that resolve water supply needs for the overall area.

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 Upper Kings IRWM's commitment to implement the DAC projects included in their proposal, we 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.

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 'P. Carey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Carey  
President/CEO

cc: Eric Osterling, Upper Kings Basin IRWM Authority