



**Rancho
Water**

October 9, 2013

Mr. Keith Wallace, Project Manager
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

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**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON DRAFT PROPOSITION 84-ROUND 2
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed (USMW) Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) – comprised of the Rancho California Water District, County of Riverside, and the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District – wishes to sincerely thank the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for its recent recommendation to fully fund our USMW IRWM Implementation Round 2 Grant Proposal. This funding will allow the USMW IRWM region to implement important projects for our region. In addition, this funding round includes the support and participation in phase two of our interregional project, *Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River (SMR Nutrient Initiative Phase II)*.

As a member of the Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (Tri-County FACC), we remain committed to ongoing coordination with the San Diego and South Orange County IRWM regions. The planning and integration of water management priorities, projects, and programs across our county boundaries is critical to the long-term success of all three regions. With this in mind, we support full funding of the implementation grant proposals for both the San Diego and South Orange County IRWM regions.

In particular, we support San Diego RWMG's request that DWR consider rescoring its *San Diego IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal* as clarified in their comment letter. Funding of all three Tri-County implementation grants is critical to solving long-standing water management conflicts among the regions. In particular, as a partner in the proposed SMR Nutrient Initiative Phase II Project in the San Diego Region's proposal, Implementation Grant funding is critical to continue to this important project for the regions. To ensure this funding, we would support shifting a portion of Round 3 implementation funding (within our Tri-County MOU allocations) to San Diego's proposal, if needed and possible.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate the open process taken to funding IRWM projects.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the USMW Regional Water Management Group,