



**SAN ELIJO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

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October 9, 2013

Keith Wallace, Project Manager
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

VIA EMAIL: keith.wallace@water.ca.gov

**Re: Draft Funding Recommendations for the Proposition 84 Round 2
Implementation Grant Program**

Dear Mr. Wallace,

The San Eljo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) is a wastewater sanitation agency that serves the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach in north San Diego County. This letter serves to express SEJPA's deep concerns regarding the review and selection process of Proposition 84 Round 2 draft award. Based on what we believe was a flawed process by your Division, the San Diego Region will receive \$5 million less than the full award amount.

The SEJPA actively participates in the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program and is a member of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). The Regional Management Group and the Regional Advisory Committee worked diligently to develop a suite of projects that meet the IRWM objectives and that complied with DWR requirements. The projects were carefully selected based on their unique merits and to their ability to complement the entire package, and the group of projects received unanimous support from the RAC. It is distressing to learn that the proposed Draft award from DWR is for 50% funding to the San Diego region, especially when DWR recommends more than 100% funding to other regions.

SEJPA requests that the DWR revisit and rescore the San Diego Region application, and revise the Award amount to 100% of the requested funding based on the following facts:

1. The San Diego Region application was responsive to DWR's solicitation and contained detailed and thoughtful analysis of the benefits that would accrue from the funding.

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2. DWR Reviewers clearly misunderstood aspects of certain projects (specifically the North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project) which dramatically impacted the scoring for the overall application. Critical incorrect assumptions were made by the DWR reviewers that could have easily been avoided by a more thorough review of the application.
3. In DWR's six month review period, DWR staff never requested additional information or clarification on the San Diego Region application and did not indicate that the submittal fell short of DWR's solicitation requirements.

Furthermore, the DWR should reconsider the approach used to by DWR Staff in publishing draft findings and award amounts before each grant application is fully understood. It is important that a thorough review of the applications take place and that adequate time is available to respond to any DWR Staff questions or clarifications. In this case, a lack of understanding of these important water resource projects has resulted in an inappropriate score and a \$5 million cut in allocation to the San Diego area. This cut in funding places the projects at risk of viability and threatens more than \$30 million of local economic value that these projects represent.

I respectfully request that DRW provides the San Diego Region an opportunity to meet in person to explain its suite of projects and how, as a group, they meet the intent of the Round 2 solicitation.

Regards,

SAN ELIJO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY



Michael T. Thornton, P.E.
General Manager

cc: Assemblywoman Marie Waldron, via fax, 916-319-2175
Assemblyman Rocky Chavez, via fax, 916-319-2176
Assemblyman Brian Maienschein, via fax, 916-319-2177
Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, via fax, 916-319-2178
Assemblywoman Shirley Weber, via fax, 916-319-2179
Assemblyman Brian Jones, via fax, 916-319-2171
Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, via fax, 916-319-2180
Senator Mark Wyland, via fax, 916-446-7382
Senator Marty Block, via fax, 916-327-2188
Senator Joel Anderson, via fax, 916-651-4936
Senator Ben Hueso, via fax, 916-651-4940