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October 8, 2013

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Attn: Keith Wallace

Dear Mr. Wallace:

On behalf of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) participants in the Tulare Lake Basin Portion of Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Kern IRWMP), we wish to thank you for the recommendation for 100 percent funding of the Kern IRWMP's Round 2 Implementation Grant application. This application, submitted under the aegis of RWMG participant Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District, represents the first time the Kern IRWMP has applied for funding under the IRWM Program.

The Berrenda Mesa Water District wholeheartedly supports the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) recommendation, and strongly urges DWR to maintain the Kern IRWMP funding recommendation at its current level of 100 percent. The suite of five projects in this application, which include water use efficiency, water quality, flood management and infrastructure upgrades, as well as attendant benefits to local Disadvantaged Communities, will provide tremendous value to our region that will also accrue to the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. In fact, 60 percent of the grant will fund projects for multiple Disadvantaged Communities. A funding award of less than 100 percent will make it difficult for some agencies to implement their projects and achieve the desired benefits.

Therefore, we appreciate and support DWR's funding recommendation. The Kern IRWMP RWMG looks forward to working with DWR to implement the projects contained in our Round 2 Implementation Grant application and continuing our efforts to promote IRWM Planning in the Kern Region.

Sincerely,

Greg Hammett
Co-Manager