

Department of Water Resources
DIRWM
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

December, 23, 2010

RE: Southern Sierra IRWMP Project Reconsideration

Dear Mr. Joe Yun,

This is a request for reevaluation of the scoring of the Southern Sierra IRWMP (SSIRWMP) grant for funding. The Southern Sierra region is composed of low-income communities. The SSIRWMP process provides an opportunity for these communities to work with one another as well as agencies to address source water issues long neglected for lack of coordination and funding. The IRWMP grant application development was executed largely with in kind support from the fiscal agent staff, stakeholders, and from a small grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. None of the local agencies have any funding or staff to move this effort forward without funding from DWR.

The purpose of the IRWMP Plans is to promote regional water management projects and activities. In many regions the IRWMP is primarily needed to allow the stakeholders to apply for project Implementation funding. In this case, the focus on developing a plan which prioritized projects makes sense. In the Southern Sierra Region there are few if any resources to draft an IRWMP Implementation grant, even if there were funding to develop feasibility studies and project plans. Our best opportunity for promoting regional management will come from sharing resources and developing collaborative policies. This is why our workplan includes so much regional education and collaboration-building.

The information given to us by DWR staff during the application development process do not seem to be reflected in the scoring reviews.

The loss of the SSIRWMP will create a substantial planning void in the Tulare Lake Funding Region. No group can afford to move forward on a plan for the upper watersheds in a basin with critical water needs of statewide significance.

Sincerely,



Robert Robinson
Desert Mountain RC&D Council
Upper Kern River Watershed Coordinator

Cc: Paula Landis, DWR
Bill Hoffmann, DWR
Mark Cowen, DWR
Tracy Billington, DWR
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