



**Coordinating Committee
San Francisco Bay Area
Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**
c/o Marin Municipal Water District
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December 23, 2010

Mr. Joe Yun
Department of Water Resources
DIRWM
901 P Street, Room 213A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Yun:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the review of the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Coordinating Committee's proposal for grant funding to update the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. We appreciate the proposal by DWR staff to provide the full amount of funding requested by the Bay Area, and appreciate and support the rankings of various parts of the grant proposal.

We agree with the reviewers that the budget and workplan could be better integrated and more detail provided for the hour and cost estimates for each task. We also agree that the budget for Task 5 - Perform Salt and Nutrient Management Planning - is not adequately detailed. As part of the process of finalizing the budget and workplan, the Coordinating Committee will provide more detail on these items.

We appreciate the comments of the reviewers that the Bay Area proposal provides a high degree of certainty that the seven program preferences cited will be implemented. However, it is unclear why the Bay Area proposal failed to receive the full 10 points for this criterion. The Bay Area IRWMP describes the critical water supply and water quality issues that residents in various parts of the Bay Area face, which include the disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area, and it defines the actions that water resources management agencies are taking and will take in the future to address these issues. The proposed workplan elaborates on the process the Coordinating Committee and its constituent agencies will take to enhance outreach to organizations and individuals in disadvantaged communities to define and address specific water resources management issues in these communities. Such issues that are unique or particularly significant in Bay Area DAC communities typically include flood protection and prevention, reduction of impacts from wastewater treatment facilities and urban waterways ecosystem restoration. Critical water supply and water quality issues are common to both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area and are covered in detail in the IRWMP and the workplan tasks defined to update the Plan.

Similarly, the Bay Area IRWMP currently addresses a number of statewide priorities, including drought preparedness, water use efficiency, adaptation to climate change impacts, protecting surface water and groundwater quality, expanding environmental stewardship and practicing integrated flood management. The proposed workplan defines the process that the Bay Area Coordinating Committee will use to enhance not only these elements, but also outreach efforts to and participation by representatives of disadvantaged communities, which is another statewide priority.

The Bay Area's water resources management agencies, all of which are represented on the Coordinating Committee, conduct regular outreach activities to organizations and individuals who represent disadvantaged communities within their jurisdictions, to involve them in water resources management project planning and implementation. The extent of these activities has not been adequately defined in the IRWMP, nor in the grant proposal sections on background information and the workplan. As part of the update of the IRWMP, these ongoing activities, which provide the foundation for the additional outreach activities that are described in the workplan, will be more fully documented.

Thank you again for your positive review of our proposal. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues at DWR to conduct a thorough and high-quality update of the IRWMP.

Sincerely,



Paul Helliker
Chairman, Bay Area IRWMP Coordinating Committee