

## Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Planning Group



Ms. Tracie Billington  
California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Local Assistance  
901 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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### *Desert Chapter*

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Ms. Shahla Farahanak  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Billington and Ms. Farahanak,

The Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Planning Group was created to provide an opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) throughout the Colorado River Funding Region to coordinate and plan for needs specific to their communities. We greatly appreciate the attention and assistance the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staffs have provided.

In the meetings we have held in the past six months we have followed the evolving progress of the DAC programs under Proposition 84. We are very concerned that the delays in budget approval and legislative priorities for the IRWM programs are jeopardizing the DAC programs that had been proposed earlier this year.

We strongly support the earlier proposals from DWR and SWRCB to provide specific advanced planning funds, technical support and outreach to the disadvantaged communities throughout the State. If the State seeks true integration of DAC needs into the IRWM process, we believe that it is essential for DAC groups to have advanced planning funds to coordinate and be prepared for broader regional efforts.

We believe that our group has brought together diverse interests, valley water groups, the building community, general purpose city and county as well as tribal governments, and non-profit groups. Several of these groups are already working in the Coachella Valley to address the basic water and wastewater needs in our DAC communities. Coordinated efforts like these need to be encouraged in new guidelines and will need funding and technical assistance in order to be better represented in IRWM programs.

We appreciate the open process you have undertaken in preparing the guidelines for Proposition 84 funding and we look forward to continuing to work toward an IRWM program that integrates regions.

Sincerely,

  
Fred Bell  
Executive Director