

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Planning Group

November 20, 2007



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

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.

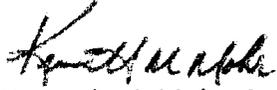
We strongly support the earlier proposals from DWR and SWRCB to provide specific advanced planning funds, technical support and outreach to the disadvantaged communities throughout the State. If the State seeks true integration of DAC needs into the IRWM process, we believe that it is essential for DAC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

Over six months of meetings we have brought together diverse interests – Coachella Valley water agencies, local building association, general purpose city, county and tribal governments, non-profit groups and community councils and worked closely with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. 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 should be encouraged in the new guidelines 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.

Several member of the group have prepared and sent or will send identical letters on their own letterhead due to scheduling issues. Completed letters are attached.

Signatures of group members follow:



Kenneth M. Mohr, Assistant CEO
County of Riverside



Glenn D. Southard City Manager
City of Indio



Arden Wallum
Mission Springs Water District



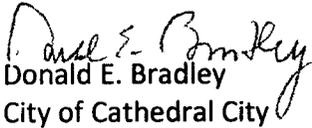
Rick Daniels
City of Desert Hot Springs



Kirby Brill
Mojave Water Agency



Warren D. Williams
Riverside County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District



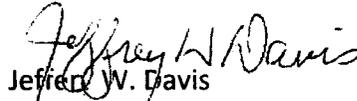
Donald E. Bradley
City of Cathedral City



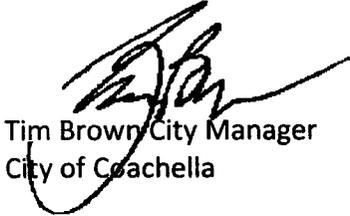
Rex Sharp
Valley Sanitary District

Cindy Nance, Ph.D.

Desert Edge Community Council



Jeffrey W. Davis
San Geronio Pass Water Agency



Tim Brown City Manager
City of Coachella



Sergio Carranza, Project Manager
Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment