



City of South Gate

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W.H. (BILL) DE WITT, Council Member
GIL HURTADO, Council Member

September 15, 2009

Lester Snow
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Email: DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov

Re: Request for Reconsideration of the RAP denial of the LA Gateway IRWM JPA Authority
(Gateway Authority)

Dear Director Snow:

The City of South Gate is surprised and very disappointed that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has preliminarily denied the Gateway Authority's status as a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). The Gateway Authority meets all of the criteria set forth in the Department's Guidelines to be approved as a RWMG, and the decision by DWR does not appear to be based on any regulatory or legislative authority. There is no substantive argument for denying the Gateway Authority's application, as evidenced by the dismissive summary given by DWR staff:

"...the rationale for forming a separate IRWM Region, exclusive of the GLAC IRWM Region, is not compelling. Therefore, DWR does not approve the Gateway Region."

The DWR's implication that there is boundary overlap within the Greater Los Angeles County group is a matter of perspective and not of sound water management. Our elected officials, as members of the board of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments, specifically mandated the formation of the Gateway Authority to address the integrated regional water planning needs of Southeast Los Angeles County. Only the Gateway Authority has the sanction of the 27 Gateway Cities. None of the cities in this region have consented to regional water management representation by any other agency or entity.

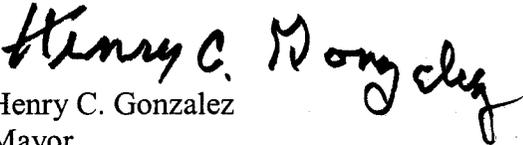
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In addition to satisfying all of the requirements of a RWMG, the Gateway Authority has a successful record of effective governance and integrated planning for regional water needs. The Gateway Authority has secured a \$10 million grant to improve water quality in the Los Angeles River and is administering a Metals TMDL monitoring and implementation plan in the San Gabriel River, funded by member agencies.

It is understood that DWR would look for reasonable evidence of a region's collaborative efforts in context with adjacent regions, i.e., how well the projects are coordinated, the degree of integration, and the development of a vision. As a Member City of this entity, I believe that the application submitted by the Gateway Authority clearly demonstrates our ability to get things done, and also meets the goals of the State of California.

To equitably address regional water needs, it is critical that the Gateway Region maintain strong local leadership in water management issues. The City of South Gate requests that you reconsider and reverse the preliminary decision to deny the Gateway Authority's RWMG status consistent with the intent and purpose of IRWM legislation, and acknowledge the qualifications of the Gateway Authority as a Regional Water Management Group.

Sincerely,


Henry C. Gonzalez
Mayor

Cc: South Gate City Council
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
State Senator Alan Lowenthal
State Senator Ron Calderon
Assembly Member Hector De La Torre