

# Ventura County Watershed Protection District



PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY  
JEFF PRATT  
Agency Director

October 2, 2015

California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
Financial Assistance Branch  
Attn: Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

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**SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON COUNTIES WITH STRESSED  
BASINS GRANT SOLICITATION DRAFT GUIDELINES AND DRAFT  
PROPOSAL SOLICITATION PACKAGE (PSP)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Guidelines and Draft Proposal Solicitation Package for the Counties with Stressed Basins Grant Solicitation. On behalf of the County of Ventura Groundwater Program, a section within the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, I respectfully offer the following comments and suggestions for your consideration:

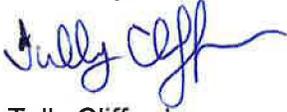
- **Local Funding Needs** – It is our understanding that the intention in the Draft Proposal Solicitation Package is to award a maximum of \$250,000.00 for the County of Ventura. If the intention of the grant is to aid stressed basins, it is our suggestion that solicitation be determined by the basin needs and have a maximum allocation by basin as opposed to the county. For example, Ventura County has 10% of the medium and high priority groundwater basins in the state. Each basin with the County of Ventura has different management challenges and needs for funding.
- **Management Structures** – As a representative of the County of Ventura, I appreciate being recognized as a critical partner in water resource management. It is important to recognize that we are not the only groundwater management entity, and other agencies such as the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) and the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) should also be eligible for funding under the Counties with Stressed Basins Grant Solicitation.
- **Timing of Funds** – It is our understanding that the solicitation for this program will occur in late October-November 2015, however the regulations for evaluating groundwater sustainability plans will not be adopted until June 1, 2016. It seems inappropriate to solicit proposals to “develop and implement groundwater plans and projects in accordance with groundwater planning requirements” as stated in § 79775, before the regulations for plans have been adopted.

We greatly appreciate the desire to offer immediate fiscal assistance to local water management entities, and appreciate your consideration of existing local needs, management structures,

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timelines, and planning efforts in order to maximize the effectiveness of state funds in meeting critical local water management needs. You may contact me by telephone at (805) 654-2040 or at [tully.clifford@ventura.org](mailto:tully.clifford@ventura.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tully Cliff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "f".

Tully Clifford  
Director