

From: Willy Cunha [<mailto:wcunha@sunviewvineyards.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 9:50 AM
To: Friend, Janiene@DWR
Cc: Willy Cunha
Subject: Prop 1 funding criteria

To Mark Cowin, Director DWR:

In regards to the funding criteria for the Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program for Counties with Stressed Basins:

A greater emphasis needs to be placed on forwarding projects that will help farmers manage their water use and their ability to manage their portion of responsibility for their basin.

We understand and concur why emphasis is placed on disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas for many programs coming from the State. As we all know the vast majority of use of our groundwater resource is by Agriculture. This use is very justifiable. Our economy and way of life is dependent upon that use. However, the future of our economy and way of life is very dependent on the wise and sustainable use of our water resources.

The successful implementation of SGMA and the ultimate success of SGMA to protect our water resource is very much dependent on getting the buy-in, cooperation and active participation of our farm community. The next few years are going to be fraught.

Programs to help the farm community to form water management districts, form or join GSA's and to write and implement GSPs should be encouraged and rewarded with grants and assistance. No other expenditure of Prop 1 Grant money will bring more positive results to disadvantaged communities or any other communities.

The very real nature of the water crises that has forced the State to reevaluate water law and practices requires very real changes on many levels on how we respond. Using Disadvantaged Community (DAC) or Economically Distress Area (EDA) criteria does not address the relevant issues.

Money should definitely be set aside and spent to insure the supply and delivery of a sustainable water resource to DAC and EDA communities/areas. Current SGMA efforts should be to create sustainable basins which in turn will allow those basins to support DAC and EDA communities/areas along with our States economy.

Thank you,

Willy Cunha
Lifelong (65 yrs.) Bleeding Heart Liberal Democrat who wants the State to get this "right"
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