



News for Immediate Release

April 3, 2014

Contacts:

Nancy Vogel, Assistant Director of Public Affairs (916) 651-7512

Nancy.Vogel@water.ca.gov

Doug Carlson, Information Officer (916) 653-5114

Paul.Carlson.@water.ca.gov

State Prepares \$200 Million for Local, Long-Term Drought Relief

SACRAMENTO—The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) today issued its draft proposal for the expenditure of \$200 million in bond funds for projects and programs that help alleviate drought conditions and improve regional drought preparedness.

To help relieve the effects of drought and to comply with direction from the Legislature, DWR has developed a streamlined, focused solicitation process and anticipates awarding grants by the fall of 2014 to local public agencies and non-profit organizations that are participating in California's 48 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning efforts.

DWR today released the draft Guidelines and the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP), kicking off a public comment period.

The approved funding was appropriated to DWR last month when Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed a \$687.4 million package of drought-response legislation.

(Visit the [California Drought](#) webpage for an update on how the state is dealing with the drought.)

The Governor and Legislature have directed DWR to expedite the solicitation and award of the \$200 million to support projects and programs that:

- Provide immediate regional drought preparedness;
- Increase local water supply reliability and the delivery of safe drinking water;
- Assist water suppliers and regions to implement conservation programs and measures that are not locally cost-effective;
- Reduce water quality conflicts or ecosystem conflicts created by the drought.

The public comment period on the draft Guidelines and the PSP will close on May 15, 2014 at 5:00 PM. DWR will host three public meetings to provide an overview of the expedited grant applications process and to solicit public comments on the draft Guidelines and PSP. The public meeting dates and locations are listed below:

May 7, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
County of Ventura, Hall of Administration
Board of Supervisors Room
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

May 9, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.
California State Building
Assembly Room 1036
2550 Mariposa Mall
Fresno, CA 93721

May 12, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.
CalEPA Building
Byron Sher Auditorium
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

This meeting will be webcast at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/broadcast/>
The Draft Guidelines and PSP and additional materials are posted at:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/implementation.cfm>.

Following public input, DWR expects to release the final Guidelines and PSP for the funding sometime in early June. The expedited schedule, per the direction from the Legislature, would allow for the announcement of awards by fall of this year.

The \$200 million in approved funding is being administered in accordance with requirements of Proposition 84, through DWR's IRWM program, which seeks to assist California's IRWM regions in carrying out planning activities that secure, protect, and manage local water supplies.

California voters passed Proposition 84 in 2006. Called the "Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of

2006,” the measure authorized \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds, which included \$1 billion for IRWM.

###

