

From: Holly Alpert  
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 3:26 PM  
To: Peters, Laura@DWR  
Subject: Water-Energy Grant Program PSP Public Comment

Dear Laura,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the new Water-Energy Grant Program Proposal Solicitation Package and Guidelines. This is an exciting new funding opportunity that we hope will make a difference in how many Californians think about using water and the energy involved in water treatment & delivery.

I am writing on behalf of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Office. We have reviewed the PSP/Guidelines and are concerned about the use of the CalEnviroScreen pollution burden mapping tool as the only way to define and identify disadvantaged communities (DACs) in this grant program. While this tool seems incredibly powerful for certain applications, it does not make sense to use the tool for the Water-Energy grant. The grant program does not seem targeted towards reducing water pollution, whereas many of the indicators in the CalEnviroScreen tool focus on exposure to such pollution. Therefore, the tool is limiting beyond what is required by the enacting legislation. Instead, we think the grant program should give preference to communities that may benefit substantially from water and energy conservation measures (such as installing water meters) but that cannot afford to implement these projects themselves. Small, rural, and/or isolated water systems likely require the most assistance in implementing such projects. It is likely that many of these communities are categorized as disadvantaged based on the current median household income definition. While this definition is also problematic, we think that it is currently the best tool available for the current grant solicitation. We urge the Department of Water Resources to reconsider the DAC definition for the purposes of the Water-Energy grant.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best,  
Holly Alpert, Ph.D.  
Program Manager

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