From: Peter Massey
To: Peters, Laura@DWR
Subject: Comments to 2014 Water Energy Grant Program PSP Draft
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 6:32:39 PM

Dear Ms. Peters:

Following are comments provided by TreePeople, a non-profit, environmental organization serving Los Angeles County. Thank you for your work in building the Water Energy Grant Program.

COMMENTS

INNOVATION:
We recommend providing a rating, perhaps within the Agreement Components, for innovative approaches to water and energy savings. The programs seems to be pointing funding toward "more of the same" projects (more cash for grass, for example), but our drought emergency could benefit from new approaches to conservation as well, if we are to be truly effective.

SYSTEMS:
In the August 25 public presentation, there was a reference to a one-per-System rule, wherein DWR is accepting only one application per System. If so, it doesn't seem clear in the PSP; perhaps it needs to be called out in the text for more for clarity. For example, does that mean "one application per System per applicant?"

Can more information be provided about a System from the standpoint of an individual water service area boundary? Are these geographic boundaries? Are there any tools or resources (such as maps) that can be referenced in the PSP to help applicants better understand this aspect of the program?

DAC:
Though it may seem radical, we recommend the following reordering for Table 3: Priority 1, 4, 2, 6, 3, 7, 5.

The current ranking (and funding process) related to Table 3 suggests that, if enough "sufficient" applications are received in Priorities 1-3, 100% of funding could go to DACs, but not necessarily programs that are best at water efficiency. The priority and spirit of the funding from SB 103 would seem to be on water efficiency, as it was part of our Emergency Drought Relief Funding. The DAC aspect would then apply to the GHG reduction funding source, requiring 10-25% benefit for DAC. The threat to our water supply is real; protecting it protects all communities.

We recommend extending the DAC top priority from 20% to 25%. We have reviewed the Cal EPA EnviroScreen 2.0 draft, and in urban areas of Los Angeles, the census tracts ranked at 20-25% are often next to and in some cases surrounded by tracts rated in the top 20% or even 10%. Extending would give flexibility to serve these areas and have the most impactful projects related to water and energy savings.

ABOUT TREEPEOPLE

Thirty years ago TreePeople created the much-emulated Citizen Forester model to transform Los Angeles County, one that empowers ordinary people to green their neighborhoods, parks and schools. Historically we've worked with volunteers to plant more than 2 million trees across LA County. At present, we annually work with 9,000 volunteers, 10,000 members and more than 200 schools.

We've moved our programs into our region's more under-served neighborhoods by creating and using culturally-sensitive techniques to address the real needs and desires of residents, and by supporting local partner organizations with expertise and resources. TreePeople has targeted areas of Los Angeles that are both environmentally and economically challenged, including low tree canopy cover, absence of open space, chronic flooding, and poor air quality. We know first-hand the challenges faced by these communities, including the significant resources required to bring about lasting change.

At the same time, TreePeople has effectively demonstrated it is technically, economically and socially feasible to change the way Los Angeles manages its water infrastructure by using a nature-based, urban watershed approach including construction and management of major demonstration projects in Los Angeles.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thanks again.

Yours,

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Help us defend our city and our trees against the drought. Give to our drought defense fund now.