City of
SACRAMENTO
Department of Utilities

July 19, 2016

Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2016 Water-Energy Grant – PSP Comments

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Department of Water Resources' 2016 Water-Energy grant program. On behalf of the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities (DOU), we were very appreciative of the addition of residential fixture replacement and the opportunities that will be created through the currently drafted program. However, we would like to request that DWR consider including one or more the following eligible project categories:

- **residential leak repairs;**
- **landscape conversion; and**
- **irrigation upgrades.**

The limited scope of eligible projects in the 2016 Water-Energy Grant Program precludes many of the critical energy improvements available in a public, institutional setting.

DOU was awarded grant funding under the 2014 Water-Energy grant program for a multi-faceted program that includes installation of water system sub-meters, leak detection, on-going leak management, DOU system repairs, and disadvantaged area community (DAC) homeowner-side repairs. Under this grant, DOU was able to design a new program to help DAC single family residential homeowners with leak detection, leak repairs and/or fixture replacement. The homeowner repair program is entitled "Leak-Free Sacramento" and provides single family homeowners with funding that aides with their leak repairs to sustain and integrate water, energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in DACs helping the City of Sacramento's economy and environment while ensuring social equity.

Adding residential leak repairs will further increase water, energy, and greenhouse gas savings per the goals of the grant and Senate Bill 101. By adding funding for leak repair, the program will decrease the financial burden on DAC residents to fix service-side leaks, and maximize the benefit to the DACs. To our knowledge "Leak-Free Sacramento" is one of only three leak detection and repair programs for residential homeowners in the United States. Through "Leak-Free Sacramento" the 18,000 homeowners that live within the DAC and meet program qualifications can receive free leak detection, leak repairs or fixture replacement services.

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Funds for the existing program (2014 grant-funded) are limited and we would like to extend the program to provide repairs and fixture replacement for more DAC customers using 2016 Water-Energy grant funding.

Additionally, DOU currently offers incentive programs for landscape conversion and irrigation upgrades that provide real reductions in water use. The City's program is entitled the "River-Friendly Landscape Rebate Program" and provides long term water savings as homeowners, apartment complexes, businesses, and institutions cut back or stop lawn irrigation when turf is replaced with low water use landscapes. Additional long term benefits include but are not limited to reduced run-off, improved water and air quality, and the reduction in the energy requirements as compared to the maintenance of a traditional lawn.

The City of Sacramento's efforts to date demonstrate the important role of water conservation through landscape conversion and irrigation upgrades. These actions offset embedded greenhouse gas emissions from fuel use in landscape maintenance equipment and energy use in water fixtures while reducing water use in a cost-effective manner.

Expanding the scope of project eligibility to include irrigation and landscape improvements would better equip eligible applicants to achieve reductions in energy and water use. The City's 2016 Climate Action Plan for Internal Operations (IO CAP) demonstrates the importance of water conservation at City facilities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In response to drought conditions, the City of Sacramento discontinued watering of ornamental turf areas in 490 acres of streetscapes maintained by the City. The IO CAP analyzes this action, showing that as a result of lower energy demand for landscape irrigation, the City is anticipated to reduce approximately 94 million gallons (MG) of water and 83,560 kilowatt hours annually, equivalent to approximately 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide ($MTCO_2e$) equivalent each year. The City similarly reduced water use in City parks by approximately 37 percent since the baseline year of 2005, with total annual reductions by 2020 anticipated at 362 MG annually, equivalent to annual savings of approximately 75 $MTCO_2e$ per year. To build on these early achievements, the City continues to seek additional funding sources to convert landscaping and transition to more efficient forms of irrigation technology.
As such, we are requesting modification of the 2016 Water-Energy grant solicitation to include residential leak repair, landscape conversion and/or irrigation upgrades. We believe that in addition to conserving water and energy with "Leak Free Sacramento" and "River Friendly Landscape Rebate Program", we will see the benefit to Sacramento residents of lowering their water bill due to a reduced amount of water loss while increasing our water and energy conservation efforts. Yet, we can only do so with grant programs such as yours.

We hope that you can see the advantage in adding any of the eligible project categories of **residential leak repairs, landscape conversion and irrigation upgrades** and thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,

Michele Gray-Samuel
Capital Finance and Grant Manger

Cc: Bill Busath, Director
Jim Peifer, Principal Engineer, PE
Julie Friedman, Environmental Services Manager
William Granger, Water Conservation Administrator

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