

CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE



April 8, 2015

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attn: Craig Cross

Subject: Water-Energy Grant Program – Public Comment

Dear Mr. Cross:

The City of Rancho Mirage was ranked #16 of 96 applications received on the Draft Funding Recommendations and although we fell just one spot short of being recommended for funding, we were assigned a Priority Rank of 6.

1. What does this Priority Rank mean, and is there any possibility we can still obtain project funding?
2. The Application Review Comments state: *"The LED lighting portions of the project do not produce water savings. The energy savings associated with the LED lighting were removed and the total project cost adjusted accordingly. As a result, the water savings per million dollars increased and the energy savings per million dollars decreased."* We chose to submit both the turf replacement and landscape lighting components of the project together as one project and we were careful to separate their energy and water benefits and not provide benefits where benefits would not apply. The purpose of the program as we outlined in the grant application is to retrofit existing inefficient landscape lighting systems with LED technology, which would result in a substantial energy savings. But the energy savings value was adjusted from 5,388,173 kWh/\$Million to 4,424,126 kWh/\$Million, roughly a 20% decrease. Could you please explain why the energy savings associated with the LED lighting was removed and why the total project cost was adjusted?
3. There are energy benefits provided by the turf replacement portion of the project (primarily due to the electricity required to pump water to irrigate lawns). However, we never claimed in our grant application that the LED lighting portion of the project will produce water savings. The Application Review Comments pointed out that *"The LED lighting portions of the project do not produce water savings."* Why were our water savings values adjusted?

We encourage you to re-evaluate our project based on the comments above and, if it ranks high enough, to please recommend it for funding approval. We do not claim DAC status but Rancho Mirage is a desert community that historically uses a lot of water to irrigate lawns and we have a substantial need for this program. We would appreciate any feedback you can provide. I can be reached at (760) 770-3224 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jeff Benson
Engineering Technician II

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