



January 12, 2017

Tracie Billington  
Department of Water Resources  
Division of Planning and Local Assistance  
PO Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE: Implementation Grant Funding for Proposition 1**

Dear Ms. Billington:

The Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) partners – including City of Coachella/Coachella Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, City of Indio/Indio Water Authority, Mission Springs Water District, and Valley Sanitary District – would like to thank the California Department of Water Resources for its transparency and openness regarding the IRWM Program and associated grant funding. This letter is intended to inform DWR of our region’s concerns regarding the proposed timing of upcoming Implementation Grant funding.

In August 2016 DWR held workshops that were open to the public for the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Involvement Solicitation and the IRWM Planning Grant. During these workshops, DWR indicated that the timing for IRWM-related Proposition 1 grants would be as follows:

- Planning Grants: December 2016-December 2018
- Implementation Grant – Round 1: January 2019 (after Planning Grant contracts are completed)
- DAC Involvement Grants: December 2016-December 2019
- Implementation Grant – Round 2: January 2020 (after DAC Involvement Grant contracts are completed)

Recently, in November 2016, we were informed by DWR that the Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Implementation Grant – Round 1 is likely to be released in the latter part of 2017,

which would likely mean that applications would be due to DWR sometime in mid- to late-2018. While the most recent timeline for the Implementation Grants is improved, in that the funding would be available sooner, our region would like to express to DWR the need to move up the timeline and release Implementation Grant funding sooner than 2018.

As you know, the Coachella Valley is currently experiencing a variety of pressing water resources issues and needs including, compliance with hexavalent chromium standards, water supply diversification efforts (including water reuse and conservation efforts), infrastructure projects to ensure safe drinking water and adequate wastewater services are provided to DACs, and a variety of groundwater-related efforts associated with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. All of these pressing issues and needs require a substantial amount of funding to address, and many require grant funding to move forward.

The CVRWMG understands that preparation of the PSPs is not an easy task, but we respectfully request that DWR release the PSPs sooner than currently proposed (preferably in early 2017) so that grant funding will be available before 2018. This request is especially important considering that the State Water Resources Control Board has allocated a large portion of its Proposition 1 funding to projects through the State Revolving Funding, and therefore there are currently fewer grant opportunities available to address pressing water resources issues and needs. DWR's Implementation Grant Program has been instrumental in providing funding to critical projects in the Coachella Valley, and our region intends to use this funding to address pressing needs in the future.

Again, the CVRWMG thanks DWR for the opportunity to provide input on the timing of Implementation Grant funding. Our region appreciates DWR's transparency, and hopes the information in this letter is useful in that it improves DWR's understanding of the dire need for IRWM Implementation Grant funding. The CVRWMG looks forward to the release of the Implementation Grant PSP and continuing to work with DWR to implement high-priority projects in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti Reyes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti Reyes on behalf of the CVRWMG  
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Coachella Valley Water District  
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