



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU, Acting Director

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May 6, 2008

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: WM-0

Mr. Lester A. Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Dear Mr. Snow:

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT

On behalf of the Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Leadership Committee, we are writing regarding the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program. Specifically, we are providing the following suggestions for consideration as your Department develops the Proposition 84 IRWM guidelines:

- Only groups and projects that are part of an adopted IRWMP should be awarded implementation funding. Without this distinct requirement, projects and organizations could receive funding without considering regional watershed needs, participating in integrated regional planning, or regarding regional priorities.
- IRWMPs should include all possible hydrologic systems in a region. The intention behind the IRWM Program is for entities within a regional watershed to conduct larger watershed planning and integration, stepping outside their traditional jurisdictional boundaries and local watersheds. Therefore, it should be a requirement for IRWMPs to capture the largest possible hydrologically connected watershed system within their planning area. Section 10541(b) of Chapter 4 of Assembly Bill 1654 states, "*The guidelines shall include standards for identifying a region for the purpose of developing an integrated regional water management plan. At a minimum, a region shall be a contiguous geographic area encompassing the service areas of multiple local agencies, and shall be defined to maximize opportunities for integration of water management activities.*" We agree with this statement and recommend that the sentence in Section 10541(b) be revised to state, "...*within the boundaries of a watershed.*"

HJB

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- During IRWM planning and project selection, IRWM groups should be required to seek input from a broad array of interests. The process of integrated planning for a regional watershed must include considerations for a variety of needs including water quality, water supply, stormwater, flood protection, groundwater, environmental, open space, and habitat restoration.

We are committed to the successful implementation of the Greater Los Angeles IRWMP. As such, it is important to us that as the IRWM Program evolves that it builds upon the strengths of the existing program and becomes an even more effective process for meeting the water resource needs of our region.

We appreciate your Department's efforts in managing the IRWM Program. We support your Department's desire to move forward with the Proposition 84 IRWM guidelines development process and look forward to participating in the next stage of the program's development.

If you have any questions regarding our suggestions, please contact Mr. Diego Cadena, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4008 or dcadena@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,



for DEAN DEFSTATHIOU
Acting Chair, Leadership Committee, Greater Los Angeles County Region

HJB:jtz

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Lari Sheehan)
Leadership Committee