

VIA US MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: <KATIE.MCNEILL@WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV>

May 1, 2014

Katie McNeill
Grants Program Coordinator
Central Coast Water Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA

SUBJECT: SAFE DRINKING WATER PROJECT PROPOSAL

Dear Ms. McNeill:

Please find attached a proposal for the Safe Drinking Water Project from the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water. The proposal is titled, *State and Local Smalls Interim Drinking Water Pilot*.

If you should have any questions, I can be reached by phone at (916) 432-EJCW(3529) or e-mail at <colin@ejcw.org>.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Colin Bailey
Executive Director
The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
P.O. Box 188911
Sacramento, CA 95818-8911
colin@ejcw.org
(916) 432-3529

cc: Kenia Acevedo (kacevedo@crla.org), Jeanette Pantoja (jpantoja@crla.org),
Horacio Amezcuita (horacioamezcuita@yahoo.com), Pearl Kan (pkana@crla.org),
Karen Nilsen (nilsenbollin@yahoo.com)

April 30, 2014

Proposal to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Safe Drinking Water Project

State and Local Smalls Interim Drinking Water Pilot

a) Indicate the party's interest in implementing the Safe Drinking Water project in the Central Coast Region and include the party's name, telephone number, mailing and email address

The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) is a statewide coalition of community-based and non-profit member organizations working on water justice issues that impact low-income communities and communities of color. EJCW was instrumental in working with allies in getting the Governor to sign AB 685 Human Right to Water into law in September 2012. EJCW's purpose is to ensure that all Californians have access to safe and affordable drinking water.

b) Provide information concerning the party's ability to perform the program service(s) required, which include the party's qualifications, geographic focus, related projects, and other pertinent information

EJCW brings nearly 15 years of experience and expertise in organizing and mobilizing low-income communities and communities of color as part of a statewide, grassroots coalition for water justice. In addition, EJCW has first-hand experience conducting outreach and providing project support and technical assistance to disadvantaged communities as a subcontractor with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for a very similar project in the Greater Monterey County IRWM Planning Region. As a result, EJCW anchors a team of consultants whose work in the Central Coast has already proved them very capable of successfully advancing the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Engagement Pilot Project (Project) for the Central Coast Region. In addition, EJCW has nearly completed a two-year contract with the Department of Water Resources, administered by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, to conduct outreach to DACs and California Indian Tribes on behalf of the Greater Monterey County IRWM Planning Region.

This year, EJCW collaborated to produce a new documentary film, called, *Thirsty for Justice: the struggle for the human right to water*, which debuts in Sacramento on May 14, 2014, and will be a central tool in educating communities about the broader context for the need for the human right to water. See: ejcw.org/thirsty.

c) Describe a preliminary list of tasks and budget to implement the Safe Drinking Water project.

Task 1: DAC and SDAC Identification in the Springfield Terrace, Las Lomas, and Spence Road areas of the Greater Salinas Valley

Timeline: June - August 2014

EJCW with its partner, the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) Salinas Valley Safe Drinking Water Project, have already identified key outreach areas for disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities around Springfield Terrace, Las Lomas, and Spence Road areas of Greater Salinas Valley who face nitrate contamination of drinking water wells. These communities tend to rely on state and local small systems, which are systems with fewer than 15 connections. Because state and local small systems are under 15 connections, these systems are not public water systems under California Health and Safety Code regulations, and therefore do not qualify for interim drinking water funds through CDPH's Prop 84 Emergency Interim Water program. We will fill this need by targeting these communities in this pilot project.

Deliverables: (1) Three stakeholder meetings; (1) individual outreach plan for each community developed

Task 2: Identification of limited resources farmers unable to provide interim safe drinking water to well users

Timeline: June - August 2014

A member of EJCW, Horacio Amezcuita from the San Jerardo Cooperative serves as a Board Member of the Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) and has been instrumental in establishing project collaboration. EJCW will specifically target alumni of ABLA's Farm Business Incubator program.

Deliverable:

Deliverables: (1) One stakeholder meeting; (2) An outreach plan for ALBA alumni

Task 3: Conduct Outreach to Identified DACs, SDACs, and Limited Resource Farmers

Timeline: August - November 2014

The State and Local Smalls Interim Drinking Water Pilot Project will conduct a series of outreach efforts to limited resource farmers and the identified communities in the Springfield Terrace, Las Lomas, and Spence Road areas with four targeted deliverables at the conclusion of outreach.

Deliverables: (1) A minimum of 12 community and participant meetings held; (2) MHI study for participating communities and low resource farmers (3) Interim solution selected for each participating community and low resource farmers; (4) Assessment of community need:

- *Documentation* of community interim water use for purposes of ensuring selection of an appropriate interim solution and gathering data for governmental stakeholder's educational purposes;

- *Long term drinking water needs assessment* will consider the community's particular situation, including surrounding local governance, to help facilitate long term drinking water solutions;
- *Updated MHI survey* for Las Lomas (split across three census tracts, two of which are DACs, one of which is not), Spence Road and other communities not yet determined to be a DAC or SDAC.

Task 5: Implement Interim Drinking Water Solutions

Timeline: November 2014 – November 2017

Once community need is established and the appropriate type of interim solution is selected for each community, based on factors evaluated through the needs assessment such as cost, convenience, and levels of contamination, EJCW will coordinate the actual implementation of provision of interim safe drinking water.

EJCW will ensure that disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities are identified in the Water Board's GeoTracker system to confirm drinking water exceedance. EJCW and partners have a database of Central Coast based bottled water and treatment system vendors as identified in CRLA's Guide to Point of Use Treatment Devices. Once a preferred interim solution is selected in each community, EJCW will subcontract with a preferred vendor.

The State and Local Smalls Interim Drinking Water Pilot envisions providing interim drinking water for up to three years per each disadvantaged / severely disadvantaged community identified. The timeframe of three years is based off of Prop 84's allotment of three years for emergency interim water. This would allow communities to explore viable long term solutions while ensuring their access to safe and affordable drinking water, pursuant to AB 685's statutory mandate.

EJCW has estimated that this Pilot will provide an interim solution for 40-100 households, serving up to 160-450 individual residents, depending on the interim option selected by each community. EJCW referenced budgets prepared by CRLA and Community Water Center for such purposes, which calculate delivered bottled water at a cost of about \$2530 per household (25 gallons a week over three years) and Point-of-Use treatment devices at roughly \$900 per household over a three year period.

Deliverable: Interim solutions implemented in at least 40 households, serving up to 160 individual residents.

| Task Number | Description of Activity to Accomplish Task | Timeline | Rate | Hours | Cost to RWB | EJCW Match |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Task 1.0 | DAC and SDAC Identification in Springfield Terrace, Las Lomas, and Spence Road areas of Greater Salinas Valley | | | | | |
| Task 1.1 | Identify and engage community stakeholders through existing drinking water collaborative efforts | 6/14-8/14 | *CRLA | 5 | \$200 | |
| | | | *EJCW | 15 | \$200 | \$850 |
| Task 1.2 | Conduct three (3) stakeholder meetings to test preliminary community boundaries and plan collaborative efforts for outreach and implementation of interim solutions | 6/14-8/14 | CRLA | 10 | \$400 | |
| | | | EJCW | 40 | \$400 | \$2400 |
| Task 2.0 | Identification of limited resource farmers unable to provide interim safe drinking water to well users | | | | | |
| Task 2.1 | Conduct meeting with ALBA representatives to plan collaborative efforts for outreach | 6/14-8/14 | EJCW | 20 | \$400 | \$1000 |
| Task 3.0 | Conduct outreach to identified DACs, SDACs, and limited resource farmers | | | | | |
| Task 3.1 | Develop education and outreach tools based on existing outreach materials; develop community needs assessment tool and MHI methodology | 8/14-9/14 | CRLA | 10 | \$400 | |
| | | | EJCW | 25 | \$400 | \$1350 |
| | | | Outreach Materials | | \$550 | |
| Task 3.2 | Conduct a series of three community workshops for a total of nine to (1) explain nitrate contamination health risk, (2) evaluate viable options for interim drinking water, (3) conduct a community needs assessment, which includes collection of household income data and other factors which will help to identify a preferred solution and vendor | 9/14-11/14 | CRLA | 50 | \$2000 | |
| | | | EJCW | 120 | \$2000 | \$6400 |
| | | | Travel within Greater Salinas Valley | | \$1000 | \$1000 |
| | | | Facility Use Fee | | \$1000 | |
| Task 3.3 | Collaborate with ALBA to conduct a series of three workshops with low resource farmers to (1) explain nitrate contamination health risks and available training for nutrient management by RCD, (2) evaluate viable options for interim drinking water, (3) identify interest in and coordinate implementation of interim solution | 9/14-11/14 | EJCW | 40 | \$800 | \$2000 |
| | | | Travel within Salinas Valley | | \$500 | |
| | | | Facility Use Fee | | \$400 | |
| Task 4.0 | Implementation of drinking water solutions and follow-up | | | | | |
| Task 4.1 | Identify and contract with preferred vendor | 11/14 | CRLA | 60 | \$2400 | |
| | | | EJCW | 10 | \$700 | |
| Task 4.3 | Conduct follow up meeting with DACs and low resource farmers who have implemented an interim solution to evaluate effectiveness | 2/15 & 6-month follow-up | CRLA | 5 | \$200 | |
| | | | EJCW | 15 | \$1050 | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|---------|
| Total Outreach and Admin | \$15000 | \$15000 |
| Total for Provision of Interim Solution (estimating 40-100 households served) | \$103,000 | |
| Total | \$118,000 | |

*CRLA hourly rate = \$40

*EJCW hourly rate = \$70

Central Coast Water Quality Control Board: SAFE DRINKING WATER PROJECT PROPOSAL

Submitting Organization:

Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES)
632 Cantrill Drive, Davis, CA 95618, www.curesworks.org
Parry Klassen; pklassen@unwiredbb.com; 559-288-8125

Background and Interest of Submitting Organization:

The Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) is well positioned to facilitate the distribution of these grant funds for replacement water to limited resource farmers and small disadvantaged communities in the greater Salinas Valley. Working with our project collaborators, we can quickly identify potential recipients and use local firms to provide prompt installation of small water treatment systems or have bottled water delivered to those who qualify for this funding. Through existing contacts in local crop production, we can develop and distribute bilingual literature for crops grown by small farmers in the region that can help guide fertilizer use and minimize potential movement of nitrates to groundwater.

As a subcontractor to the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CURES provides staff to assist in outreach and membership management), we are keenly aware of the issues surrounding high nitrates in drinking water and the need for replacement water in specific areas. Through this relationship along with our collaborators, CURES is well positioned to set up an efficient replacement water program expandable to other regions of the Central Coast.

CURES is in the final year of managing an \$8 million project funded by the State Water Board/ Proposition 84 that provides matching funds to farmers to install high efficiency irrigation systems. CURES staff manages 104 individual funding agreements where recipients (growers) commit to perform maintenance of the irrigation systems and other performance measures as a requirement for receiving the grant funds. We are proposing to take a similar approach with the occupants and/or owners of residences who receive replacement water funded by this project. Grant funds would be used to cover (for a single family residence with one well) a site assessment, installation and 2 years of monthly service (bottle water replenishment or filter maintenance). Water filtration (RO) systems must be installed by professionals with ongoing service arrangements to ensure a safe, consistent water supply. After 2 years, the owner/occupant would assume the monthly payment for bottled water or system maintenance (about \$30-50/month for a single family home). For filtration systems, ongoing service and maintenance is essential.

Our approach is to ensure that the type of replacement water is customized to each individual situation. Before an installation, proper preliminary investigation will be made before the correct filtration system or bottled water is provided to meet the resident's needs. As part of its CCGC responsibilities, CURES staff contacted water service businesses that provide treatment and replacement drinking water in the Central Coast region and created a reference list for CCGC members (<http://www.curesworks.org/nitrates>). In preparing for this proposal, we gained commitments from local firms to assist in the implementation of this project.

Should there be a lack of applicants with single well connections, the program would be expanded to wells with 2-5 rural residential connections. These systems are more costly and complex, requiring permits from Monterey County that include whole house water treatment (versus point of use with individual systems), regular sampling and filter waste management plans. Water filtration equipment is commercially available for larger systems as well.

CURES Readiness to Implement Project

- Existing CURES staffing is ready and capable to complete the work as described in the proposal. Project oversight will be performed by Parry Klassen, executive Director of CURES, the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition and the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition with more than 15 years managing agriculture research and outreach projects; Kara Stuart,

Program Manager who is also managing membership activities for CCGC and has experience in international studies; and Jorge Alvarez, manager of field services for the project who is also fluent in Spanish with extensive experience in managing agricultural relief projects in the U.S. and Afghanistan.

- CURES contacted several local replacement water service purveyors who have the capacity to provide timely system installations or bottled water delivery.
- Collaborators are committed to assisting CURES in outreach efforts to assure widespread knowledge of the Safe Drinking Water Project in both agricultural and disadvantaged communities.
- Landowner/tenant/service provider contracts for each project will be professionally executed.

Project Description:

The majority of funds for this project will be directed at the installation and maintenance of safe drinking water sources in the Greater Salinas Valley. The remaining balance will be for outreach about funding availability; facilitating selection and installation of the proper water systems or replacement sources; and the development and distribution of fertilizer best management practices information for growers who receive the funding. CURES will develop bilingual outreach materials (Budget Item 1) including press releases, flyers, application for funding, educational materials on nitrates in drinking water, and nitrogen fertilizer BMP publications. These educational materials will be distributed to all applicants.

CURES initial outreach will focus on areas of greater Salinas Valley known to have high nitrates in drinking water including the Pajaro Valley and rural residences near cities such as Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and King City. CCGC groundwater aquifer mapping of the Salinas Valley has identified areas with high nitrates in groundwater. Priority audiences will be limited resource growers and disadvantaged community members not served by municipal water systems. CURES has commitments from collaborators including the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition, Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA), Monterey County Farm Bureau, Monterey County Resource Conservation District, California Strawberry Commission, Western Growers Association and the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California. These farm groups will be an important link to not only small farmers, but local farm workers living in the region and employed by labor contractors widely used by farm operations in the greater Salinas Valley. All of these collaborators have their own communication mediums (newsletters, mailings, personal contacts) where they are willing to assist in outreach for this project. Further, ALBA has developed a contact list of 50-acre and smaller growers in the Salinas Valley that they have offered to provide us. We are also committed to working with other community groups who operate in the region.

Once a potential grant recipient is identified, CURES will work with a local commercial water treatment equipment or bottled water purveyors to evaluate, install, and maintain an interim safe drinking water supply for a single residence (Budget Item 2). Based on the domestic well test results and in-person visits to applicants recommended by CURES and approved by the Central Coast Water Board Grant Manager, the service purveyor will recommend an appropriate treatment system or bottled water delivery plan. All installed systems will also comply with Monterey County Department of Environmental Health regulations. The grant recipient (occupant and landowner) will be required to sign a contract developed by CURES with the service provider that describes the responsibilities and commitment by the recipient to maintain the system per the service purveyor's instructions. We anticipate this agreement will be for two years and detail the roles and responsibilities of each party to assure proper upkeep and use of the drinking water system (in the case of filtration). Our approach for applicant prioritization would be the following:

- Applicant with a drinking water source that is above the nitrate drinking water standard and the result submitted to Geotracker;
- Applicant is willing to sign a two-year agreement with a replacement water service provider;

- Applicant is a limited resource farmer in the greater Salinas Valley region;
- Applicant lives in a disadvantaged rural community;
- (*Applies to both above*) Households with sensitive populations (pregnant women, young children, elderly individuals).

There are several reasons for prioritizing single-family residents with one well for the project. While there are numerous programs focused on small and medium sized disadvantaged communities, no programs currently exist for individual residences. Additionally, single residences can rely on point of use filtration whereas multiple residences sharing a single well must have point of entry (whole house) water treatment. The larger volume of filtered water needed for these systems results in a much larger waste stream. Monterey County Health Department has permitting requirements for these larger volume systems for both the upkeep and waste management. While it is anticipated that this project will focus on single hook up wells, this approach will be reevaluated after the applications are received. If there is demand for a multiple hook up treatment system that meets CURES' priorities, CURES will work with the County Health Department to assure proper permitting, installation and maintenance.

For high nitrate concentrations, the most effective treatment is a Reverse Osmosis System (RO system). A Point of Use RO system consists of a set of filters, a reservoir tank, faucet, and quality monitor that can fit under a kitchen sink and feed the installed faucet. Performance and functionality of an RO system is affected by characteristics of the source water such as temperature, total dissolved solids level, pH, recovery and system pressure. These factors will be the basis for choosing the most effective filtration method. Benefits to Point of Use RO systems include effectiveness in reducing nitrates to below the drinking water standard, they produce a fraction of the effluent of Point of Entry systems and they are relatively inexpensive. Service providers offer leasing or purchasing options, and service contracts are customary. CURES' will use licensed service providers to make system recommendations and installations based on circumstances of each grant recipient.

Project Tasks

Task 1: Develop grant application, outreach materials, service contracts, applicant screening procedures. Perform outreach activities, distribute applications and nitrate information.

Task 2: Review applications, evaluate sites, submit recommendation to Water Board for approval.

Task 3: Set up and execute contracts with applicants/service providers to deliver water or install filtration; develop tracking system for invoices and contracts.

Task 4: Prepare final report covering deliverables: recipient names, well location, nitrate concentrations, actions taken, cost of actions.

CURES Experience and Qualifications

CURES was founded in 1997 to support educational efforts for agricultural and urban communities focusing on the proper and judicious use of pest control products. Since its founding, the group has focused on pesticide stewardship and research projects for agriculture and urban areas, including studies on the effectiveness of management practices to minimize movement of farm inputs and sediment into surface water. A key goal of the organization is to implement outreach and educational programs, coordinate research projects and provide information and professional expertise to users and applicators of crop protection chemicals and pest control products to enhance and protect the environment, as well as public and worker health and safety. All past and current projects are implemented by CURES staff often in partnership with organizations such as University of California, Davis; California State University, Fresno; University of Pacific and CSU Chico, among others. CURES also works with commodity groups, water quality coalitions and private companies.

Since 1997, CURES, a non-profit 501c3 organization, has managed and implemented grant

funded projects totaling more than \$13 million from sources such as State Water Resource Control Board, US EPA, CA Department of Food and Agriculture, commodity groups and private industry.

Other noteworthy projects include a State Water Board PRISM (Pesticide Research and Investigation of Source and Mitigation) program and a CDFA Specialty Block Grant. The PRISM project resulted in BMP efficiency studies for row crop practices including vegetated ditches, PAM/calcium for sediment/pesticide removal, and constructed wetlands in the Western San Joaquin Valley. The CDFA project is an ongoing study to identify the best methods for measuring nitrates as they move past the root zone in row crops and orchards. The data accumulated from the instrument trials will be used to design field specific BMP studies for nitrate management in irrigated crops.

CURES staff has the knowledge, flexibility, and reputation to take on the Safe Drinking Water Project that would facilitate installation of water sources and promote best management practices for nitrogen fertilizer use to small farmers. Through its connections and well-established relationships within the agricultural community, CURES has the ability to reach out to limited resource growers in the greater Salinas Valley. Further, with cooperation from project collaborators and local community groups, CURES will be able to promote this project to disadvantaged community members and rural residences of the Central Coast.

| Line Item Budget | | | Subtotal | % of effort |
|---|---|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Personnel Services | | | | |
| | Director | | \$5,700 | 7 |
| | Project Manager | | \$12,600 | 67 |
| | Administrative Manager | | \$3,000 | 10 |
| | Field Services Manager | | \$5,000 | 16 |
| | | | \$26,300 | |
| Travel, Operating expenses | | | \$2,000 | |
| Outreach Materials | | | \$4,200 | |
| | Printed materials/translations | \$3,800 | | |
| | SS presentations | \$- | | |
| | Website development | \$400 | | |
| Equipment/Installation/Service | | | \$85,500 | |
| Treatment Systems | | | | |
| | Installation* (water analysis included) | \$175 x 50= | \$8,750 | |
| | Service Fee* (\$40/mo. for 2 yrs.) | \$960 x 50= | \$48,000 | |
| | | Subtotal | \$56,750 | |
| Bottled Water | | | | |
| | Water Analysis* | \$135 x 25= | \$4,750 | |
| | Delivery Service* (\$40/mo. for 2 yrs.) | \$960 x 25= | \$24,000 | |
| | | Subtotal | \$28,750 | |
| Total | | | \$118,000 | |
| *Costs subject to change, based on estimations by water service providers | | | | |

See attachments for Support Letters from our collaborators:

| Attachment | Company |
|-------------------|---|
| A | Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association |
| B | California Strawberry Commission |
| C | Central Coast Groundwater Coalition |
| D | Grower Shipper Association of Central California |
| E | Monterey County Farm Bureau |
| F | Resource Conservation District of Monterey County |