APR 27 2007

May 1, 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft IRWMP Guidelines. The Tulare County Association of Governments has reviewed the Guidelines and offers the following comments:

G. Proposal Solicitation (pg. 7)
In addition of proposed projects meeting certain objectives listed, projects should try to strive to be "Blueprint" friendly, that is having a regional perspective, using watersheds as boundaries, having an energy component within the Plan (being consistent with the aspects of global warming), and incorporating as many components of the hydrologic cycle as possible into the Plan.

C. Eligible Proposals/Project Types (Pg. 8)
The more elements a Plan has in it, the higher the rating should be. An example would be an energy component that states that the irrigation pumps would be powered by solar, thereby reducing greenhouse emissions should proceed to the front of the line.

F. Grant Agreement (pg. 12)
CEQA/NEPA
As global warming is becoming a mainstay issue in California, the CEQA analysis should discuss how they are complying with the issue (i.e. solar powered irrigation pumps).

Appendix A (Pg. 14)
Table A-1 Water management Strategies
Strategies should include the use of clean fuels to power irrigation pumps etc. The category could be "Clean Energy".

Minimum Standards (Pg. 16)
Add criteria of "Clean Energy".

Table C-2 Step 1 Scoring Criteria (Pg. 21)
The guidelines should incorporate "Blueprint" strategies into the scoring criteria.

Attachment 8 Economic Analysis-Water Supply and Water Quality Benefits (Pg. 31)
The analysis should incorporate "Blueprint" strategies demonstrating public benefit.

Attachment 9 Other Public Benefits
The analysis should incorporate "Blueprint" strategies demonstrating other public Benefits.

Exhibit 3 Economic Analysis-Water Supply and Water Quality Benefits (Pg. 43)
The analysis should incorporate "Blueprint" strategies demonstrating other public

Benefits and offer incentives for those plans having previously described energy components within the Plan.

Exhibit 4 Other Expected Benefits (Pg. 53)

- Power Cost Savings and Production

Again, reward those applications using clean energy (i.e. solar) to power their needs.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Guidelines. It is very important for these water plans to look "outside the box" of just water discussion, and discuss other direct components to create a comprehensive IRWMP. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please give me a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Cochran, Senior Regional Planner
Tulare County Association of Governments