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February 8, 2007



Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair  
California State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: **Mojave Water Agency's comments for the 2/20/07 BOARD MEETING**  
**Agenda Item #6; Consideration of approval of additional Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation grants**

Dear Chair Doduc:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding consideration for approval of additional funding for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) plans throughout the great state of California.

Mojave Water Agency (MWA) is one of 29 State Water Contractors, and represents a 4,900 square mile hydrologically diverse High Desert region of San Bernardino County. The Agency has an adopted IRWM which also designed to meet the requirements for an Urban Water Management Plan and a Groundwater Management Plan. Approved in February 2005 with **significant** stakeholder endorsement, the IRWM is the cornerstone of the Agency's long-term plan to address water quality, supply and sustainability.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and constituents, we are urging the State Water Resources Control Board to approve additional funding under Proposition 50 as this funding will significantly enhance our ability to implement our IRWM and better serve our region. In reality your approval will enable important water quality and supply projects statewide to proceed without further application or delay. If the additional funding is approved these projects will play a vital role in fulfilling the vision set forth in the California Water Plan.

We strongly encourage the SWRCB to approve additional funding for IRWM plans, and provide the following justifications:

- Approval for additional funding will expedite construction of water projects, meeting the intent of Prop 50 to improve our statewide water infrastructure in a timely manner. If funding is delayed current local matching funds may not be available at a later date, the rising cost increases for raw material will reduce purchasing power, and local resources ready to implement projects today will be redistributed. Four years have passed since Prop

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50 was passed by California voters, approval of additional funding now means **MORE** projects can begin or be completed in a timely manner in a more cost-effective manner;

- By allocating an additional \$125,000,000 in Prop 50 bond funds, more than **ONE BILLION DOLLARS (\$1,119,635,000)** in local matching funds will be leveraged immediately towards statewide objective articulated in the California Water Plan;
- Prop 50 applicants, Department of Water Resources and SWRCB staff would not have to duplicate the use of resources and time applying for another round in the grant application process;
- Approval for additional funding for all Step 2 Prop 50 applicants **who have already adopted and approved IRWM plans** for them to move their projects forward. The Prop 50 application and IRWM submitted by MWA was ranked overall **#1 statewide** out of 50 applicants that competed in Step 1;
- Approval for additional funding under Prop 50 will expedite the implementation of the \$1,000,000,000 portion from the recently passed Proposition 84 Bond for IRWM.

California voters have spoken by approving bond funds through Propositions 50 & 84 for adopted IRWM plans that they support improving our water infrastructure. We now have an obligation to ensure that the funds are being used directly for projects in the IRWM plans so that the state's water quality, supply and reliability will be improved.

Again, on behalf of the Board of Directors at Mojave Water Agency and our constituents region-wide, I strongly urge you and your colleagues on the State Water Resources Control Board to approve additional Integrated Regional Water Management implementation grant funding as recommended by DWR and State Board staff at the January 23 & 31, 2007 IRWMP Grant Program Scoping Meetings (see attached recommendation in DWR's PowerPoint slides).

Your favorable consideration is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,



Jim Ventura, President  
Board of Directors

C: Lester Snow, Director, Department of Water Resources

attachment: Copy of PowerPoint slides used at January 23 and 31, 2007 Grant Program Scoping Meetings; **Particularly Slides #8 & #9**

# IRWM Grant Program Scoping Meeting

Department of Water Resources

January 23, Sacramento

January 31, Alhambra

# Scoping Meeting Agenda

- 10:00-10:30 Welcome & Update on Prop 50 IRWM Funding – John Woodling
- 10:30-11:00 Slide Presentation – Tracie Billington
- 11:00-11:30 Q & A
- 11:30-12:00 Formulating Input – Joe Yun
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (optional)
- 1:00-2:00 Reporting Input – All

# Meeting Objectives

- Present Prop 50 IRWM Implementation Grant Additional Funding Recommendations
- Present the process that DWR will use to develop the program
- Provide information funding sources
- Present initial concepts for program elements
- Gather your input on IRWM future



# Prop 50 IRWM Funding Update

# Prop 50 Implementation Grants Approved Awards

- DWR
  - Los Angeles County Flood Control District
  - Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
  - Regional Water Authority
  - San Luis and Delta Mendota Water Authority
- SWRCB
  - Humboldt County (North Coast IRWM)
  - Orange County
  - Ventura County
- All Awards \$25 million

# Prop 50 IRWM Funding Existing Awards

	DWR	SWRCB
Funds for Grants/Expenditures	\$228.8	\$228.8
Total Previous Grant Awards	-\$38.5	-\$2.1
Previous Expenditures (Comp GW)	0	-\$45.8
Approved Implementation Awards	-\$100.0	-\$75.0
Remaining Balance	\$90.3	\$105.9

Dollars in millions

# Prop 50 IRWM Funding North-South Split

	North	South
Total Previous Awards	\$31.5	\$9.1
Approved Implementation Awards	\$100.0	\$75.0
Total to Area	\$131.5	\$84.1

Dollars in millions

# Prop 50 Implementation Grants Additional Funding Recommendation

- Provide Funding to Proposals with Merit
- Responsive to Public Comments
- Leveraging Local Funds
- Recognize Efforts by Applicants & Staff
- Address North-South Imbalance

# Prop 50 Implementation Grants Southern California

- Fully Fund Remaining Proposals
- \$25 million to each of the following:
  - Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
  - Mojave Water Agency

# Prop 50 Implementation Grants Northern California

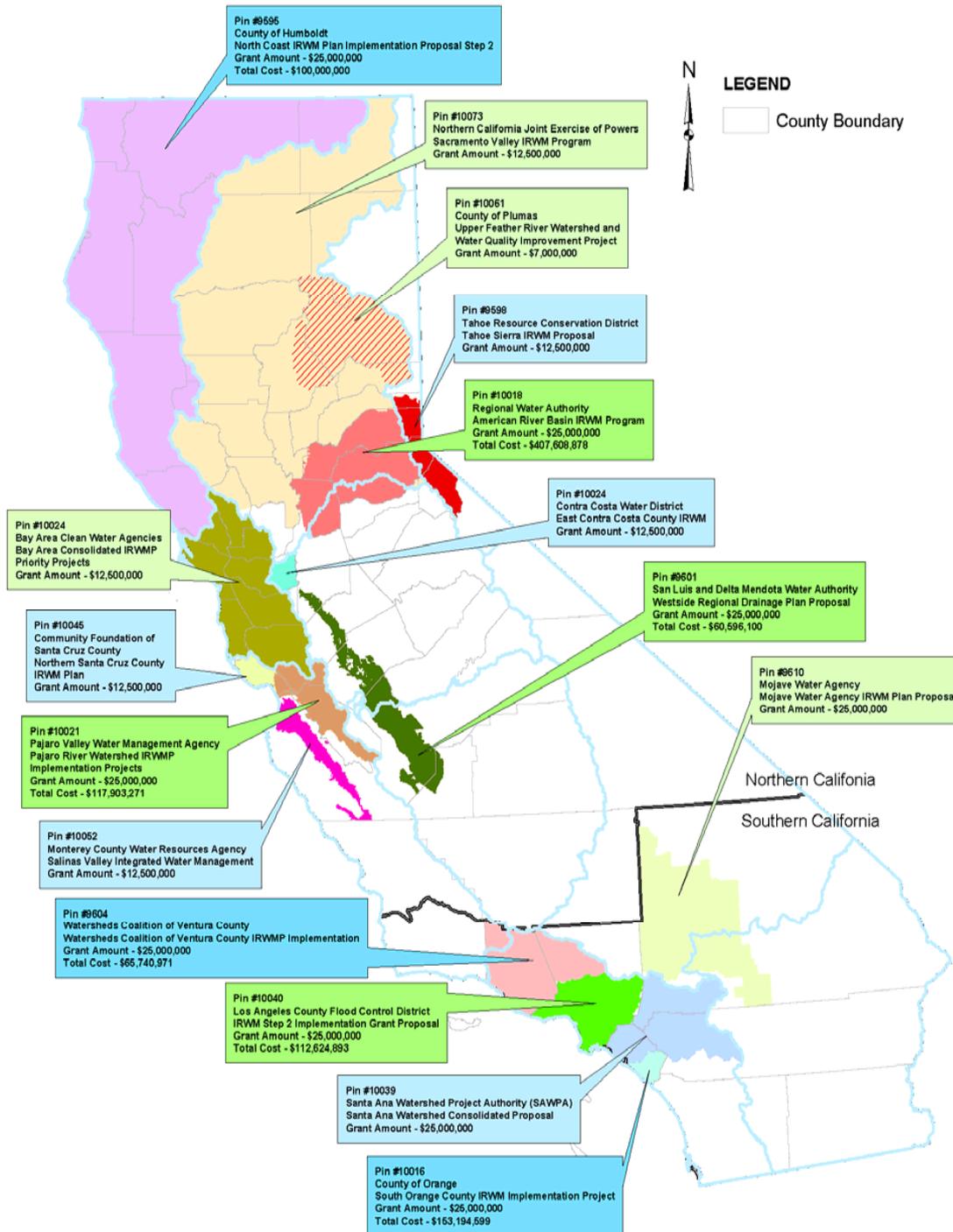
- Partially Funding Remaining Proposals
- Need to work with applicants
  - Improvements to proposals
  - Restructure due to reduced funding

# Prop 50 Implementation Grants Northern California

- \$7 million for Plumas County
- \$12.5 million for each of the following:
  - Bay Area Clean Water Agency
  - CF Santa Cruz County
  - Contra Costa WD
  - Monterey CWRA
  - Northern California JEP
  - Tahoe RCD

# Prop 50 Implementation Grants Funding Agency

- DWR
  - Bay Area Clean Water Agencies
  - Mojave Water Agency
  - Northern California JEP
  - Plumas County
- SWRCB
  - CF Santa Cruz County
  - Contra Costa WD
  - Monterey CWRA
  - SAWPA
  - Tahoe RCD



# Prop 50 IRWM Funding Revised Balances

	DWR	SWRCB
Funds Available for Grants	\$228.8	\$183.0
Total Previous Awards	-\$38.5	-\$2.1
Approved Implementation Awards	-\$100.0	-\$75.0
Additional Recommendations	-\$57.0	-\$75.0
<i>Remaining Balance</i>	<i>\$33.3</i>	<i>\$30.9</i>

Dollars in millions

# Public Comment

- Send to:  
tracieb@water.ca.gov  
sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov
- Due on February 8, 2007



# Scoping IRWM Future

# Meeting Objectives

- Present the process that DWR will use to develop the program
- Provide information funding sources
- Present initial concepts for program elements
- Gather your input on IRWM future

# IRWM Grant Program Schedule\*

Jan 07 – Scoping Meetings

Feb-Mar 07 – Funding Area Meetings

Feb-Apr 07 – DWR working with regions

June 07 – Release Draft Guidelines and PSPs

July 07 – Public Comment Period

Sept 07 – Final Guidelines and PSPs

\*Subject to change based on input received on the program.

# Comments Received

- Reduce the cost of application process
- Be consistent throughout the process
  - Avoid mid-round changes
- Clarify relationship between
  - Regional priorities
  - Statewide priorities

# Comments Received

- Re-evaluate how statewide priorities are considered in the review process
- Timelines of the process should promote collaboration not competition within a region

# Comments Received

- Improve aid to disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- Clarify implementation guidelines
  - Eligible projects
- Clarify/Refine what constitutes a region



# Proposition 84

Section 75026

# Proposition 84

- Provides funding for projects that:  
"...assists local public agencies to meet long term water needs of the state including the delivery of safe drinking water and the protection of water quality and the environment."

# Proposition 84

- \$1 Billion for IRWM
- Allocated to Geographic Areas – Not Statewide
- May be multiple IRWM Regions in a funding area
- \$100 million Interregional/Unallocated



# Proposition 84

- Allows use of existing Guidelines
- Funding match not mandated
- Defines DACs and severely DACs

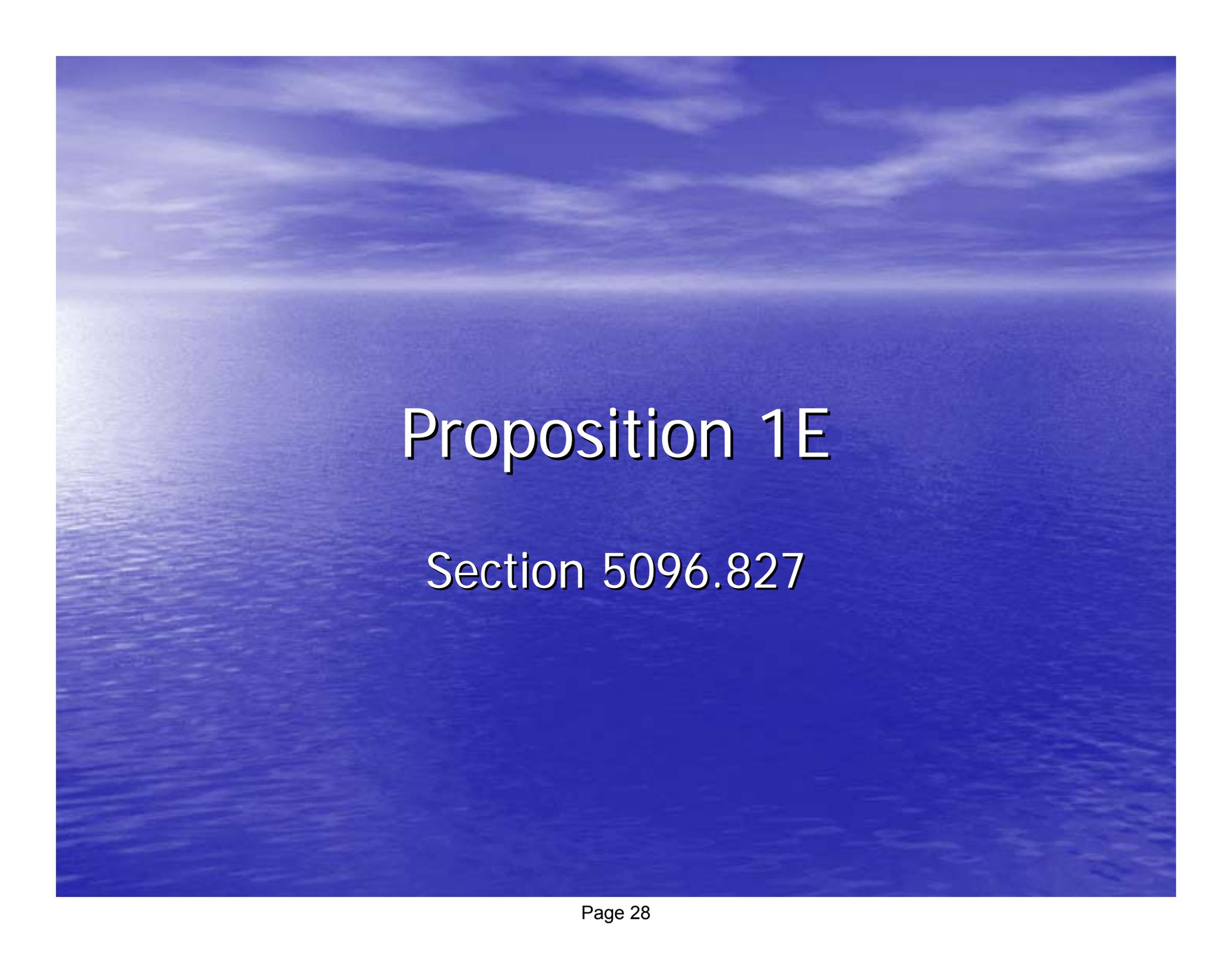
# Proposition 84

- Adds additional project element
  - Ecosystem and fisheries restoration/protect
- IRWM Plans must
  - Contain performance measures & monitoring
  - Consider Water Plan Resource Management Strategies

<http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2005/index.cfm#vol2>

# Proposition 84

- Program preferences
  - Integrate water management program & projects
  - Integrate water management with land use planning
  - Resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions
  - Attain one or more CALFED Objective
  - Address Statewide Priorities
  - Address critical water supply or water quality needs for DACs



# Proposition 1E

Section 5096.827

# Proposition 1E

- \$300 million
- Stormwater Flood Management Projects
  - Designed to manage stormwater runoff to reduce flood damage
  - Where feasible, provide other benefits, including
    - Groundwater recharge
    - Water quality improvement
    - Ecosystem restoration

# Proposition 1E

- Non-state cost share of not less than 50%
- Not part of the State Plan of Flood Control
  - Defined in Section 5096.805(j)
- Comply with applicable regional water quality control plans
- Consistent with applicable IRWM Plan



# IRWM Grant Program Concepts

# IRWM Grant Program Concepts

- Build on existing IRWM guidelines and plan standards
- Continued involvement of SWRCB/RWQCB and other agencies
- Work more collaboratively with regional efforts

# IRWM Grant Program Concepts

- Single application for multiple funding sources
  - Prop 84 IRWM Funds
  - Prop 1E Stormwater-Flood Management Funds
  - Balance of Prop 50 IRWM Funds

# IRWM Grant Program Concepts

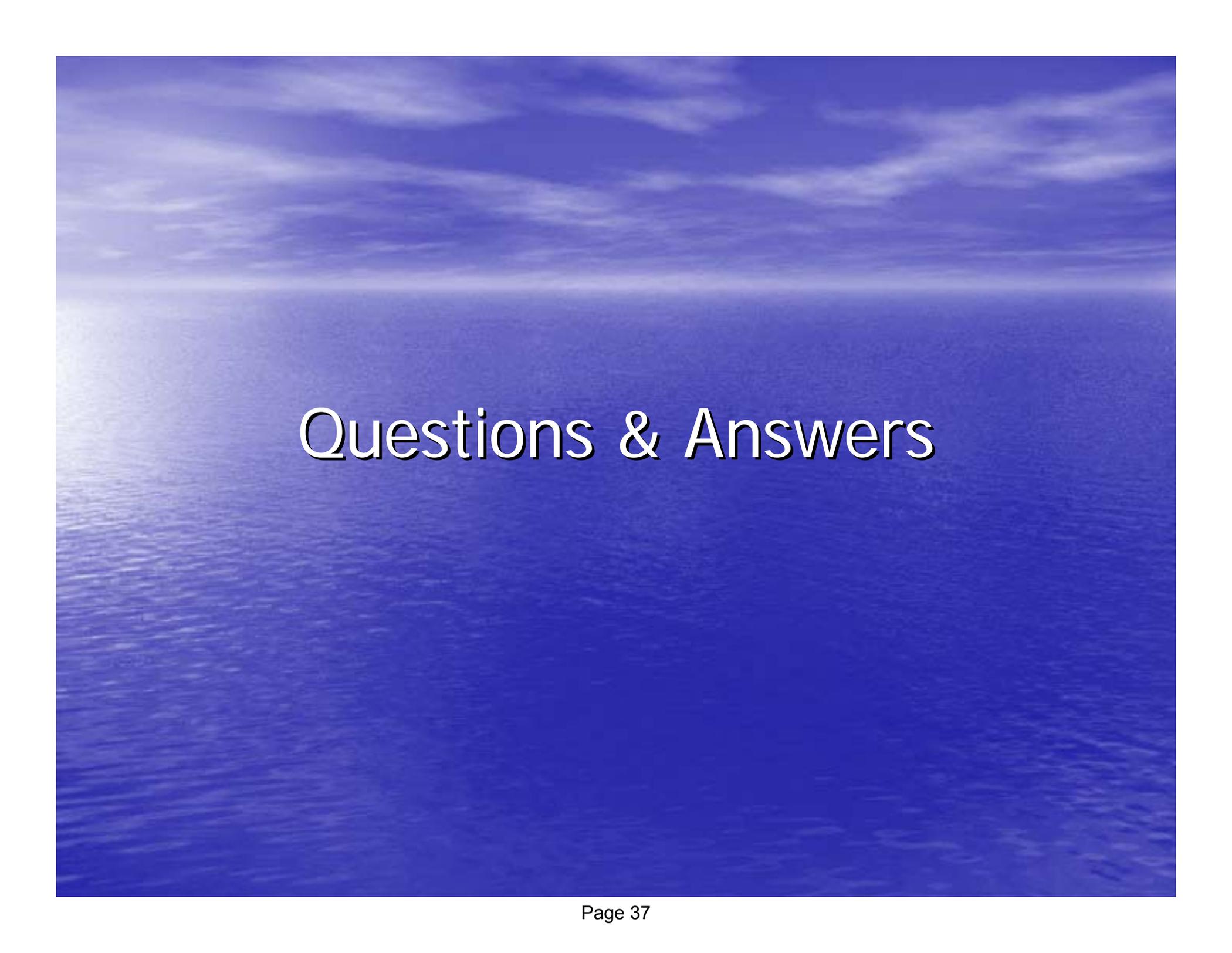
- Alternative Competition Models
  - Performance based
  - Direct Competition

# IRWM Grant Program Concepts

- Focus first on adequate planning
  - More upfront scrutiny of IRWM Plan
  - Less review of individual projects
- Use Existing Standards
  - To extent possible
  - No “significant” alterations
- Raise IRWM Plan **Minimum** Standards

# IRWM Grant Program Concepts

- Upfront Involvement with Regional Efforts
- Technical and Financial Assistance to engage DACs/SDACs the IRWM process
- Planning Grant Program
- Implementation Grants based on acceptable and adopted plans



# Questions & Answers

# Group Input:

- Performance Based or Direct Competition
- IRWM Planning Standards and Grant Program
- DAC/SDAC Assistance
- Regional Definition
- Stakeholder Involvement