

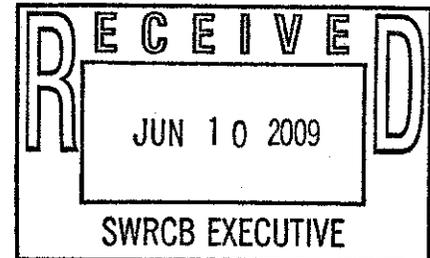
City of Pico Rivera
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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GRACIE GALLEGOS
Mayor

June 10, 2009

Ms. Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento CA 95814
Via Email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ALLOCATION OF THE ADDITIONAL 15% OF ARRA FUNDS FOR NEW EXPANDED USE PROJECTS (1B) AND PRIORITIZATION OF FUNDS FOR URBAN STORMWATER PROJECTS IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES (2C)

Dear Chair Hoppins and Members of the Board:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on changes to the implementation plan for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program recently augmented by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). On behalf of the City of Pico Rivera, I support the clarification of implementation plans because it is critical that the federal economic recovery monies fund projects that can be immediately implemented, directly benefit communities with high unemployment rates, and fulfill Water Board priorities for water and storm water quality protection.

The City of Pico Rivera is concerned about the recommendation to divide the 15% of ARRA subsidy funds between disadvantaged community wastewater and new expanded use projects. Already, \$70 million in ARRA funding is programmed to subsidize DAC wastewater projects, while there is no funding programmed for new expanded use projects, despite the fact that these projects will directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Therefore, I urge you to allocate the additional 15%, or \$42 million, for new expanded use projects (Option 1B).

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The City of Pico Rivera supports your staff recommendation to ensure funding priority for urban storm water projects serving disadvantaged communities with the earliest construction dates (Option 2C). This strategy will fulfill the intent of ARRA legislation by funding projects that are shovel-ready and that create jobs in communities suffering from high unemployment rates. Furthermore, the funding subsidy will demonstrate the Water Board's commitment to providing financial assistance to communities in meeting storm water quality requirements.

On behalf of the City of Pico Rivera commends the time and effort that Water Board staff has expended in clarifying the implementation of the federal economic recovery legislation, and I urge you to support Options 1B and 2C in your board resolution.

Sincerely,


Gracie Gallegos
Mayor

GG:ARC:lg

cc: Ms. Dorothy Rice, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Hon. Assembly Members Charles Calderon, Hector De La Torre, Warren Furutani, Curt Hagman, Isadore Hall, Bonnie Lowenthal, Tony Mendoza and John A. Perez
Hon. State Senators Ron Calderon, Gilbert Cedillo, Bob Huff, Alan Lowenthal and Roderick Wright