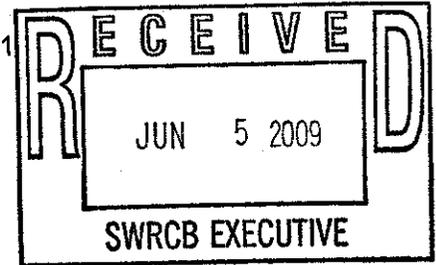


Los Angeles Gateway Region

Integrated Regional Water Management
Joint Powers Authority
11111 Brookshire Avenue, Downey, California 90241
(562) 904-2180 (ph) (562) 923-6388 (fax)



June 4, 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

Re: 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 Water 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). The Gateway Authority supports 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 stormwater quality projection.

The Gateway Authority 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, with no funding programmed for new expanded use projects, despite the fact that these projects will directly benefit disadvantaged communities. Therefore, we urge you to allocate the additional 15%, or \$42 million, for new expanded use projects (Option 1B).

The Gateway Authority supports your staff recommendation to ensure funding priority for urban stormwater 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 stormwater quality requirements.

The Gateway Authority commends the time and effort that Water Board staff has expended in clarifying the implementation of the federal economic recovery legislation, and we urge you to support Options 1B and 2C in your board resolution.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Wattier
Chair, Gateway IRWM Authority

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

Kevin Wattier
Board Chair
Long Beach Water Department

Chris Cash
Vice-Chair
City of Paramount

Desi Alvarez
Secretary-Treasurer
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Don Jenson
City of Santa Fe Springs

Charlie Honeycutt
City of Signal Hill

Joseph Serrano
Southeast Water Coalition

William DeWitt
City of South Gate

Kevin Wilson
City of Vernon

Leon Yehuda
City of Whittier

Steve Dorsey
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Annette Hubbell
Executive Officer