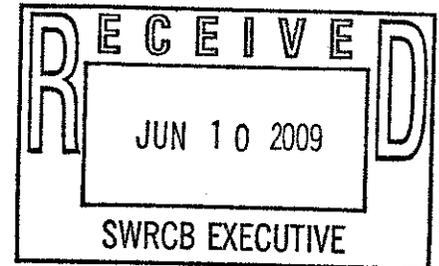


commentletters - Comment letter- ARRA subsidy

From: "Monica Reid" <monica@kestrel-inc.com>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 11:46 AM
Subject: Comment letter- ARRA subsidy
CC: "Steve Palmisano" <spalmisano@ci.watsonville.ca.us>

To: Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board



Dear Ms. Townsend,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the process and criteria for prioritizing CWSRF projects. These comments are submitted on behalf of the City of Watsonville Public Works and Utilities Department, and are focused on the criteria for selecting projects. The City of Watsonville is an economically disadvantaged community, with several projects on the PPL. More importantly, the Public Works and Utilities department has been an active participant in Integrated Regional Water Management efforts and many "expanded use" type projects in Santa Cruz County and the Pajaro Watershed. In the last decade, we have seen many funding opportunities for Expanded Use Projects come and go, and we have worked in partnership with other local agencies to capitalize on these to the best of our ability. Propositions 13, 40, 50 and 84, created grant opportunities for Expanded Use projects including non-point source pollution reduction, watershed restoration and urban urban stormwater. On the Central Coast, the State Coastal Conservancy has also supported many "expanded use"-type projects including watershed restorations and non-point source pollution reduction.

In contrast, opportunities for grants for critical water and wastewater infrastructure needs for a City of this size have been much more restricted. We suggest that the most equitable approach to prioritizing the \$42 million in question is to direct a majority of the funding to Disadvantaged Communities. The backlog of Clean Water infrastructure needs in Disadvantaged Communities is very significant. Failures of sewer systems often result in significant fines – which have potential to put these areas at even more of a disadvantage. We urge to direct a majority of funding to projects in Disadvantaged Communities.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Monica Reid

On behalf of Steve Palmisano, Water Division Manager

City of Watsonville

P.O. Box 50,000

Watsonville, CA 95077

(831) 768-3176

Monica Reid

Principal Consultant

Kestrel Consulting, Inc.

(541) 296-9592 office

(831) 277-1752 mobile

www.kestrel-inc.com