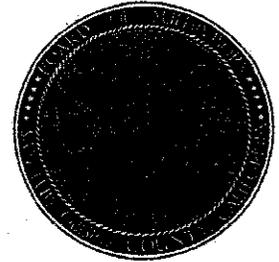


BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

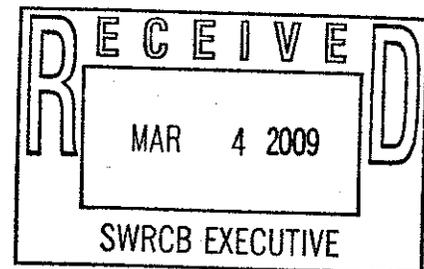


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FRANK R. MECHAM, Supervisor District One
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JAMES R. PATTERSON, Supervisor District Five

March 4, 2009

Charles Hoppin, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Subject: March 17, 2009 Proposed Amendments for the Clean Water SRF Policy – Letter of Support and Confirmation of Design Build Amendments

Dear Mr. Hoppin:

The County of San Luis Obispo submits this letter of support for the proposed guidelines to amend existing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) policies. These amendments will enhance our ability to implement design build contracting for the Los Osos Wastewater Project (LOWWP) and are therefore consistent with the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to move projects into construction.

We have reviewed the draft amendments with attention to details that specifically relate to the Los Osos Wastewater Project, for which we are planning to utilize design-build contracting. It appears that the substantive change which affects the Los Osos project is the removal of the requirement that the final Request for Proposals (RFP) be submitted to SRF program staff for approval. We support this amendment while recognizing that the RFP must nevertheless be consistent with the Facilities Plan Approval, meet the Waste Discharge Requirements, and comply with other CWSRF program requirements.

The County's current project approach is to complete the environmental review process, Facilities Planning, and design-build procurement in parallel, which is essential for the timely and effective utilization of the design-build contracting process for the Los Osos project. It is our understanding that this approach is consistent with the proposed policy amendments. The County plans to submit a Facilities Plan to your office within the next several weeks and to continue to consult with CWSRF staff during the development of the RFP. The County will also utilize a Technical Review Panel, according to the CWSRF policy guidelines. Lastly, also in accordance with CWSRF policies, the County does not intend to award design-build contracts until completion of the Approval of Award process in the CWSRF policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft policy amendment. Again, we appreciate the efforts of CWSRF staff and the amendments that enable us to work on contract procurement efforts concurrent with development of the Facilities Plan, the EIR, the Coastal Development Permit, and other on-going efforts. Please contact John Waddell, Project Engineer, at (805) 788-2713 for additional information on the details of the County's efforts on the project.

Sincerely,



BRUCE GIBSON
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

c: Christopher Stevens, CWSRF Section Chief
Dorothy Rice, Executive Director
Kyle Ochendusko, Water Resources Control Engineer