



June 26, 2009

Tracie L. Billington, P.E., Chief
Financial Assistance Branch
Department of Water Resources
Integrated Regional Water Management Division
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

RE: Region Acceptance Process Follow-up
Letter of Intent to Coordinate Across IRWM Regions

Dear Tracie:

This letter is in response to DWR's request for clarification on how our respective Regions will work together in the future with regard to management of the Cuyama Watershed located in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. In addition, the concepts addressed herein apply to the Rincon Creek Watershed which is located in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and with which only Santa Barbara County and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) are concerned.

The Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County, and WCVC IRWM Regions were each formed for the purpose of developing and implementing Integrated Regional Water Management Plans. After careful consideration of all boundary options for successful IRWM efforts, the boundaries of these three Regions are primarily delineated along county lines. The three Counties, now IRWM Regions, have been working together in this Tri-County area for a number of years to address fisheries issues, collaborate on water use efficiency projects, and resolve water quality and water rights issues. We have established and continued these collaborative efforts even though the WCVC Region lies within a different Regional Water Quality Control Board region and a different Proposition 84 funding area from the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo IRWM Regions.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide clarification about the relationship between our three IRWM Regions as it relates to the ongoing management of the shared Watersheds. We recognize that the overall health of the Watersheds and the need for effective watershed planning are important. The Cuyama Watershed is a large Watershed that spans four counties, including small areas of Kern County, and we have been working together to ensure effective future management of the Watershed. Although Rincon Creek Watershed is much smaller, similar planning and collaborative efforts have been ongoing between Santa Barbara County and WCVC.

We wish to reinforce our intent to continue working together cooperatively for the best interests of the Cuyama and Rincon Watersheds by developing watershed-based goals, priorities, programs, and projects that address critical needs within the Watersheds. Additionally we will continue to meet and identify new opportunities to work together on studies, projects, and programs that will enhance the health of the Watersheds and, in the case of the Cuyama Watershed, the underlying Cuyama Groundwater Basin. We will coordinate our respective IRWM Plans to address management of our shared resources.

Thank you again for this opportunity to clarify our intent to work together. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call any of the regional representatives named below.

Sincerely,



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