


Santa Barbara County Public Works Department
Flood Control  Water Agency

September 14, 2009

Ralph Svetich
Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0002

RE: Region No. 30, Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) Application Recommended Approval

Dear Mr. Svetich,

On behalf of all of the members of Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) of the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region, we would like to thank DWR for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft regional acceptance recommendation for approval.

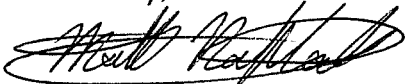
We are, of course, very happy that DWR has recommended approval of our region and also recognized that we are collaborating with our neighboring regions to the north, SLO IRWM Region and east, WVCV IRWM Region in areas of watershed and ground water basin overlap. Further, we also wanted to convey that our communication efforts include the Kern County IRWM Region. While there is no formal meeting schedule, there have been conference calls and email correspondence between the Santa Barbara, WVCV, SLO and Kern IRWM Regions, and the Santa Barbara IRWM and Kern IRWM Regions share information on the shared Cuyama Groundwater basin.

In addition to the aforementioned efforts, we would also like to point out that the Santa Barbara IRWM Region and WVCV IRWM Region engage in collaborative planning efforts with the Los Padres Forest. As significant portions of both regions are occupied by Forest Service land, there are benefits to working with the Los Padres Forest on watershed management issues and potential projects. To this end, the Santa Barbara IRWM Region and WVCV Region had one joint kick-off meeting with a representative from Los Padres, in June of 2009. Since then, at least one representative from the Los Padres Forest service has attended regular meetings in each of the respective IRWM Regions.

On the issue of the RWMG structure and updating its MOU, the RWMG has organized a Steering Committee which is comprised of members of the RWMG, in addition to members of the NGO community. The Steering Committee is currently meeting on a monthly basis and more often when necessary and appropriate. In addition, the Steering Committee is in the process of drafting vision and mission statements and has been very active in continuing to outreach to many stakeholders. We still anticipate a new MOU by January, and will keep DWR apprised of progress.

Again, we want to express our gratitude for the opportunity to comment to DWR on the recommended approval and look forward to a continued working relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Naftaly", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Naftaly, Water Agency Manager
Santa Barbara County Water Agency