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California State Senate

SENATOR
NORMA J. TORRES
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



July 16, 2013

Mr. Mark W. Cowin
Director, California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 94236
Sacramento, CA 94236

**SUBJECT: Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Program Round 2-
City of Ontario Francis St. Storm Drain and Ely Basin Flood Control and
Aquifer Recharge Project**

Dear Mr. Cowin:

As the Senator representing the 32nd State Senate District, I write in support of the City of Ontario's request for Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Program Round 2 funding. Unfortunately, the project is currently not included on the June 12, 2013 DWR Draft Funding Recommendations for the Proposition 1E Round 2 Grant program. We would like to request your assistance in reconsidering this project for funding based on the following reasons:

1. City of Ontario staff believes that the application scoring was not properly evaluated and therefore caused the project to not qualify to receive Prop. 1E funding. For example, the Work Plan, Budget, Schedule, Monitoring/Assessment/Performance Measures, and Technical Justification were not appropriately scored. City Staff prepared technical justification for increased scoring in writing by the July 15, 2013 deadline.
2. The Santa Ana Region did not receive any funding for Round 2. Overall Northern California would receive 63% and Southern California would receive 37% of the total program funding under the current proposal.
3. Two agencies (Santa Clara Valley Water District and Los Angeles County Flood Control District) received 2/3 of the available funding in Round 2. Add that amount to funding

they received in Round 1, these two agencies are receiving more than \$103 million of the available funds or more than 38% of the total program funding. If there was a more balanced distribution of funds, a greater number of agency's projects could be funded throughout the State.

In addition, our region faces severe water resources challenges. To accommodate a growing population and ensure safe, reliable water for all residents within the Inland Empire, we believe the City's program of storm runoff control together with the increased storm water capture and recharge is consistent with the Proposition 1E goals.

Therefore, I respectfully request for your assistance in reevaluating the funding ranking of this important project to the residents of the 32nd Senatorial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norma J. Torres".

NORMA J. TORRES
Senator, 32nd District

NJT:ga