



Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines Proposition 50, Chapter 8

Comments to guidelines from TreePeople, Inc.

1) Levels of integration for large regions:

Our principle comment focuses on how the grant program can support a plan for a large scale region, such as Los Angeles County, and how accommodation can be made for various levels of planning and implementation within such a large region – i.e. incorporated cities, unincorporated communities, watersheds overlays, sub-watersheds. We are concerned that if only one application per integrated plan were to cover such a large region, it would put an unwieldy burden on the lead agency and greatly limit the funding potential for effective action. This limiting factor may encourage the development of a patchwork of smaller integrated plans which we believe goes against the guidelines' intent. We would like to see an opportunity for sub-regions to apply for planning and/or implementation grants, and for them to be seen as legitimately competitive for funds if they clearly connect to the larger regional plan. The sub-regions would administer the grant, and coordinate with other grantees within the larger region. This means that the larger region and connected sub-regions could apply for funding up to the \$50million cap and potentially, individually, receive grant funding.

2) Wastewater Treatment Plants

We also seek clarification, or recommend, that inclusion of wastewater treatment plants as eligible projects must be part of an integrated plan, a priority in that plan, and not simply meet local wastewater needs.

3) Incurred Expenses

We received conflicting messages in the presentations about expenses incurred after Nov. 2002 and before the contract starts. We want to confirm that such expenses can apply as a match component, but cannot be reimbursed from grant funds?

Finally, we want to commend the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board for being very thorough and thoughtful in administering these funds. As an active advocate of water management integration for more than a decade, TreePeople is very excited by the potential benefits that this program can bring to our communities and our state.