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Mr. Walt Pettit, Director
State Water Resources Control Board
901 P. St.
P.O. BOX 100
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

November 27, 1996

Dear Mr Pettit:

As per your request at our meeting of October 28, 1996, on behalf of the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), I have prepared the following suggested application criteria and overall objectives for Proposition 204 Watershed Management programs.

The Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) were the principal advocates for this portion of Proposition 204 and actively participated in the drafting of the language. RCRC believes that emphasis must be placed on restoring watersheds in a comprehensive, multi-year manner. Most watershed professionals agree that these programs should be initiated at the top of the watersheds and progress downstream. This will, in most cases, involve the active participation of the federal land management agencies within those watersheds. RCRC is currently working with the USDA, Forest Service at local and regional levels to assure that this a collaborative, cooperative process.

RCRC also firmly believes that the intention of Proposition 204 Watershed Funds were to engage in multi-year watershed restoration efforts which examined the problems of the watersheds in a balanced multi-resource manner. Therefore, they would not be as narrowly focused as previously implemented programs under Clean Water Act provisions nor limited by

the specific regulations of that program.

RCRC is actively pursuing federal legislation to support such long term, broad based, watershed management programs as well. In addition, RCRC is a participant in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. RCRC has both a member on the Bay Delta Advisory Council and the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Round table. There will be additional federal funds available for use on watershed management programs which could be supplemental to the Proposition 204 funds. Those CALFED funds could also include CVPIA Category III monies.

RCRC looks forward to working with the SWRCB and its staff on bringing the first of the Proposition 204 Watershed Management Programs to fruition in the coming years. We are also committed to providing the SWRCB with whatever assistance you wish in making watershed management an important component of California's water future. If you have any questions on this matter please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these suggestions.

Sincerely

John S. Mills

John S. Mills

cc: Marcia Basque, Executive Director Regional Council of Rural Counties
Ken Marks, President Elect, Regional Council of Rural Counties
Michael Jackson, Esq.