

Agenda Item: 14-6D
Meeting Dates: April 13 and 14, 2005

JOINT MEETING WITH BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATUS OF THE PROPOSITION 50 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Summary: On March 18, 2005, the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board issued the Final Proposal Solicitation Packages for the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program. Four applicant workshops were held throughout California between March 22 and April 7, 2005. Planning Grant proposals are due on May 12, 2005 and Implementation Grant, Step 1 proposals are due July 14, 2005.

Recommended Action: This is an information item.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are jointly implementing the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program (Proposition 50, Chapter 8). The Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs) for the Planning Grants and Implementation Grants, Step 1 are posted on the DWR and SWRCB websites respectively at:

<http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/integregio.cfm>

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/index.html>

On January 24, 2005, DWR and SWRCB posted the Draft Planning Grant and Implementation Grant, Step 1 PSPs on the Internet for public review and comment. A public meeting to answer questions on the Draft PSPs and to accept comments was held on February 1, 2005.

The public comment period on the Draft Planning Grant and Implementation Grant, Step 1 PSPs concluded on February 9, 2005. A total of 15 comment letters (via email) were received from a range of interests – local agencies, non-profit organizations, and State agencies. Many of the “comments” were questions regarding a specific applicant or proposal. Other comments requested clarification about how a particular applicant-/project-specific issue would be evaluated. The most frequent topic pertained to the waiver or reduction of the funding match for disadvantaged communities. Both PSPs have been revised to clarify that issue and to address the concerns raised during the public comment period.

On March 18, 2005, DWR and SWRCB issued the Final PSPs. A total of four applicant workshops was held between March 22, 2005 and April 7, 2005 in Sacramento, San Luis Obispo, Riverside, and Oakland. Planning Grant PSPs are due on May 12, 2005. Implementation Grant, Step 1 PSPs are due on July 14, 2005

Background

Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, was passed by California voters in November 2002. It amended the California Water Code (CWC) to add, among other articles, Section 79560 *et seq.* authorizing the Legislature to appropriate funding for IRWM projects. The intent of the IRWM Grant Program is to encourage integrated regional water management and to provide funding, via competitive grants, for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. Approximately \$380 million is available for IRWM grants.

An Informational Report on the development of the process and timeline for the IRWM proposal solicitation package was presented to the Authority on February 11, 2004. The Authority adopted Resolution 04-10-01 recommending to the Department of Water Resources and State Water Resources Control Board that they proceed with adoption of the Guidelines for the IRWM Grant Program at the October 13, 2004 meeting. Final Guidelines for the IRWM Grant Program were adopted by DWR and SWRCB in November 2004.

The Planning Grants are intended to foster development or completion of IRWM Plans and Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plans, to enhance regional planning efforts, and to assist more applicants to become eligible for Implementation Grant funding. The Planning Grant PSP provides instructions for preparing and submitting a Planning Grant application.

The Implementation Grant program provides funding for project types that are specified in CWC Section 79561 and are consistent with an adopted IRWM Plan. The Implementation Grant program will be a two-step grant program. The Implementation Grant PSP provides instructions for preparing and submitting an Implementation Grant, Step 1 application. The Draft Implementation Grants, Step 2 PSP will be issued for public comment in June 2005.

The grant program timeframes are shown on Attachment 1.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: Proposition 50, Chapter 8
Total Amount: Approximately \$380 million is available for IRWM grants

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List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Grant Program Timeframes

Contact

Tracie Billington
Special Projects
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Department of Water Resources

Phone: (916) 651-9226

**PROPOSITION 50
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

Grant Program Timeframes

The italicized dates are tentative and subject to change.

PLANNING GRANTS

Issue Final PSP	March 18, 2005
Proposal for planning grant due	May 12 2005
Planning Grant Awards	<i>October 2005</i>
Execute planning grant contracts	<i>Early 2006</i>

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Issue Final PSP	March 18, 2005
Issue Draft Step 2 PSP	<i>mid-June 2005</i>
Step 1 proposals due	July 14, 2005
Announce selection for Step 2 PSP	<i>November 2005</i>
Step 2 proposals for due	<i>Early 2006</i>
Implementation Grant Awards	<i>Summer 2006</i>
Execute implementation grant contracts	<i>Early 2007</i>