

IRWM Grant Program Status – Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E funding

On September 30th, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, signed SBxx 1 (also called SBx2 1), http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sbx2_1_bill_20080930_chaptered.pdf, which contained appropriations for the IRWM program from Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E. The appropriations consist of:

- \$150,000,000 from Proposition 1E for Stormwater Flood Management projects
 - Not less than \$100,000,000 of which will be available for projects that address immediate public health and safety needs and strengthen existing flood control facilities to address seismic safety issues;
 - \$20,000,000 of which will be available for local agencies to meet immediate water quality needs related to combined municipal sewer and stormwater systems to prevent sewage discharge to state waters.
 - \$20,000,000 of which will be available for urban stream stormwater flood management projects to reduce the frequency and impacts of flooding in watersheds that drain to the San Francisco Bay.
- \$181,791,000 from Proposition 84 subdivided to:
 - \$100,000,000 for implementation grants (from funding area allocations in Proposition 84)
 - Not less than \$20,000,000 of which shall be allocated to support urban and agricultural water conservation projects to meet a 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020.
 - Not less than \$10,000,000 of which will be used to support projects that address critical water supply or water quality needs for disadvantaged communities.
 - \$39,000,000 for planning grants and local groundwater assistance grants which consists of:
 - \$30,000,000 for planning grants (half interregional and half funding area allocation)
 - ◆ Not less than \$3,900,000 of which to facilitate and support the participation of disadvantaged communities in integrated regional water management planning.
 - \$9,000,000 for local groundwater assistance grants (interregional allocation)
 - \$22,091,000 for interregional projects, which includes
 - \$10,000,000 for expenditure to interconnect municipal and industrial water supply aqueducts that cross the Delta, and
 - \$2,000,000 to Tulare County for development of an integrated water quality and wastewater treatment program plan.
 - \$20,700,000 for program delivery

The \$150,000,000 is half of the amount of Stormwater Flood Management funding authorized by Proposition 1E. The \$100,000,000 in IRWM implementation funds is 1/9th of the \$900,000,000 total funding allocated to specific regions in Proposition 84.

DWR has decided to expedite the Prop 84 \$100,000,000 IRWM implementation grant funding, consistent with directives contained in Executive Order S-06-08 (declaration of drought and DWR ordered to expedite existing grant programs) <http://gov.ca.gov/executive-order/9797/>. In addition the

\$150,000,000 in Proposition 1E money will be expedited as language in SBxx 1 indicates the majority of the funding is for projects that address “immediate public health and safety needs”.

DWR will develop guidelines for the expedited round of grant funding. Exact steps for the expedited process including grant caps and funding area allocation caps are being developed. The release of the revised IRWM grant program plan standards and guidelines for the total Prop 84 funding allocated to specific regions, will be scheduled to occur after initiation of the expedited round of grant funding. DWR is also working on the planning grant schedule.

SBxx 1, also contains language that replaces the existing Integrated Regional Water Management Act of 2002 in the California Water Code. The language from SBxx1 broadens the definition of a regional water management group, defines what a plan must do, and provides direction as to content of DWR’s guidelines. The Integrated Regional Water Management Act language in SBxx 1 does not dramatically shift DWR policy, but it does establish some standards for IRWM plans through requirements in guideline content and plan functions.

DWR anticipates more detailed schedule and procedures to be released in mid-November in conjunction with public meetings. When information is released it will be posted on our website in the “What’s New” Section, http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/irwm/integregio_news.cfm and emailed to the IRWM email distribution list.

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, or if you have questions regarding the IRWM grant program, please send an email to DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov .