



Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority

TO: Mr. Joseph R. Yun
Executive Officer, California Water Commission
Via Electronic Mail
joseph.yun@water.ca.gov

FROM: Mr. Tal Eslick
Spokesperson, Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority
Via Electronic Mail
tal@vistaconsultinginc.com

DATE: December 14, 2020

RE: Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority's Returned WSIP MCED Funds

Dear Mr. Yun:

On behalf of the Temperance Flat Reservoir Authority (TFRA), we are writing to follow-up on our Board's decision to withdraw TFRA's application and decline the Maximum Conditional Eligibility Determinations (MCEDs) funds. During the Wednesday, November 18th meeting of the California Water Commission (CWC), two categories for using the available funds were presented to staff: allocating funds to existing projects or exploring new projects. It has come to our attention that staff has since recommended adjusting the MCEDs amounts of the Willow Springs Water Bank Conjunctive Use Project and the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project to the amount originally requested by the project applicants; adjust the MCEDs for existing WSIP projects to account for some inflation, and begin a screening process for potential new project proposals.

We would like to commend staff for their recommendation and respectfully urge the CWC and staff members to adopt the recommendation to begin a screening process for potential new project proposals. We would also like to implore the CWC to clearly articulate the criteria for project eligibility. Finally, if additional funds become available, we strongly advocate for said funds to be allocated for potential new projects as well.

The need for statewide investment has changed drastically since Proposition 1 passed. With the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), acute urgency has arisen for support within the San Joaquin Valley in particular. Our Board recognizes that the Commission does not have statutes enforcing spending within geographical regions; however, there are a handful of projects located in critically overdrafted basins that we believe will meet the WSIP eligibility requirements.

With staff's recommendation to begin a screening process for potential new project proposals, the CWC has the unique opportunity to evaluate projects that reflect current water management realities. It is our sincerest desire to see projects within critically overdrafted basins receive the support they so desperately need from the return of TFRA's MCED funds and any new funds that are made available.



Our position has garnered significant community support, especially within critically overdrafted basins. We've included the undersigned to highlight this support.

Should the CWC and staff members vote to adopt staff's recommendations, we would be more than happy to assist any projects seeking funding to navigate WSIP, feasibility, and draft CEQA. We will continue to follow this process very closely and are eager to provide assistance wherever possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Supervisor Buddy Mendes
San Joaquin Valley Water
Infrastructure Authority

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