

DRAFT

Dr. Robert Detrick, Assistant Administrator
Office of Atmospheric Research
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Detrick:

As the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) makes its budget plans for Fiscal Year 2013 in the face of a likely continuing resolution at the beginning of the year, the California Water Commission requests your support for a program that has proved extremely valuable to water management activities in California, the Hydrometeorology Testbed (HMT) program within the Earth System Research Laboratory. Specifically, we ask that you support \$2 million in base funding in the Physical Sciences Division for HMT.

The HMT-West program in California, working in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Energy Commission, has been highly successful in improving the ability to monitor and forecast extreme storms that both provide much of California's annual water supply and cause major floods. Governor Brown has identified adaptation to extreme events as a high priority for his administration, and California is looking forward to continuing to work with NOAA on the further implementation and refinement of this program, which is providing important research benefits throughout the western states. The HMT program is one of California's highest priorities in the Office of Atmospheric Research budget.

Recognizing the potential benefits of developing improved observing systems for extreme precipitation, the Western States Water Council, an organization consisting of representatives appointed by the governors of 18 western states, recently adopted a resolution supporting expansion of the work that was begun in California more broadly throughout the West. A council brochure, outlining a vision of what such an observing system could entail and developed by the research community is enclosed. The HMT program is uniquely suited to carry out the work needed to improve observations of extreme precipitation, building upon the experience it developed in California. We and our neighboring states share challenges such as topographic variability that complicates radar observations, and coastal states are similarly challenged by needs for offshore observations to improve precipitation forecast lead times. Maintaining an adequate base level of funding for HMT will allow the program to continue making important progress in these very practical research applications.

If you need additional information on our interest in HMT or would like to discuss this further, please call me at

Sincerely,

Enclosure