



February 28, 2019

To: Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

From: Andrew Garcia, Senior Civil Engineer

Subject: IRWM Report for February 2019

Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary:

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) –

The local project sponsor agreement for the \$3.1 million grant application was approved by the Authority and signed by Frances Mizuno. The first submittal package for advanced grant funding and reimbursement of spent funds was submitted the final week of February to Contra Costa Water District. The grant package will be submitted to the Department of Water Resources the first week of March, and staff anticipates reimbursement within 1-2 months. The consultant continued work on the San Joaquin River Funding Area Needs Assessment for Disadvantaged Communities and developed a stakeholder outreach document while compiling other publicly available information. Staff held a meeting to provide an update to the working group regarding the development of an Activity Agreement for future IRWM activities and to update stakeholders on the status of all IRWM efforts and grant programs.

The Needs Assessment for the Tulare Kern Funding Area was completed in January 2019. An editable project information and project request form were distributed to the City of Huron, City of Avenal, and Pleasant Valley Water District. The City of Huron intends to have a city representative on the funding area Project Advisory Committee. Authority staff will be submitting that request to Tulare County in March. The DACIP in Tulare Kern Funding Area has allocated up to \$250,000 per funding region for preliminary analysis work, which City of Huron will be submitting for. In addition, DWR informed IRWM regions that all grant application and support costs are reimbursable and therefore staff anticipates receiving additional reimbursements for staff time and consultant costs for DAC projects in the 2018 IRWM Implementation grant application in this funding area. Staff held a meeting at Westlands Water District to update Westlands, Pleasant Valley, and the City of Huron on the various grant programs, to determine the number of projects they intend to submitted for 2018 IRWM Implementation grant funding as well as to answer any questions related to the draft Activity Agreement and potential cost sharing of these efforts in the future.

General Westside IRWM Plan:

The Westside San Joaquin IRWM Plan was approved by DWR in February 2019 and staff was notified that the updated plan was uploaded to the appropriate DWR webpage for a 30-day public comment period. DWR anticipates no issues and having the Plan be deemed compliant to 2016 IRWM guidelines in March 2019.

Andrew Garcia continued participation in Tulare-Kern funding area (TFKA) discussions regarding the 2018 Implementation Grant to ensure funding opportunities for participating member agencies (Westlands Water District). The grant application workshop with DWR has been tentatively agreed upon for April 9, 2019 and applicants generally agree the funding area will be competitive when applying for funds.

The 2018 IRWM Implementation Grant application scope of work did not include funding for costs related to a submittal of a second grant application for the the Tulare-Kern funding area. Staff, following confirmation by interested grant application parties, informed EKI Environment & Water, Inc. that the Authority will be retaining their services for preparation of the grant application. Tentatively, there are a total of ten projects to be submitted with six by Westlands projects, one from City of Huron project, one by City of Avenal project, and two by Pleasant Valley Water District.

The Westside-San Joaquin IRWM region coordinated with the IRWM funding area working group to compromise and split the available grant funding, rather than competitively apply. Each IRWM region agrees to apply for its split of the total grant funding, as agreed to by all regions in the funding area. The Westside-San Joaquin region will receive \$3.41 million of the \$24 million for the 2018 Implementation grant funding. A letter of agreement amongst the regions in the funding area is currently being drafted. Prior to the application being submitted, the funding area will hold a workshop to DWR to report on the grant projects. The workshop with DWR for this grant program is currently tentatively set for early to mid-June 2019.