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February 8, 2007

Lester Snow, Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Proposition 50 Funding Process

Dear Director Snow:

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) strongly opposes the recent Proposition 50, Cycle 2, Grant Application process proposed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff. Awarding of grant funds to the nine proposals that were not selected during Step 2 of Cycle 1 is inconsistent with the November 2004 Grant Program Guidelines. The guidelines, prepared with extensive stakeholder input, explicitly call for two open and competitive funding cycles. Such a drastic change mid-process unfairly denies the San Diego region, as well as others, the opportunity to compete for these funds.

In addition, the SDCTA disagrees with any proposal to combine Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 funds. California voters passed two discrete and independent measures with an understanding that funds would be separate, providing fair access for all regions of the state to compete for both Prop 50 and 84 funds.

The SDCTA strongly urges DWR and the SWRCB to follow the established guidelines for distribution of Proposition 50 grant funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lani Lutar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lani Lutar
President & CEO

cc: San Diego County State Legislative Delegation
Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Shahla Farahnak, State Water Resources Control Board
SDCTA Board of Directors