6/5/07 Bd Mtg ITEM 7
IRWM Rnd. 2 Guidelines
Deadline: 5/31/07 Noon

WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION

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March 24, 2007

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Ms. Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Mr. Scott Couch, State Water Resources Control Board

RE: Implementation of IRWM Grants under Proposition 50 Chapter 8 Round 2 and Proposition 84.

Transmitted Via Electronic Mail to:
IRWP_Grants@water.ca.gov and scouch@waterboards.ca.gov

The WateReuse Association of California thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the development of the IRWM Implementation Guidelines. Recycled water is the only growing water supply in California and is a vital resource for the State's economy. The Legislature recognizes the value of recycled water and has established a statewide goal of using 1,000,000 acre-feet of this clean, safe supply by the year 2010. Currently recycled water provides approximately 500,000 acre-feet of reliable supply in the State. We write to request that the IRWP program prioritize funding for recycled water projects, particularly those projects already prioritized by the State Water Resources Control Board (Board).

The Board's existing program of financing recycling projects is well-run and our member agencies spent much time and expense applying for funding through the financing programs established under Propositions 13 and 50. The Board's "Competitive Project List" (CPL) approved in 2005 includes $1,745 million in projects that will deliver over 400,000 acre-feet of new water supply. All of these projects have completed planning and CEQA review. These projects are "ready to go".

Fully funding the CPL in accordance with the established Board guidelines would require only $250 million or approximately a 1.5% match. We recognize that the IRWM Program does encourage IRWM Plans to be consistent with the recommendations of the 2003 Water Recycling Task Force. We believe that a priority system that favors funding proposals that include water recycling is the best way to achieve consistency with the Task Force recommendations.

Sincerely,

Bill Jacoby

President, WateReuse Association of California

Recycling Water to Meet the World's Needs

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