

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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APR 22 2011

Mr. Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Stewardship Council
980 North Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, California 95814

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Dear Mr. Isenberg:

Thank you for your letter of January 26, 2011 regarding funding allocations for improving emergency communication in the Delta. Enhancing and maintaining emergency communication systems is important to first responders throughout the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is committed to completing an assessment of existing communication systems and a review of the current California Emergency Management Agency's (Cal EMA) inoperability plan for the region. DWR, in coordination with the five Delta Operational Areas and Cal EMA, will review identified emergency communication needs and how to best address those needs, including the use of the Proposition 84 Bond funds for Delta emergency communications, the funding for which has been allocated to DWR.

DWR has developed proposed direct grant guidelines under the FloodSAFE Flood Emergency Response (Flood ER) program to support local and State emergency planning, preparedness and response activities. During April 2011, DWR will be holding meetings to receive comments regarding the proposed guidelines for the Local Flood Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response direct grant program. This grant program will serve as the mechanism to provide resources to local and State agencies to enhance their emergency planning, preparedness and response capacity.

A top priority of this grant program is enhancing emergency communication systems in the Delta region. The proposed direct grant program guidelines will be posted on DWR's website and made available to the public for a sixty-day review and comment period. In addition, during April, DWR has scheduled three public meetings in Woodland, Isleton and Stockton to provide an overview of the proposed grant program guidelines and review comments. Once the review period is complete, comments will be addressed and the guidelines finalized. This process is expected to be completed no later than June 15, 2011. As soon as the direct grant guidelines are finalized, DWR will solicit projects for consideration and funding.

DWR looks forward to using the Local Flood Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response direct grant program to provide funding to the five Delta Operational Areas and other agencies to enhance emergency communication systems in the region.

Phil Isenberg
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If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact me at (916) 653-7007 or your staff may contact Bill Croyle, Chief of the Flood Operations Branch of the Division of Flood Management at (916) 574-2611, or wcroyle@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Cowin
Director

cc: Mr. Jim Brown
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