

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

September 5, 2014

Shannon Sweeney
City of Santa Maria
2065 E. Main Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

AGRICULTURAL TAILWATER DENITRIFICATION GRANT REDUCED MATCH

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

The purpose of this letter is to authorize a reduced match requirement for the City of Santa Maria's Irrigation and Nutrient Management Agricultural Tailwater Denitrification Project funded by the Proposition 84 Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program. The project will provide low-cost, passive tailwater treatment for nitrate from farming operations draining approximately 5,700 acres of agricultural lands via Bradley Channel and improve groundwater quality for drinking water supply for the City of Santa Maria.

In 2008, the Central Coast Water Board released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program. The RFQ included a cost-share match of 25%. However, a reduced or waived match requirement is common for grant-funded projects benefiting disadvantaged communities (DACs), and is necessary for the City of Santa Maria to complete this important project. Since there were no guidelines developed specific to the Proposition 84 Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program, the Central Coast Water Board can reduce the RFQ cost-share match of 25%.

The City of Santa Maria staff has provided documentation that the proposed project will benefit DACs and the entire community. The City of Santa Maria is a census-designated place and its boundaries were used to determine DAC status. The average mean household income (MHI) of the specified DAC block groups in Santa Maria is \$36,777, or 60% of the statewide MHI, and the entire area of the DACs will benefit from the Project.

In order for the City of Santa Maria to successfully complete the Agricultural Tailwater Denitrification Project, Central Coast Water Board staff concurs that a reduced match of 15% is appropriate. The match of 15% is based on the Proposition 84 Storm Water Grant Program's guidelines for DAC populations with less than 80% of the statewide MHI.

Ms. Sweeney

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September 5, 2014

If you have any questions, please contact Katie McNeill at 805-549-3336 or Katie.McNeill@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Michael Thomas
DN: cn=Michael Thomas, o=Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control
Board, ou=Region 3, email=mthomas@waterboards.ca.gov, c=US
Date: 2014.09.05 13:35:59 -07'00'

for
Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
Executive Officer

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