



Contra Costa  
Water District



MARIN MUNICIPAL  
WATER DISTRICT



Santa Clara Valley Water District 



July 5, 2005

Ms. Cynthia Murray, Chair  
ABAG CALFED Task Force/Bay Area Water Forum  
C/o ABAG  
P.O. Box 2050  
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

Re: Voluntary contribution request

Dear Ms. Murray:

I am writing in response to your request for water agency contributions to continue the ABAG CALFED Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum (Task Force/Forum). The BAWAC agencies and participating North Bay agencies have been active, supportive members and participants of the Task Force/Forum. We believe our participation has been and will continue to be a critical aspect of the Task Force/Forum. Together the BAWAC agencies and participating North Bay water agencies (water agencies) are willing to pledge a total of \$40,000 for fiscal year 2005-2006 contingent on how the money will be used and the scope of the Task Force and Forum. It will be increasingly important to us as significant contributors to the Task Force/Forum that we too benefit from the Task Force/Forum's activities.

We are willing to support the activities listed below during FY 2005-2006 by either supplementing an existing contract or establishing a separate/new contract. This funding would supplement the existing facilitation services already provided through a DWR contract currently in place through November 2005.

- **Meeting facilitation:** The water agencies are willing to fund the use of a professional facilitator to run Task Force/Forum meetings.
- **Support for Task Force/Forum:** The water agencies would support increasing the facilitator's scope of work to include meeting and agenda preparation, copying costs, as well as a person to take meeting minutes and electronically distribute the minutes.

- **Outreach Materials:** The water agencies support expanding the facilitator's scope of work to include fact sheets when needed to describe the Task Force/Forum activities.

We reviewed the Task Force/Forum budget and associated task descriptions distributed at the June 13, 2005 meeting and would like to provide comments on some of the proposed tasks so you understand why we are not willing to financially support the full range of activities proposed.

1. **Meeting room facilities:** The Task Force/Forum should concentrate on finding meeting locations that are low costs or no cost to keep costs down. The water agencies can offer meeting rooms at their offices free-of-charge and support rotating meeting locations and hosting meetings in their offices to keep costs down.
2. **Full-time dedicated staff:** The water agencies do not support funding dedicated staff for the Task Force/Forum. The water agencies provide and will continue to provide their staff and resources as in-kind contributions to actively discuss activities of the Task Force/Forum and believe other interested parties should do the same.
3. **Fundraising:** No water agency funds can be used to raise funds for the Task Force/Forum.
4. **IRWMP Activities:** The water agencies in partnership with wastewater agencies, stormwater agencies, flood control agencies, watershed protection agencies (including the California Coastal Conservancy and San Francisco Estuary Project) and Association of Bay Area Governments have formed a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) to prepare the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The water agencies intend to continue to contribute resources to the development of the Plan. It is not the role of the Task Force/Forum to develop the IRWMP, therefore Task Force/Forum funding should not be devoted to developing portions of the IRWMP. The Task Force/Forum will continue to be a stakeholder as the IRWMP is developed and has a responsibility to communicate with its members on TCC activities.

Through the TCC, the TCC partners are responsible for preparing grant applications, contracting for services, carrying out technical analysis, making presentations regarding the IRWMP, and conducting stakeholder outreach, education and stakeholder coordination. ABAG as one of the participating entities is scheduled to carry out land use analysis and some outreach if the Bay Area Ch. 8 planning grant proposals are funded by DWR. The water agencies anticipate that the Task Force/Forum will be an important discussion forum during development of the IRWMP.

5. **Technical Assistance to Task Force/Forum Activities:** The water agencies participate in the Task Force/Forum to provide, among other things, technical information and assistance to its members regarding water resources. These services are provided as in-kind contributions and do not necessitate funding by the Task Force/Forum. Other members of the Task Force/Forum should provide similar in kind technical services for issues related to land use and the environment.

**6. Government relations, outreach and education:** The members of the Task Force/Forum should take it upon themselves to interact with other governmental agencies, interest groups, etc. as individuals. These activities should be supported as in-kind services of the Task Force/Forum participants. The Task Force/Forum was not established as an independent governance body empowered by the participants' individual governance bodies to take policy positions or actions. Therefore, the Task Force/Forum should not interact with other entities or representatives of the Administrations or legislature as a policy "board" but rather, as a voluntary collection of individuals acting within their own policy governance guidelines. Staff to the individual member's organization should be utilized for support whenever possible.

Please confirm that water agency funding dedicated to specific purposes is an acceptable framework to proceed upon. To verify that the funds are used as intended we are interested in receiving regular quarterly updates on expenditures. A dedicated account for the water agency funds is recommended to facilitate tracking and reporting.

We look forward to continuing to work together through the Task Force/Forum. Please feel free to contact me at (408) 265-2600 with any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Stanley M. Williams, CEO  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
Chair, Bay Area Water Agencies Coalition

Cc:

Greg Zlotnick, Vice-Chair, ABAG CALFED Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum  
Grant Davis, Vice-Chair, ABAG CALFED Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum  
Mike Rippey, Budget Subcommittee Chair, ABAG CALFED Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum  
David Okita, General Manager, Solano County Water Agency  
Randy Poole, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency  
Paul Piraino, General Manager, Alameda County Water District  
Arthur R. Jensen, General Manager, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency  
Walter J. Bishop, General Manager, Contra Costa Water District  
Dennis Diemer, General Manager, East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Susan Leal, General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
Dale Myers, General Manager, Zone 7 Water Agency  
Paul Helliker, General Manager, Marin Municipal Water District