

Dear Supervisors,

I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Calaveras Planning Coalition (CPC). I have been an active member of the Regional Participants Committee (RPC), that developed the MAC IRWMP update, since October of 2011.

Thank you for placing endorsement of the MAC IRWMP on your Consent Agenda. We at the CPC understand the need for the Board to timely endorse the MAC IRWMP, so that the County's project proposal can be included in the Round 2 grant package.

However, we feel that it is equally essential to continue to improve the MAC IRWMP in 2013, until the plan is both clearly consistent with the IRWMP Guidelines, and competitive with the IRWMPs from other regions. We at the CPC are pleased that some RPC members have agreed to continue to meet quarterly to try to improve the MAC IRWMP. We do not yet agree on the most important weaknesses of the plan. We do not yet agree on the best ways to fix the plan's weaknesses. Nevertheless, we are not willing to sit idly by and choke on the dust as other regions pass us by. Why? Because the grant competition is too tough for us to stop now. Because too many people are depending on us to prevail so that the region will have water and treated wastewater for its families, for its businesses, for its farms and ranches, and for its economic recovery. Because we started this MAC IRWMP Update process strong, we stayed strong, and we want to finish strong.

The CPC greatly appreciates the efforts of the RPC and the consultants who have struggled for over a year to produce a much improved MAC IRWMP. In addition to reviewing and commenting on hundreds of pages of materials, and participating in over a dozen meetings, RPC members spent additional time meeting with community groups to try to address concerns regarding the projects in the MAC IRWMP. I am pleased to report that, as a result of those additional meetings, 9 of the 38 projects in the MAC IRWMP have no expressed public opposition at this time. We hope that future grant packages will continue to use those 9 consensus projects (4 from Calaveras) as a guide, so that we all can continue to pull in the same direction. We hope that continued discussions regarding the other projects will help them to evolve to shed their opposition.

As we move forward to improve the MAC IRWMP, we look forward to discussing the plan with County planning staff and environmental health staff. Their input will be an essential part of improving the compliance and competitiveness of the plan.

Sincerely,

Tom Infusino, Facilitator

Calaveras Planning Coalition

