

Memorandum

To: Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Tulare-Kern Funding Area
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program;
Denise England, County of Tulare

From: Jeff Eklund, P.E., Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Subject: TKFA DACIP Project Development –
Rainbird Valley Mutual Water Company, IRWM Grant Application

Date: August 19, 2020

Description of Project:

Five small water systems in the Weldon area (including the Rainbird Valley Mutual Water Company) have uranium and nitrate contaminated wells and/or lack a secure water supply. Contaminated wells and an inadequate water supply pose a serious health threat to these communities. Treatment is an expensive proposition due to high capital and operational costs and a need for licensed operators. The recommended alternative is to drill a new production well. A regional water supply well will provide clean drinking water with lower operational costs. Therefore, the proposed project is to install a production well to supply a secure source of clean water to these communities.

Project Development funding was requested for the assistance in preparing the necessary technical documentation required for the preparation of the Implementation Grant Application that was jointly prepared with other Kern IRWM Group participants. The documentation included a review of the hydrogeology report and other document, analysis of the project benefits, cost estimation, and work plan development. The Grant Application was completed and submitted to the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) on September 6, 2019.

DWR awarded Proposition 1 grant funding to the Kern IRWM Group in May 2020. The Weldon Regional Water Supply Project received \$445,352 in grant funding for its proposed project.

Project Development Grant Amount:	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
Amount Spent:	<u>\$13,204.00</u>

Stakeholder Summary:

This project will partner multiple water systems that supply water to DACs in Kern County. Agencies include: Rainbird Valley Mutual Water Company, Tradewinds Water Association, Long Canyon Water Company, and Bella Vista Mutual Water Company. Self-Help Enterprises is working with these DACs to develop the regional water project.

The water systems are located in the Weldon Census Designated Place which has a median household income of \$35,431, which qualifies as a Severely Disadvantaged Community.

Project Deliverables (List Here and Attach):

- Kern IRWM Grant Application with Weldon Regional Water Supply Project

Challenges Encountered:

After receiving the \$14,000 in Project Development Funding for the preparation of the grant application in March 2019, it was determined that Proposition 1 IRWM Grant funding could not be obtained in time for the Weldon agencies to purchase the land needed for the well site. The existing land purchase agreement was set to expire in June 2020, which is well in advance of a potential grant agreement with the DWR. Therefore, Self-Help Enterprises assisted the water agencies to obtain \$50,000 in Project Development Funding for the purchase of the well site.

Agency Review:

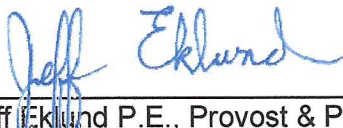
The proposed project will involve the Division of Drinking Water and Kern County in the approval and review of the proposed well drilling. Additionally, the Kern Local Area Formation Committee (LAFCo) is working to form the Weldon Regional Water District to combine the individual water systems under single governing entity.

Next Steps:

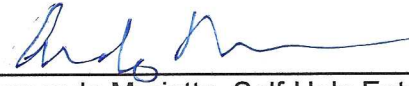
The Kern IRWM Group’s applicant, Buena Vista Water Storage District (BVWSD), is currently working with DWR to execute the grant agreement (estimated to be completed in September 2020). At the same time, BVWSD will execute a subgrantee agreement with the other grant recipients. With the funding secure and the establishment of the Weldon Regional Water District, the project will be bid by mid-2021 and completed by the end of 2021.

Certification:

The undersigned hereby certify that the project was completed with deliverables meeting the intent of the approved project development funding.



Jeff Eklund P.E., Provost & Pritchard



Armando Murietta, Self-Help Enterprises

8/19/2020
Date

8/19/2020
Date