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April 13, 2009

Mr. Ron Sullivan, Chair, One Water-One Watershed Steering Committee
c/o Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
11615 Sterling Ave
Riverside, CA 92503

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RE: Collaboration on Integrated Regional Water Management Planning

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

On behalf of the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee, I wish to provide a follow-up to the discussion that occurred during our meeting on March 25, 2009. During that meeting we discussed the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee proposing changes to the OWOW governance document to contribute toward an equitable and participatory planning and decision making process. The Executive Committee appreciates the Steering Committee's openness to reviewing the governance document. We offer the suggested revisions in the attached document and look forward to discussing these at our joint meeting on April 16, 2009.

The OWOW governance document establishes a process for the development of an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and for the prioritization of projects therein. In lieu of describing actions taken to date, we have offered rewording to describe an ongoing process for the OWOW Plan's management long term. Other suggestions are offered to provide clarification, document noticed open meetings for all meetings of all OWOW committees, converting to an odd-numbered governing body, and a revised approach for when and how Steering Committee members are replaced.

We strongly endorse SAWPA's role as administrator of the plan and consolidated grants that are anticipated to be awarded for implementing the plan. In the spirit of long term collaboration and implementation, the Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee recommends that the Steering Committee consider appointing a technical management committee. This is envisioned to be a staff-level working group that would provide the Steering Committee with the background knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about the IRWMP and an ongoing structure for implementation. The Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee also suggests consideration be given to adopting a planning principle for OWOW that no party in the watershed is disadvantaged as a result of any strategies adopted in the plan.

The Newport Bay Executive Committee thanks the OWOW Steering Committee for consideration of its comments on the OWOW governance document. We look forward to both fruitful discussion and future collaboration.

Sincerely,


John Moorlach
Supervisor, Second District
Chairman, Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee

cc: Members, OWOW Steering Committee
Members, Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee
Celeste Cantu, SAWPA
Mary Anne Skorpanich, County of Orange