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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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COUNTY  
OF  
**INYO**

California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
Financial Assistance Branch  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236  
Attn: Laura Peters  
Email: [Laura.Peters@water.ca.gov](mailto:Laura.Peters@water.ca.gov)

September 5, 2014

RE: 2014 Water-energy Grant Program Public Comments

Dear Ms. Peters,

I am commenting on the proposed Draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package. My comments are regarding the eligibility of disadvantaged Communities as determined by the EnviroScreen Tool. I am writing to represent the disadvantaged communities of Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine in California's Owens Valley of Inyo County. I am responsible for the water systems serving these California recognized disadvantaged communities.

Neither Senate Bill 103, nor Section 16428.8 of the Government Code specified that disadvantaged communities are to be defined by criteria such as EnviroScreen. Further, Health and Safety Code Section 39711(a) states in part "These communities shall be identified based on... and may include, *but are not limited to, either of the following:*"... (italics added for emphasis).

The above legislation is specifically not limiting eligibility to the two criteria identified in subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Section 39711. Further, Section 39711(c) stated Chapter 3.5 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code as not being applicable to the definition of a disadvantaged community. However, Section 11342.1 of the above Chapter 3.5 does not give authority to adopt, administer, or enforce any regulations, which is what Section 39711(c) is doing.

Because of these reasons, any California disadvantaged community should be entitled to this funding.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Keith Pearce

Associate Engineer-Water

Inyo County Department of Public Works