

January 13, 2015

Felicia Marcus, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Subject: Letter of Support for San Luis Obispo County K-12 Schools Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) Grant Application

Dear Ms. Marcus:

This letter is in support of the schools in our county that are pursuing grant funding from the State Water Board's "DROPS" program. The grant applications are being coordinated by local non-profits and include volunteer assistance from several local consultants and public agency staff that work on storm water and water resource management programs. This combined effort of non-profits, local professionals and public agency staff, in support of our K-12 schools, is an excellent example of collaborative efforts that are necessary to help ensure sustainable water resource management in California long into the future.

The County of San Luis Obispo, on behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Regional Water Management Group, is the lead agency for the San Luis Obispo County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan. Our local IRWM efforts can be further enhanced with approval of the DROP applications, which will promote coordination with our regional group. The County's Storm Water Management Program has strong public outreach and education components that will enhance and be enhanced by the projects envisioned in the DROPS applications. Further, the grant's Low Impact Development components fit well within the scope of the Storm Water Management Program and can serve as examples for the surrounding communities, especially if we are able to provide our planned 'LID Tours' of installed projects each spring.

We hope that your review panel will find that the DROP applications for our schools integrate well with our MS4 Permit's programs and the high standards of our IRWM Plan. Please know we are strongly supporting the application and encourage you to award DROP grant funds to them.

Sincerely,

Frank Mecham, Board Chair