



BORREGO WATER DISTRICT

December 21, 2009

Dear East County Neighbors:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has developed a program which is designed to direct State grant funding to qualified water purveyors by their geographical region. This Integrated Region Water Management Program (IRWMP) outlines regions with common interests/concerns and provides a funding mechanism to resolve regional water issues. The DWR has partitioned the State by their hydrologic regions and has earmarked \$35M for the Colorado River Region, plus another \$10M for disadvantaged communities in the Proposition 84 Water Bond (2006). Future water initiatives will also use this mechanism to disperse bond funds to water purveyors around the State.

The backcountry of Eastern San Diego County has varying water issues that although may not be common, are critical to keep water supplies safe and reliable for the residents. For this reason, the Borrego Water District (BWD) has partnered with the County of San Diego and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County to create the East San Diego County IRWMP. The "region" extends from the southern portion of the Anza Valley in Riverside County, southeast to the Imperial County line, then south to the international border and covers the San Diego County portion of the Colorado River Hydrologic Region. The region includes the communities of Julian (east of the Tecate Divide), Jacumba, Boulevard, Canebrake, Shelter Valley, Ocotillo Wells, Borrego Springs and Terwiliger Valley in Riverside County.

The first step in this process is to identify projects for each community, through a stakeholder process, that are eligible for funding and prioritize these projects into an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The finalized plan will incorporate all qualified projects in the region and set a schedule for funding applications to the DWR. A planning meeting is set for January 21, 2010 at 10:00 am. This meeting is open to all interested parties in the region and will be held in the BWD office located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive in Borrego Springs (760/767-5806). Other details will be posted in the IRWMP section of the BWD website, www.borregowd.org, as they become available. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Jerry Rolwing
Operations Manager
Borrego Water District
760/767-5806