



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

May 1, 2009

Mr. Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator
USEPA, Region VI
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Mr. Greene:

Under the 1987 Amendments to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), 40 percent of the Section 205(j)(3) grant funding for State water quality management planning must be allotted to a local or regional water quality planning organization unless the Governor, with approval of the EPA Regional Administrator, determines that such action will not significantly assist in the development and implementation of a water quality management plan by the grantee and has consulted with all appropriate local planning entities.

The Surface Water Quality Bureau released a request for proposals (RFP) to facilitate, moderate, and conduct public outreach and public meetings using the funding authorized under Section 205(j) and 604(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act and allocated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The available funds for this RFP totaled \$77,734. The RFP was open March 2 – April 3, 2009 and covered efforts within the Gila River/San Francisco, Canadian River, Chama River, and Pajarito Plateau watersheds. To ensure that the RFP was widely noticed the Surface Water Quality Bureau 1) placed legal notices of the RFP in three newspapers that cover the major geographic areas of the state: Albuquerque Journal, Santa Fe New Mexican, Las Cruces Sun News, and Raton Range on March 6, 2009 2) distributed the RFP via email to our contact list of over 300 addresses, including regional public comprehensive planning organizations that are eligible to submit proposals and, 3) highlighted the RFP on the front page of the Bureau's website beginning on March 2, 2009. One response to the request for proposals was received, however, upon review, the proposal was found to contain an unrealistically high budget for the tasks to be performed and the proposal was not approved for funding.

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As no proposals were accepted, I am requesting that the stimulus monies allocated under CWA 604(b) as pass through grant monies be redirected for use by the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau for the purpose of Water Quality Planning. These monies will help assist in the improvement of water quality planning for the State of New Mexico and will be used by the New Mexico Environment Department toward achieving this goal.

Sincerely,



Bill Richardson
Governor

cc: Ron Curry, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
Arlene Gaines, New Mexico Water Quality Project Officer (6WQ-AT) EPA Region VI