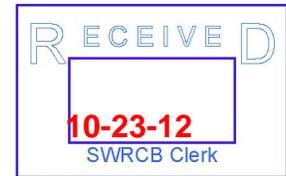


Maria Elena Kennedy  
Kennedy Communications  
9042 Camellia Court  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737



State Water Resources Control Board  
101 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Board Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Board's Intended Use Program for FY 2013. My name is Maria Elena Kennedy and I have the privilege to work in Disadvantaged Communities in the Southern California.

In my work I have seen how the State Board has worked collaboratively with other agencies to solve complex problems in disadvantaged communities. For example in the City of Perris' Enchanted Heights community, the State Board partnered with the California Department of Public Health to fund a sanitary sewer system in this disadvantaged community. This partnership remedied a long standing problem of failing septic tanks which were creating a public health hazard for the residents of Enchanted Heights.

The project is nearly complete; the contractor estimates that by next summer the residents will be hooked up to the sewer system. These are the types of projects that better people's lives and show the public how their dollars are used to better their communities.

When CDPH gave the City of Perris \$10M for the sewer system, there was still the problem of how the residents were going to pay for the connection fees. The residents of Enchanted Heights have modest incomes; many are single income families due to the high unemployment rate in the Inland Empire. The State Board provided the \$5M for the connection fees which allowed the sewer to be built at no cost to the residents.

The residents of Enchanted Heights are very grateful to the State Board for the support they received in solving a critical problem. The residents reacted enthusiastically to the outreach program and became partners with the City of Perris to inform their neighbors about the benefits that the sewer would bring to the community. This was no small feat as the residents of Enchanted Heights are primarily Spanish speaking and were initially leery of the proposed sewer. But the State Board staff worked closely with us and we were able to show the residents that we truly wanted to help them.

I applaud the State Board for taking the leadership in supporting efforts like the one in Enchanted Heights. It is my hope that this cooperative stance will continue so that the residents of disadvantaged communities have an opportunity to better their lives.

Sincerely,

Maria Elena Kennedy