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California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

March 12, 2012

To: League of California Cities

**Support for the City of Perris - Enchanted Heights Community Sewerage Project Nomination for the Helen Putnam Award for Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement.**


The Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is pleased to support the City of Perris - Enchanted Heights Community Sewerage Project for the Helen Putnam Award for Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement. We feel this project definitely warrants recognition for the extent and success of the multi-agency participation and collaboration that were involved in addressing the needs of this community. The partnership that has brought this project together consists of three local agencies (City of Perris, County of Riverside, and Eastern Municipal Water District) and two state agencies (CDPH and the State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB]) and, most importantly, the Enchanted Heights Community. This project will result in the elimination of sewage runoff during storms and will thus protect public health and enhance protection of groundwater and the environment.

Numerous challenges, including affordability and necessity of bilingual communication, have been encountered in bringing this project to fruition. The project was made affordable through applying for, receiving and meshing available funding programs from CDPH and SWRCB. The bilingual communication challenge was overcome by the City of Perris conducting a bilingual Community Involvement Program through which the project gained the concurrence of the Community. Meeting these and other challenges required extensive collaboration, communication and perseverance by all of the agencies and the Community.

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Therefore, based upon the above and our position as one of the partners in this project, we are pleased to support its nomination for the Helen Putman Award for Enhancing Public Trust, Ethics, and Community Involvement.

Sincerely,

  
for Leah Walker, PE, Chief  
Division of Drinking Water  
and Environmental Management