



COUNTY of NAPA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

STEVEN LEDERER
Director



CHRISTINE M. SECHELI, R.E.H.S.
Assistant Director

April 12, 2007

California Department of Water Resources
Office of Water Use Efficiency and Transfers
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

RE: Proposition 50 Urban Water Use Efficiency Grant Proposal for Napa County Green Gardener Certification Program (PIN #10336)

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Napa has submitted a proposal for a Proposition 50 Urban Water Use Efficiency Grant that will help establish a Napa County Green Gardener Certification Program. The Department of Environmental Management is sending this letter to express our support for this proposed training effort. This department implements solid and hazardous waste reduction and recycling programs and is supportive of other efforts to educate about natural resource conservation.

Napa County is eager to educate its local gardening professionals to embrace more water-efficient and lower-polluting practices. Potential local benefits include improved water quality in the Napa River watershed and more reliable local surface and groundwater supplies. More water-efficient landscaping also has the potential to reduce the region's demand for Delta water, meeting one of the primary goals of the Proposition 50 grant program.

We are particularly supportive of the bilingual component of the proposal as we understand the Green Gardener classes will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Certification will upgrade the professional standing of this very visible component of our diverse local workforce. With a successful two-year grant-funded pilot program, Napa can look forward to matching or exceeding the accomplishments of the pioneering Santa Barbara and Monterey Bay Green Gardener programs, and help spread this concept further throughout the state.

We strongly encourage the California Department of Water Resources to consider funding for this grant proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Garden
Environmental Resource Specialist

cc: Steve Lederer, Director