

## **Additional information related to support letters**

A couple of questions have been raised about the 2009 RFP's project criteria for evaluation, specifically regarding letters of support (see Appendix chart, 1. B. ii). Please be aware that for the purposes of this criterion, the relevant stakeholders include the community served and other local and state agencies, among others. And the program partners include border Tribes, and the task force/workgroup agencies, other than the EPA. The EPA is not in a position to furnish letters of support because the EPA is the ultimate funder (through the primary BECC grant) of the projects.

As far as the points that may be awarded to the letters of support (up to a maximum of 10 points), any relevant letter may earn the applicant's proposal some points, and more letters from various parties can mean more points. However, a letter from a co-chair does not, merely because it is written by a co-chair, have more weight than any other letter of support. Task force letters are not more "privileged" than other stakeholder or program letters. We believe this is consistent with the information provided in the RFP, and no additional information has been furnished that is not available to the general public.