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June 9, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board
Chairwoman Felicia Marcus, and all Board Members
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Fax: 916-341-5620

RE: Sacramento River Temperature Plan

Dear Ms. Marcus:

On behalf of the Del Puerto Water District Board of Directors and the 200 small family farmers served by our agency, I write this letter to urge your consideration of operational decisions that MUST somehow result in not more than a 500 CFS reduction from the original, conditionally approved Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan, and rather instead consider non-flow intervention efforts as a substitute for the 7,000 cfs summer release regime being recommended by your staff as the preferred option to resolve temperature issues and protect salmon in the Sacramento River.

Modeling suggests that even at 7,000 cfs, river temperatures will not improve, and the consequences of implementing such a restriction will then not only harm the environment we collectively have a responsibility to take care of, but also the thousands of human lives we have vowed to serve in each of our capacities as a public servant.

As California continues to struggle with the unprecedented effects of the ongoing drought, the most powerful solutions implemented thus far have been realized through the collaboration of Management within the State and federal water projects, Agency heads, skilled fisheries biologists, State Water Resources Control Board staff, and the Managers and Staff of public water agencies that understand the issues and come to the table with workable solutions. On May 29, due to new information regarding temperatures in Lake Shasta, Executive Director Tom Howard issued notice suspending the Temperature Management Plan, which had been provisionally approved on May 14 after weeks of effort and consensus. As a result, families, farms, and communities throughout our State who are desperately dependent upon the minimal amount of water the Plan would provide are seeing what little operational certainty they had now in jeopardy.

While I recognize the need to sufficiently protect endangered fish species, I also understand that much of what is being considered could result in extreme economic and human harm, without any measurable benefit to our environment. Based on the Plan, water managers North, South, East and West crafted solutions with the intent to assist each other, and consider the environment as well. Some of the solutions are real-time, and some are meant to backstop the worst case scenarios should they occur. The common element holding these solutions together was some modicum of Shasta releases. Without such, transfers will stop so crops in one part of the State can be tended to at the expense of others, cities such as Tracy and Folsom could lose access to municipal supplies, meeting the needs of those with seniority rights

such as the Exchange Contractors and the Refuge system could mean extensive borrowing of supplies that others have spent millions of dollars to acquire and store, agreements put in place to provide a minimal amount of supply to users in the Friant service area would be negated, water quality in the Delta and for those in the vast Santa Clara Valley export area would be compromised, and a bad situation would be made even worse by devastating the economies of the many communities that rely on our water system to survive.

Given all that is at risk, I implore you to continue dialogue with the public water agencies that were an integral part of developing the original solution. We have a broad range of creativity and expertise, and a responsibility to the public we serve to be at the table. I also ask that whatever solution is implemented include non-flow interventions, as evidence suggests an insufficient volume of cold water is available to meet desired temperature objectives, thus solely using the scarce amounts of stored supply available at the expense of our citizenry is unfathomable, and purposefully not including non-flow actions will result in less than possible protections available for salmon. Lastly, once a solution is crafted, the Board should work cooperatively with all involved to execute the Plan. Time is of the essence, as the 2015 growing/harvest season hangs in the balance of the next 90-120 days.

I trust that the your Board will adopt a new plan that maximizes the availability of our limited water supply for both people and fish, and implements non-flow actions to further assist those creatures that cannot take care of themselves. Absent swift finalization of a new Plan, the intricate agreements that link the limited water stored in Shasta Reservoir to every other part of the state could unravel, creating widespread and unnecessary economic harm. I stand ready to assist in any way that I can to implement a workable solution for all.

Sincerely,

Anthea G. Hansen
General Manager
DEL PUERTO WATER DISTRICT

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