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SWRCB EXECUTIVE

June 10, 2015

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

RE: Sacramento River Temperature Plan

Dear Ms. Marcus:

We know the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) discovered the water in Shasta Lake is warmer than anticipated when they developed the April Sacramento River temperature and operations plans. Reclamation informed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) at the June 2 Board meeting of the discovery. Apparently under any circumstances, it will be impossible to meet the temperature requirements of the current plan. Reclamation informed my irrigation district that they are working with National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reformulate the plans for submission to the SWRCB very soon.

As a family farmer on the east side of the San Joaquin valley and served water from the Friant Division of the CVP, I depend on the coordinated efforts of the State of California and Reclamation for delivery of surface water supplies that allows me to farm and thus provide jobs to our local economy as well as food and fiber for our nation.

I and my neighbors already have suffered through a dry 2012, 2013, and 2014, with a zero water supply from Friant in 2014. In 2015, Reclamation has once again announced another zero water supply, but a small amount of water has been cobbled together through a series of transfers and exchanges that will provide a little help. I understand this meager supply is in potential jeopardy if the Board now adopts a revised plan that significantly reduces water deliveries from the Sacramento River and reduces Delta pumping. Simply put, this house of cards that is our water supply will collapse with a revised plan that does not continue with a balanced approach to this difficult situation.

I understand the responsibility the Board feels toward the protection of the Sacramento winter-run salmon, but given that the temperature plan is not viable under the current circumstances and there is insufficient cold water to accomplish the temperature objectives, we are hopeful the Board will adopt a new plan that maintains the vital summer deliveries as promised by the earlier adopted plans while providing reasonable temperature benefits and maximizing physical solutions in order to protect salmon.

Very Truly Yours,

Matt Billings

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