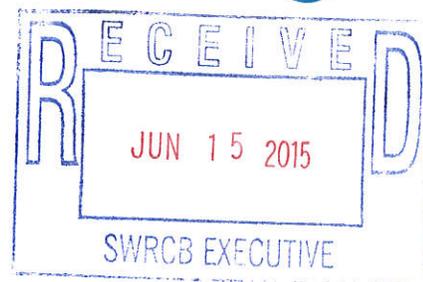




June 11, 2015

State Water Resources Control Board
Chairwoman Felicia Marcus, and all Board Members
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812



Subject: Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan

Dear Ms. Marcus:

As the primary water resources and groundwater management agency for the nearly 2 million residents and wholesaler to 13 urban water suppliers of Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) relies on imported water supplies from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to help meet existing demands and protect future beneficial uses. The District is extremely concerned about the recent suspension of the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan (Plan) and potential revisions to the Plan that could result in deleterious impacts to the District's water supplies and jeopardize resources the District committed based on the State Water Board's previous approval of the Plan.

Similar to many other areas in California, the District continues to struggle with the effects of this drought. Despite proactive measures to conserve water, reduced groundwater recharge and increased groundwater pumping have lowered water levels to the point of concern regarding long-term land subsidence. Over 13 feet of subsidence has occurred historically in Santa Clara County, and subsidence poses significant threats in terms of damage to critical infrastructure, salt water intrusion, flooding, and loss of economic productivity in the heart of Silicon Valley should it resume. As such, the District would like to express its interest in this process and concern with regard to changes to the Plan that could result in the reduction of critically needed water supplies. Imprudent revisions to the Plan may reduce both the District's valuable transfer supplies as well as water supplies for a vast majority of California.

The District understands and appreciates the State Water Board's need to ensure salmon are protected. Nonetheless, the level of protection that should be pursued is that level which secures the reasonable use of water. To achieve a reasonable and balanced approach, the District encourages the State Water Board to: 1) rely on the expertise of the federal and state project operators and fishery agencies to develop a workable plan that manages limited water resources as efficiently as possible; 2) balance the needs of other listed species and wildlife habitat that also rely on water released from the Shasta Reservoir; 3) maximize the beneficial use of water this year as opposed to increasing carryover storage that would do nothing for salmon this year and may not be necessary in the future; and 4) utilize all available non-water (physical) solutions available to protect salmon, which is consistent with the fundamental principle of California water policy that water should not be taken from one beneficial use to serve another where physical solutions are available.

Page 2
June 11, 2015

The District remains committed to reducing water demands and protecting local resources during this drought and into the future. We look forward to continued discussions with the State Water Board and other state and federal agencies to help ensure a reasonable and workable Plan is developed and implemented. Please contact me at (408) 630-2736 if you would like to discuss the District's interest or comments, or if the District can assist the State Water Board in any way.

Sincerely,


James Fiedler, P.E., D.WRE
Chief Operating Officer

cc: G. Hall, C. Kao, E. Soderlund, F. Brewster, S. Akin