## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER

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March 17, 2014

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114 Mr. Karl Longley11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200

Subject: Letter in Support of Draft Resolution for the Rose Foundation to Administer SEP Funding to Disadvantaged Community Projects

Dear Chair Longley and members of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board:

I write on behalf of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) in support of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's ("Board") Draft Resolution for the Rose Foundation to Administer SEP Funding to Disadvantaged Community Projects. EJCW is a statewide coalition of grassroots groups and intermediary organizations building a collective, community-based movement for democratic water allocation, management, and policy development in California. EJCW empowers low-income communities and people of color throughout California to advocate for clean, safe, and affordable water for their communities.

EJCW supports the Board taking a "programmatic" approach for Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), which have great potential to benefit disadvantaged communities.

Having worked with the Rose Foundation before, EJCW is confident that the Rose Foundation will solicits projects from environmental justice organizations and communities, administer the pre-approved SEP menu, and the grants with great skill and sensitivity to the needs of the target communities. We are very pleased that the Rose Foundation is willing to step into this role. It is not an easy one, but it is great to have a foundation that can bridge this world and make funding sources more accessible to communities and community-based organizations and those of us working directly in communities that traditionally face challenges accessing funding.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at (916) 432-EJCW.

Sincerely,

Colin Bailey, J.D.

**Executive Director**