DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES



ADMINISTRATION

Robert Kostlivy DIRECTOR

Janis Mein ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mandip Dhillon ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

October 16, 2023

California State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Support for the Renewal of the Low-Threat Waiver of WDRs, RWDs, and/or

WRRs in the Central Valley Region

Dear Members of the California State Water Resources Control Board:

I am writing on behalf of the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources to express our support for the renewal of the Low-Threat Waiver for Specific Types of Discharge within the Central Valley Region. This waiver plays a vital role in our County's efforts to manage and reuse food processing byproducts in a way that is beneficial to our environment and our economy.

The waiver in question has a direct and positive impact on our Food Processing Byproduct Program (FPBP), which has been managed and monitored by our County Staff. We take immense pride in the success of this program, which has become a crucial part of our sustainable agricultural practices in Stanislaus County. Under the supervision of our County Staff, all sites within the FPBP are routinely monitored for compliance with established environmental regulations.

Renewing the Low-Threat Waiver is vital to our commitment to diverting beneficial, reusable byproducts from the agricultural industry for various reuses throughout the County. These byproducts contribute to the community, promoting sustainability, economic growth, and resource efficiency.

Our County recognizes the importance of balancing environmental protection with economic development and agriculture, and this waiver facilitates that harmonious coexistence. The waiver provides us with the opportunity to continue the FPBP's environmentally sound practices while ensuring that all applicable environmental regulations are strictly adhered to. Continuing our FPBP allows us to continue our commitment to preserving the environment while supporting our agricultural industry.

In conclusion, we urge you to consider the long-term benefits of renewing the Low-Threat Waiver for Specific Types of Discharge within the Central Valley Region. We are committed to working together to ensure that the environment remains protected, and California State Water Resources Control Board October 16, 2023 Page 2

we can continue diverting beneficial byproducts that contribute positively to our community and region. Your support for the renewal of this waiver is invaluable, and we look forward to your continued partnership in maintaining the environmental integrity of our region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Kostlivy, Director

Department of Environmental Resources

RK:dlp