February 13, 2017

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I St., 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814-0100

RE: State Water Board Hearing
December 19, 2016
Merced Theatre

Dear Ms. Townsend,

It has come to my attention that inaccurate and misleading information about the Santa Nella County Water District (District) water quality and water supply was disclosed at a State Water Board public hearing on December 19, 2016 at the Merced Theatre.

The following will clarify, for the record, the correct and accurate information:

1. The District must blend surface water and groundwater because there are approximately 63 acres of land within the District boundaries that are not within the CVP Use Area. In order to serve those lands, which consists of commercial businesses, the District must pump enough groundwater (and blend with the surface water) to substantiate water service to these customers, identified as the Non-CVP Use Area.

2. The District does not have two wells. There is currently only one groundwater well. The well does not provide enough water supply to meet the demands of Santa Nella. Therefore, the District purchases raw surface water from a CVP contractor/wholesaler at the beginning of the federal water year to provide water to the community. This surface water purchase is for water supply only, not for blending to meet water quality. Without the surface water supply, the District would not be able to provide drinking water to serve the existing community.

3. The District does not exceed the Hexavalent Chromium Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) also referred to as Chromium 6. The District is in compliance with the Hexavalent Chromium MCL. The only MCL the District has exceeded is Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM), a secondary drinking water standard. The last exceedance occurred in the second quarter of 2014. There have been no exceedances since 2014.
4. As of December 31, 2016, there are 722 water service connections within the District service area and 648 are active.

5. The Volta Community Services District (Volta CSD) is not represented by the District. The District should not convey information to the public concerning the Volta CSD without written, expressed approval from the Volta CSD. The District does not have this permission.

Members of the Board of Directors are not representatives of the District in public meetings, public hearings, speaking engagements, or other functions of this nature unless appointed by a majority of the Board of Directors. At this time, no Director is appointed to represent the District outside of the District board meetings. The District representative is the General Manager and any comments made to the public should contain verifiable information and be presented by the General Manager. The Board of Directors have been advised of this policy.

It is my intent to ensure that accurate facts concerning the District are presented to the public and therefore, I request that this document be incorporated into the record to ensure the public is receiving correct information.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Amy Montgomery
General Manager