

Department of Water Resources
Michael L. Peterson, Director



SACRAMENTO COUNTY
WATER AGENCY

Including service to the Cities of
Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova

March 10, 2014

Mr. Tom Howard
Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 100
Sacramento, California 95812-0100

VIA E-MAIL

Tom.howard@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: CVP/SWP Temporary Urgency Change – Request for Folsom Reservoir Operations Plan

Dear Mr. Howard:

Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) serves over 50,000 homes in the Sacramento region through a combination of groundwater and surface water supplies. Our surface water supplies consist of appropriative water rights and Central Valley Project (CVP) contracts. Because of our early and strategic investment in our conjunctive use program, we have been able to forego our allocation of CVP water during the current drought this year and depend solely on our groundwater supply. The ability to forego surface water in the near term is providing a benefit to others that are reliant solely on surface water from Folsom reservoir as well as to interests down stream needs of the Delta.

However, SCWA has the ability to rely solely on groundwater for only a limited period of time. We are extremely aware of the impacts to the groundwater basins that would result from prolonged curtailment of surface water supplies. Our long-term water supply sustainability is dependent on our ability to access our appropriative water rights and CVP contracts over time to fully realize the benefits that conjunctive use provides. This in turn is dependent on the establishment of an operational plan for Folsom Reservoir that provides certainty for the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the water purveyors in Sacramento region, and SCWA regarding surface water deliveries.

Given this, SCWA supports the March 10, 2014 request submitted by our regional partners from the cities of Folsom and Roseville, and San Juan Water District, that the USBR submit an operational plan for Folsom Reservoir that is protective of USBR's ability to meet the ongoing water supply needs of the Sacramento region into the future.

Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-8913 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Peterson, P.E.
Agency Engineer

Cc: Kerry Schmitz
Rob Leonard
Tom Gohring

"Managing Tomorrow's Water Today"

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