



TULARE LAKE BASIN WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 1926

1001 CHASE AVENUE, CORCORAN, CALIFORNIA 93212
PHONE (559) 992-4127 • FAX (559) 992-3891

July 25, 2016

California WaterFix Co-Hearing Officer Felicia Marcus
California WaterFix Co-Hearing Officer Tam M. Doduc
State Water Resource Control Board
PO Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Transmit Via Email: CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Policy Statement: Hearing Regarding Petition Filed by the Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Requesting Changes in Water Rights for the California WaterFix Project

Dear Co-Hearing Officer Marcus and Co-Hearing Officer Doduc:

Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (District) appreciates the opportunity to submit a policy statement in support of the joint petition submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for a change to the water rights of the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP) necessary to allow for the implementation of key components of California WaterFix.

The Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (District) is an agricultural district that delivers surface waters from multiple sources to its landowners. The District contracted for State Water Project (SWP) water to provide an additional, dependable surface water supply to lands within the District. SWP water is an integral element in the conjunctive management of our surface and groundwater supplies. The current trend of reduced and interrupted SWP supplies along with increasing SWP costs has resulted in significant adverse impacts in the District and the surrounding areas. SWP deliveries have been repeatedly interrupted and reduced due to operational conflicts with threatened and endangered species in the Delta. The reduced reliability of the SWP supplies, combined with the increased costs of these supplies, has resulted in a significant hardship for the District's landowners. The success of our local water management efforts as well as those of other agencies in the area depend on reliable

imported water supplies from the Delta. Restoration of the reliability of those supplies in an economical manner is critical.

The District has been supportive of the proposed California Water Fix process as a way to address the chronic reduced reliability and increased costs of SWP supplies in a manner that protects the Delta's environment. The District supports the petition of DWR and USBR to add new SWP and CVP diversion points through California WaterFix as an appropriate means of attempting to achieve those goals.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Gilkey
General Manager