SENT VIA EMAIL/FIRST-CLASS MAIL

December 20, 2012

North State Water Alliance Mountain Counties Water Resources Association Northern California Water Association Regional Water Authority Sacramento Area Council of Governments Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce

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John Laird, Secretary California Natural Resources Agency 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Messrs. Laird and Hoppin:

We applaud the Governor's efforts to address stakeholder concerns with his July 25, 2012 announcement of changes to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). In particular, we appreciate his assurances that "State and U.S. governments will make sure implementation of BDCP will not result in adverse effects on the water rights of those in the watershed of the Delta, nor will it impose any obligations on water users upstream of the Delta to supplement flows in and through the Delta." We appreciate this confirmation that the BDCP must mitigate for the impacts caused by the project.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is responsible for two critical activities in the Delta watershed: 1) the revision of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Delta, a process that could set new flow standards in the Delta, and could amend the water rights of water users in the Delta watershed to meet those standards; and 2) issuing the permit for a change in the point of diversion and operation of the State and federal water projects to accommodate the new conveyance for the BDCP. Both of these processes are complex and will take years to complete. Considerable thought will be needed to determine how best to sequence and integrate these two processes.

Whether the SWRCB sets new flow standards before or after approving any petition for change associated with the relocation of points of diversion for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP), upstream water right holders should not be held responsible for meeting the obligations of those projects. Regardless of which of these efforts is completed first, our overriding concern is that existing water rights

priorities be recognized when changes in flow obligations are considered for the Delta in its entirety. In any scenario for a BDCP permit, the SWP and CVP must not be exempted from contributing when the needs of the entire Delta are evaluated.

We request that the SWRCB include specific language in any order approving a change in point of diversion for the SWP and CVP to provide clear assurance that the impacts of any such change, and of the BDCP generally, will not result in any redirected impacts to upstream water users, whether to meet water quality requirements, increased flows, or for other mitigation requirements. The same provision should also be included in the BDCP DEIR/S.

Thank you for your vigilant attention to meeting the needs of all stakeholders in this challenging endeavor.

Very truly yours,

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