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March 24, 2019

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- City of Folsom
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The Honorable Senator Jim Nielsen
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

The Honorable Assemblyman James Gallagher
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0003

RE: SUPPORT FOR BACKFILL FUNDING FOR PARADISE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Dear Senator Nielsen and Assemblyman Gallagher:

Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) writes to support backfill funding for Paradise Irrigation District (PID). The one-time appropriation of \$21,693,203.00 from the General Fund is essential and necessary to keep PID operating while Paradise recovers and rebuilds from the November 2018 Camp Fire.

The Camp Fire devastated the Town of Paradise, which mirrors PID’s service area. Pre-fire, PID served approximately 10,500 customer connections in the Town of Paradise. Today, approximately 1,500 of those connections remain, but only about 700 are currently active given infrastructure damage and other issues. Funding for PID’s infrastructure damage and Fire-related water quality issues are being addressed through FEMA/OES and insurance proceeds. However, there is no current funding source to sustain PID’s operational expenses given the overwhelming property losses suffered by PID’s customers. Even though PID currently serves a smaller population, PID’s cost of service is mostly (over 95%) fixed.

Maintaining PID as a viable public agency water supplier is vital to the recovery and rebuilding effort in Paradise. This short-term funding solution allows PID to continue to focus its efforts on Fire recovery and allow time to develop long-term funding models as Paradise rebuilds over the coming years. The backfill funding will ensure that the men and women who work for PID and serve the community – most of whom were also affected by the Fire – will be able to maintain their employment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JKingsbury', with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the end.

John Kingsbury, Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association