



July 7, 2015

Mr. Ron Milligan, Operations Manager
Central Valley Operations Office, CVO-100
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

Dear Mr. Milligan,

We understand that these are challenging times for all Central Valley Project (CVP) water users, and we are eager to assist in the implementation of an Operations Plan (Plan) that serves the collective needs of all water users. Further, it is our understanding that the operational objectives of the Plan are:

1. Successful implementation of the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan.
2. Provide summer water to meet Exchange Contractor irrigation demands, primarily by borrowing water currently stored in San Luis Reservoir by other districts.
3. Pump 140 TAF of north of Delta (NOD) transfer water, backed up in Shasta, during an expanded transfer window.
4. Timely return of all water borrowed from districts that have water stored in San Luis Reservoir.
5. Deliver water to south of Delta refuges in the fall.
6. Ensure scheduled deliveries to Upper Delta Mendota water users.
7. Manage low point to protect essential deliveries to the San Felipe Division.

We do appreciate the complex physical and regulatory environment in which the Plan has been developed and in which it will be implemented over the balance of the water year. We also understand that planning resources are spread exceedingly thin. However, given that the borrowing referenced above has already commenced, we believe it is critical that return commitments be clarified and memorialized now.

Following an allocation of only 20% in 2013, Ag service contractors have struggled with two successive years of zero CVP allocation, while M&I allocations have been at 50% and 25% the past two years. The acquisition of very expensive supplemental water has been critical to our survival, and to the best of our ability we did plan ahead,

stretching both water and financial portfolios to the breaking point. All of this water has been purchased by, or on behalf of, our water users and is not water we own.

As was the case at this time last year, there would be no federal water in SLR for Reclamation to borrow if not for M&I allocations and the supplemental water purchased at great expense by the CVP districts. This year, the stakes are even higher and the hydrologic environment even more uncertain. Nonetheless, the Plan contemplates borrowing this critical water to meet the summer demands of others.

Fairness and equity dictate that any and all such borrowed water must be returned timely and without reservation. We are not so presumptuous as to assume we know the best way to accomplish such assurance but we collectively propose the following:

- Borrowed water must be returned timely as necessary to meet the needs of those from which the water is borrowed.
- Return of this water must not impede delivery of NOD transfer water currently stored in Shasta Reservoir.
- Return of the borrowed water should be unconditional and not satisfied by supplies that would otherwise be available to support a 2016 allocation to SOD Ag service or M&I contractors. This should be supported by something equivalent to a transfer or refill agreement.
- Arrangements and assurances that borrowed water will be returned must be memorialized.

We want to continue our support and facilitation of a plan that works for everyone. At the same time, we need to address these matters before our critical supplemental supplies are too far exhausted by the current demands of other users. We look forward to timely and productive discussions on this issue.

Sincerely,



Lon Martin, General Manager
San Luis Water District



Jose Gutierrez, Deputy General Manager
Westlands Water District



Anthea G. Hansen, General Manager
Del Puerto Water District



David Weisenberger, General Manager
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