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July 1, 2019

Jorianne Jernberg
WIFIA Program Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WIFIA Program
Office of Water, Office of Wastewater Management
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (Mailcode 4201T)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Director Jernberg:

This letter serves to express support of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) Jones Pumping Plant Rehabilitation Project (Project) and its letter of interest (LOI) for funding from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Project is of local, regional, statewide, and national significance, as it enhances the reliability of drinking water for two million people across the northern and central part of California, provides water for California's thriving agriculture economy that supplies over 50 percent of the fruits and vegetables in the United States, provides the federal water supplies for the over 2 million residents of California's Silicon Valley, and supplies water for over 200,000 acres of managed wetlands and wildlife refuges of critical importance to the health of the Pacific Flyway, including providing water to the service area of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID).

BBID is a multi-county special district, serving parts of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties. The District provides reliable, efficient water, serving 160 agricultural customers and more than 20,000 residents of the Mountain House community.

The Jones Pumping Plant (JPP) is a key feature of the federally-owned Central Valley Project and is essential for supplying water to ten counties in the western San Joaquin Valley, San Benito Valley, and Silicon Valley and supporting the economies on which these communities depend. It also enables the continued delivery of San Joaquin River water supplies to the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project, supporting the communities and the economy of the eastern San Joaquin Valley.

In September 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation performed a condition assessment of the JPP pumps and concluded that all motor windings and stator cores were nearing the end of their 35-year service lives.

In 2015, the age of each of the existing pump motor windings and stator core units was between 31 to 38 years old. SLDMWA is requesting WIFIA funding to continue existing motor rewind and stator core replacement work.

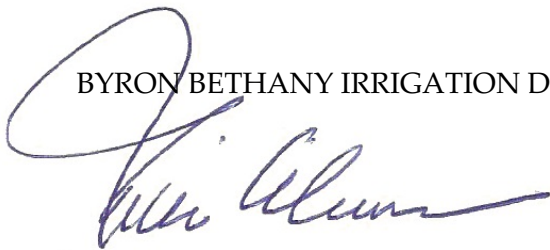
Rewinding the motors and replacing the stator core will reduce the likelihood of failure and ensure the continued reliability of the JPP, a critical piece of California's complex water conveyance system to the District. If the JPP units were to fail, millions of individuals could experience water shortages and both California's agriculture and technology economic sectors would be threatened, including those communities and residents of the District's service area. The Project also addresses identified local, regional, and state priorities for providing more reliable water supply south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, strengthening the resiliency of the state's water infrastructure, ensuring access to safe drinking water for some of the state's most vulnerable communities, and protecting ecosystems of importance to endangered species and treaty-protected migratory waterfowl.

The District appreciates the EPA's consideration of the Project LOI. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 835-0375 or via email at r.gilmore@bbid.org. On behalf of Byron-Bethany Irrigation District and our community, I thank you for your consideration of this LOI.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

BYRON BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Gilmore", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "G".

Rick Gilmore
General Manager