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August 8, 2017

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Support for Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Proposition 1 Application

Dear Chair Quintero and Members of the California Water Commission:

Grassland Water District writes to express its support for the Water Supply Investment Program (WSIP) funding application submitted by Contra Costa Water District for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project. In 2014, California voters approved Proposition 1, which authorized the California Water Commission (Commission) to invest in water storage projects that provide public benefits, particularly ecosystem improvements. Our District was pleased that the Commission's WSIP guidelines acknowledged the public value of improving wetland ecosystems through reliable water deliveries.

Managed wetlands in the Central Valley play a very significant role in supporting millions of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds that pass through California each year on their journey along the Pacific Flyway. The San Joaquin Valley contains the wildlife refuges of the Grasslands Ecological Area, which is the largest remaining contiguous block of wetlands in the West, and also the Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges, which provide a snapshot of the once vast Tulare wetlands. These refuges were promised a firm supply of water when the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) was enacted in 1992. But reliable sources of Incremental Level 4 refuge water, which the CVPIA requires to be acquired from willing sellers, are increasingly difficult to come by.

The Los Vaqueros Expansion Project would use Proposition 1 funding to implement a plan for meeting the CVPIA's 25-year-old goal for Incremental Level 4 refuge water deliveries. Using water diverted when the Delta is in excess conditions and conveyed through the new Transfer-Bethany Pipeline, the project will provide an annual average of 46,000 acre-feet of

water to CVPIA refuges in the San Joaquin Valley. This represents almost half of the total Incremental Level 4 refuge water need, and in wet years the project will provide even more. The project will also give flexibility to convey Level 2 refuge water from the Central Valley Project through the Transfer-Bethany Pipeline, which will help avoid water scheduling conflicts among refuges and other water users.

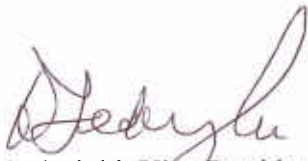
Grassland Water District is extremely supportive of Contra Costa Water District's application for WSIP funding, and encourages the Commission to approve the full amount requested. For many decades, ourselves and other hunters, farmers and conservationists have personally devoted themselves to protecting and restoring the wetlands we love. We are proud to have the growing support of new allies in this effort, including the municipal water agencies and other partners who will participate in the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project. Wetlands in the San Joaquin Valley connect California's environment to the environment of other states, nations, and sovereign territories throughout the Western Hemisphere. They also provide critical habitat to hundreds of species who permanently reside here. The Los Vaqueros Expansion Project will provide ecosystem benefits that will be enjoyed by many generations of Californians into the future.

Thank you for your service on the California Water Commission, and for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Pepper Snyder, President



Doug Federighi, Vice President

cc: California Water Commission Members
Jerry Brown, General Manager, Contra Costa Water District