

February 22, 2017

Mr. Pablo Arroyave, Acting Regional Director
Mid Pacific Regional Office
Federal Office Building
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Mr. William Croyle, Acting Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Mr. Paul Souza, Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825

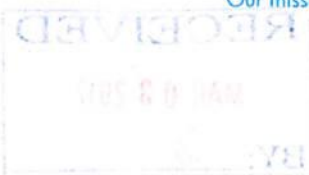
Mr. Barry Thom, Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
West Coast Region
1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Consultation on the Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project

Dear Messrs. Arroyave, Croyle, Souza, and Thom,

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is hereby requesting full participation in the Endangered Species Act section 7 consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (LTO Consultation).

The SCVWD is a public agency that contracts for the delivery of water from both the Central Valley



Project and the State Water project. As such, SCVWD's full participation in the LTO Consultation is provided for in the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act for the Nation (WIIN), section 4004 of Part II, Subtitle J of Pub. L. No: 114-322 (2016). On January 30, 2017, the SCVWD also requested to be a designated non-federal representative (DNFR) under 50 C.F.R §402.08. The SCVWD has the technical expertise and resources to assist with the preparation of the biological assessment, review the draft biological opinion, and confer with the action agency or applicant on any reasonable and prudent alternatives, and is seeking to partner with the U.S Bureau of Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources in the LTO Consultation.

SCVWD will be participating in the public stakeholder process that Reclamation initiated with its kick-off meeting on February 14th. Of course, quarterly stakeholder meetings are a necessary part of the consultation process, but are not a replacement for the full participation of the water contractors. (WIIN, section 4004(d) ["Clarification.- Neither subsection (b) or (c) of this section may be used to meet the requirements of subsection (a)."].)

We are looking forward to a meaningful dialogue to address the complex issues we all face.

Sincerely,



Cindy Kao
Imported Water Unit Manager
Santa Clara Valley Water District

