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DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

March 6, 2015

Dr. Rosalind James
National Program Leader, Invasive Pests of Crops
USDA-ARS
Office of National Programs
Crop Production and Protection
5601 Sunnyside Ave., MS 5139
Beltsville, MD 20705

Chair
Randy Florini

Members
Aja Brown
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.
Phil Isenberg
Patrick Johnston
Mary Piepho
Susan Tatayon

Executive Officer
Jessica R. Pearson

Dear Dr. James:

I am writing in support of the proposal being submitted to the FY2015 USDA-ARS Area Wide Pest Management Program by the USDA-ARS Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit, Albany-Davis, CA and collaborators, entitled **“Area-Wide Management of Aquatic Weeds in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for Protection of Critical Water Resources in Farming Areas, Wildlife Habitats, Recreational Zones and Water Conveyance Systems Important for California Agriculture and Human Health”**.

The Delta Stewardship Council is a California state agency established to develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive resources management plan for the Delta, referred to as the Delta Plan. The Plan, in effect since 2013, applies a common-sense approach based on the best available science to achieve the coequal goals of a healthy ecosystem and a reliable water supply, while preserving the Delta’s unique values. The Plan’s implementation is carried out through cooperation with State, local, and federal agencies. Infestations of water hyacinth, Brazilian waterweed, and giant reed have made it more difficult for the agencies directed to implement the Delta Plan to effectively do so.

The Delta Area-Wide Project was initiated by USDA-ARS in May 2014 and has already yielded benefits for improved control of water hyacinth and Brazilian waterweed in the Delta. The new collaborations and lines of communication that have developed between agencies with a shared mission to protect water resources and ecosystems in the Delta have been equally valuable.

The Council’s Delta Science Program has made improving the science that supports management of aquatic weeds in the Delta a priority for 2015. We will co-sponsor and organize, in close collaboration with our local, state, and federal partners, a symposium to bring together the best available science relevant to aquatic weed management. The Delta Area-Wide Project is a key complement to our efforts to improve the science that supports aquatic weed management here. Because the drought is

“Coequal goals” means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”

– CA Water Code §85054

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aggravating the abundance and distribution of aquatic weeds, continued funding for ARS important research is particularly urgent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rainer Hoenicke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rainer Hoenicke, Ph.D.
Deputy Executive Officer
Delta Science Program

cc: Randy Fiorini
Mary Piepho