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Central Basin

Municipal Water District

September 23, 2011

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Revisions to Fifth Draft of Delta Plan

Dear Chairman Isenberg:

Central Basin Municipal Water District (Central Basin) would like to express its gratitude for your efforts as Chairman of the Delta Stewardship Council to develop a Delta Plan that meets the two major goals of ecosystem recovery for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and water supply reliability for the state. The Delta Plan is now in its 5th iteration and we have seen many improvements from earlier drafts. Since Southern California remains an important partner (as do most areas of the state) in this effort, Central Basin would like to offer suggestions to further improve the next draft.

One of the major concerns is this draft does not unambiguously support a key objective of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) – the recovery of water supplies lost due to Delta regulatory restrictions that BDCP intends to dramatically improve. BDCP is further threatened by the draft Delta Plan's proposal to require virtually every significant future BDCP action to undergo a review process by the Stewardship Council rather than to review the entire BDCP once to make the final decision that its actions are consistent with the Delta Plan.

It is also concerning that the draft plan attempts to dictate local water management decisions on everything from rate structures to recycling targets. The Delta Stewardship Council was not created to micromanage local water management decisions throughout the state. It was established to create a plan that could serve to coordinate the many local, state and federal efforts in the Delta.

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Recently, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) authorized an amendment to the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program Memorandum of Agreement (Delta Habitat MOA) and the Agreement for Supplemental Funding to support the Stewardship Council's efforts. The amendment to these two agreements provides the Southern California funding necessary to complete the planning phase and engineering design for the BDCP. This amendment commits MWD, as well as the 26 member agencies, which include Central Basin, to a funding level of 25% of all costs, currently estimated at \$253 million. Therefore, MWD is now obligated to spend about \$63 million through February 2013 when the Record of Decision for the BDCP is expected to be handed down. It is important to know that MWD and the member agencies are supportive of your efforts but there needs to be changes in the draft plan that demonstrate a collaborative approach on the part of the Stewardship Council. Plus, we are sure you are aware that an alternate Delta Plan approach has been proposed by various agricultural and urban interests.

The overly regulatory approach that permeates this draft could threaten the success of the Stewardship Council and detract from prospects of a successful, collaborative approach. The Stewardship Council must get the Delta Plan right for the sake of our water supply, economy and environment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (323) 201-5505 or at arta@centralbasin.org.

Sincerely,



Art Aguilar
General Manager

DH:gs V\Letters\09-23-11\Isenberg Ltr

CC: CBMWD Board of Directors
Mr. Jeff Kightlinger, MWD General Manager
Chairman John Foley, MWD Board of Directors