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January 14, 2013

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Members of Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Transmitted electronically:
deltaplancomment@deltacouncil.ca.gov

RE: Placer County Water Agency's Comments on the Final Delta Plan

Dear Chair Isenberg and Members of the Council:

Placer County Water Agency (Agency) would like to express its appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the development of the Delta Plan (Plan). As you are probably aware, throughout the process the Agency has actively monitored the progression of Drafts, and has provided comments as an individual commenter as well as through its active involvement in the ACWA Ag-Urban Committee, the North State Alliance, the Regional Water Authority and the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association. The Agency's consistent and constant message has been that the Council's authority is limited to actions taking place in the legal Delta and that upstream areas, such as Placer County, cannot physically reduce their reliance on water in the Delta watershed to less than 100%; there are no other sources of water.

We have provided suggestions and comments to the Council and to its staff, and the final Plan demonstrates that our voice has been heard. While we remain disappointed that the Plan continues to echo the statute's requirement for "reduction" of reliance on Delta watershed water, we appreciate the text and examples in the Plan that clearly explain that this means, for upstream users, the increase in water use efficiency and development of integrated regional water management plans.

Further, the Plan clearly sets forth the limitation of the Council's jurisdiction to actions occurring within the legal Delta by its definition of "covered action," a subject of considerable debate, comment and conversation with the Council and its staff. The Agency appreciates this clarity.

The process of developing the Delta Plan has been arduous and contentious; however, it is proof that respectful attention to concerns expressed by those involved and affected can result in a thoughtful and balanced perspective. Many challenges face Californians in implementing the Plan, but if the spirit of civility and diligent inquiry that characterized the Delta Plan process can be sustained, the Agency is optimistic that California may make progress in healing the Delta.

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

David A. Breninger
General Manager

DB/JG/cs

c: County of Placer Board of Supervisors
Placer County Executive Officer
PCWA Board of Directors
PCWA General Manager
PCWA General Counsel
PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs