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July 10, 2020

Armando Quintero, Chairman
California Water Commission
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject: Water Storage Investment Program Early Funding

Delivered via email

Dear Chairman Quintero,

As you know, Regional San worked with the California Water Commission (CWC) during the development of the regulations for the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) and we subsequently submitted an extensive grant application and participated in the very competitive selection process. Regional San is grateful to receive a conditional award \$280.5 million for our South County Ag Program (recently re-branded to the *Harvest Water Program*).

Since receiving that conditional award, Regional San has spent its money to diligently move the Program forward, making progress in finalizing our environmental documents, completing our engineering feasibility study, refining our ecological plan, securing our water rights, working with California Department of Fish & Wildlife and the State Water Resources Control Board on potential elements of public benefit contracts, and laying the groundwork for the design and construction aspects of the Program.

The development of our WSIP application was quite an undertaking to meet the CWC's submittal deadline. As a result, we simply did not have the time to develop the information needed to request early funding during the WSIP application process.

We understand that several of the WSIP project proponents that have received conditional awards by the CWC and that did not initially apply for early funding may now be interested in pursuing early funding for their own projects. Regional San is in support of this concept and is also interested in obtaining early funding for our Harvest Water Program. If the CWC decides to allow for the expansion of early funding to conditionally approved WSIP projects, we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with CWC staff in the development of streamlined regulations that accelerate funding and help leverage the State's investment in these projects.

Thank you again for your partnership and support of the Harvest Water Program. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-599-2219 or mitchellt@sacsewer.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Terrie Mitchell
Manager, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
Manager, Harvest Water A-PMO



cc: Prabhakar Somavarapu, Regional San District Engineer
Christoph Dobson, Regional San Director of Policy & Planning