August 1, 2017

The Honorable Members of the California Water Commission
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Support for South Sacramento County Agriculture Recycled Water and Conjunctive Use Program WSIP Application

Dear Commissioners:

Trout Unlimited and its partners in the Cosumnes Coalition are writing to express support for Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District’s (Regional San) application to the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) for the South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Recycled Water, Groundwater Storage, and Conjunctive Use Program (South County Ag Program). The Cosumnes Coalition is a group of partners formed to restore and preserve the ecological, cultural, recreational, municipal, and agricultural values of the Cosumnes Watershed. The partners include Trout Unlimited, American River Conservancy, Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays, Fishery Foundation, and Landmark Environmental Consultants.

The South County Ag Program proposes to use tertiary-treated recycled water for irrigation of agricultural and habitat lands in lieu of pumped groundwater. Modeling indicates that the in-lieu groundwater recharge facilitated by this project will provide a 20-30 foot increase in groundwater elevation in a portion of the basin, and assist in supporting in-stream flows in the Cosumnes River, a tributary to the Delta.

We believe this project provides substantial ecosystem benefits and regional water supply benefits at a low cost, particularly when compared to surface storage projects. It is also an example of the type of innovative, multi-benefit groundwater projects California needs to implement to ensure our state has a more sustainable and reliable water supply. Reg San is working to ensure the project is well coordinated with other regional groundwater and ecosystem efforts, to achieve maximum benefits to water supply, anadromous fish, and groundwater dependent ecosystems.

We appreciate the Commission’s extensive work to develop and implement the WSIP program, and encourage you to fund this important project.

Sincerely,

Melinda Frost-Hurzel  
Cosumnes River Monitoring Coordinator
Trout Unlimited/Cosumnes Coalition

Mike Eaton  
Cosumnes GDE Advisor
Cosumnes Coalition
Elena De Lacy
Stewardship Director
American River Conservancy

Kimberly Petree
Executive Director
Cosumnes Culture and WaterWays

Trevor Kennedy
Executive Director
Fishery Foundation of California

Karen Quidachay
President
Landmark Environmental Inc