April 23, 2014

BDCP Comments
Ryan Wulff, NMFS
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support BDCP EIR/EIS Alternative #4

Dear Mr. Wulff,

On behalf of the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) I am writing to express our agency’s support for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and specifically Alternative #4 as outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS).

Following the passage of California’s comprehensive water package in 2009, Upper District has closely watched and supported the BDCP process. We are encouraged by the release of the public draft of the plan and environmental documents. The outcome of this multi-year effort reflects collaboration of public water agencies, state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, business and agricultural stakeholders, local governments and the public.

The draft plan and accompanying environmental documents identify several options for addressing the current challenges with California’s water supply delivery system and the Delta ecosystem. We believe that Alternative #4, which provides for three new intakes on the Sacramento River in the northern Delta and a 9,000 cfs tunnel system to convey that water to the existing aqueduct system, coupled with a comprehensive habitat conservation plan for the Delta, is the best alternative to meet California’s co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.

The construction of new water intakes and related conveyance is an essential element of the BDCP. The proposed twin tunnel system will protect public water supplies if a seismic event were to trigger levee breaks and cause saltwater to intrude from San Francisco Bay. The new intakes in the northern Delta will reduce conflicts between water systems and migrating fish species such as salmon. Habitat improvements will provide native species with the healthy ecosystems they need to survive. Fifty years of regulatory stability will protect an estimated 1.1 million jobs throughout the state and create more than 177,000 jobs from construction projects and environmental restoration.
Southern California is rebuilding its aging infrastructure to ensure its water supplies are reliable. We need the same kind of investment in the State Water Project to safeguard our imported supplies. A project of such magnitude will require some difficult decisions and compromise between stakeholders with varying priorities. However, we would encourage that California not sit idly by and wait for disaster.

We support the BDCP’s Alternative #4 as a workable draft proposal that can lead to a final successful plan of action because it offers the best solution to minimize seismic risk to our state’s water supply infrastructure while restoring the Delta’s ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Shane Chapman
General Manager
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

cc:  The Honorable Ronald S. Calderon, Senate District 30
     The Honorable Dr. Ed Hernandez, Senate District 24
     The Honorable Bob Huff, Senate District 29
     The Honorable Carol Liu, Senate District 25
     The Honorable Norma J. Torres, Senate District 32
     The Honorable Ian Calderon, Assembly District 57
     The Honorable Curt Hagman, Assembly District 55
     The Honorable Roger Hernandez, Assembly District 48
     The Honorable Chris Holden, Assembly District 41
     The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Assembly District 52