Dear Chair Esquivel, Members of the Board, and Ms. Sobeck:

On January 7, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom reinitiated discussions among interested parties to seek Voluntary Agreements that the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) could consider in its Water Quality Control Plan update for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and Watershed. These discussions have centered on how we can achieve multiple water quality, water supply, and sustainable water management objectives. The organizations listed below have actively participated in discussions over the past several weeks.

These efforts have made significant progress since the Water Board meeting on December 12, 2018. Today, the Directors of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Water Resources are submitting two documents that demonstrate this progress and identify additional work that is needed.

The first document is a Project Description of a set of Voluntary Agreements that is submitted for further analysis by Water Board staff. It is based on the framework agreement outlined on December 12 and must be assessed for legal and scientific adequacy. The second document is a Planning Agreement that outlines an approach to implementation and terms for the work effort still before us. These documents are intended to integrate flow and non-flow measures to establish water quality conditions that support (1) the viability of native fishes in the Bay-Delta watershed, and (2) the achievement of related objectives in the Bay-Delta Plan, as amended. Today’s submission does not represent agreed-upon Voluntary Agreements. Rather, it is an important step that is worthy of further analysis and discussion.

As individuals representing our respective organizations in this process, we are committed to continue working with the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and other interested parties in an open and transparent process to assess and further develop this proposal. We remain committed to try to reach Voluntary Agreements that advance California on the path toward sustainable water management.

Sincerely,

Gene Mancebo
Amador Water Agency

Steve Rothert
American Rivers
Gary Justeson
Biggs-West Gridley Water District

Mark Orme
Butte Water District

Ernest Conant
US Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region

Chuck Bonham
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Karla Nemeth
CA Department of Water Resources

Jeffrey Volberg
California Waterfowl

Christopher White
Central California Irrigation District

Marguerite Patil
Contra Costa Water District

Kim Delfino
Defenders of Wildlife

Michael Tognolini
East Bay Municipal Utility District

Jim Abercrombie
El Dorado Irrigation District

Maurice Hall
Environmental Defense Fund

Marcus Yasutake
City of Folsom

Jason Phillips
Friant Water Authority

Thad Bettner
Glenn Colusa Irrigation District

Ricardo Ortega
Grassland Water District
Norma Camacho  
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Roland Sanford  
Solano County Water Agency

Jennifer Pierre  
State Water Contractors

Brad Mattson  
Sutter Mutual Water Company

Jeffrey Sutton  
Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority

Brian Johnson  
Trout Unlimited

Casey Hashimoto  
Turlock Irrigation District

Ted Trimble  
Western Canal Water District

Thomas Birmingham  
Westlands Water District

Curt Aikens  
Yuba County Water Agency