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March 15, 2023

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn HOB
Washington D.C. 20515

RE: FY 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending Request for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta One Water Initiative

Dear Congressman Garamendi:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to seek \$6.35 million in Fiscal Year 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta One Water Initiative. This critically important project funding would help Solano County, and the Delta Counties at large, to promote a holistic, sustainable, and inclusive approach to water management in the Delta.

The Delta One Water Initiative is designed to maximize the resilience and benefits of future investments in water supply, wastewater, stormwater, source water protection, environmental restoration, and flood control infrastructure. Specifically, the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) is seeking funding through the Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to cost-share the development and construction of key water infrastructure in the Delta, as authorized under section 8375 of Public Law 117-263 (WRDA 2022).

The DCC and each of the five Delta Counties seek federal support for the following locally-led projects that will advance the Delta One Water Initiative:

One Water Master Plan – Solano County

FY 24 Request: \$1.5 million

Purpose and Need: The One Water Master Plan builds upon a stakeholder-driven process currently underway in Solano County to develop a framework that identifies multi-benefit criteria for consideration of a County-wide plan. This important project will identify high-priority water, wastewater, recycled water, drainage and/or flood infrastructure needs along with agency alignments for project implementation, feasibility studies and modeling, and the development of planning and programmatic environmental reviews on priority projects. The objectives of the One Water Master Plan include integrating management actions for water resources and policies through county-wide collaboration in order to implement holistic and equitable projects and programs that provide multiple benefits to support intended land uses county wide to improve the health of the Delta.

The total cost estimate to develop the Plan is \$2.7 million, with costs to be shared between the County and the Army Corps of Engineers for: research and stakeholder outreach; feasibility studies, modeling, mapping, and priority project selection; reporting and project management; and, environmental review.

The Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project – Contra Costa County

FY 24 Request: \$2 million

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Purpose and Need: The Knightsen Wetland Restoration Project has been almost a decade in development. The assessment, planning, design, and permitting phases have been funded by state and local agencies and the project is moving to construction. Funds are being requested to contribute to the revegetation effort associated with the habitat types included for restoration (freshwater tidal wetland, seasonal wetland, sand dune, grassland, and oak savanna). The project will restore a 645-acre property in the western Delta to providing a mosaic of habitats for state and federally threatened and endangered species. Ancillary benefits to the habitat restoration include conservation of open space, improved Delta water quality, and increased local resilience to flood events.

Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project – Sacramento County

FY 24 Request: \$850,000

Purpose and Need: Sacramento County is seeking federal support for technical, planning and design assistance for the Cosumnes River Multi-Benefit Project. The funds will be used to support County efforts to identify flood risk reduction measures along the Cosumnes River – including flood risk reductions that protect private water infrastructure – as well as identify opportunities for additional habitat and water supply reliability benefits in the Lower Cosumnes River. In early January of this year, the second highest flow in history was recorded on the Cosumnes River, with flows of more than 60,000 cubic feet per second – just below the 1997 record. The downstream levee breached, which caused flooding to critical water infrastructure, Dillard Road and Highway 99, diminished habitat values and led to two deaths. Improvements are urgently needed in the area.

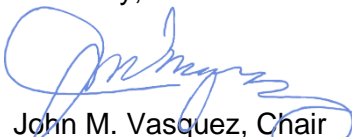
Acampo Area Drainage Innovation Project – Phase 2b - San Joaquin County

FY 24 Request: \$2 million

Purpose and Need: Funding would be used for the design, environmental clearance, and regulatory permitting for the next phase of the Acampo Area Drainage Innovation Project, with an estimated cost of \$5 million. The Acampo area of San Joaquin County, a disadvantaged community, experiences flooding about once every ten years on average due in part to changes in the upper watershed that occurred over generations. In response to relatively severe flooding in 2017, a multiphase plan was developed, with the first phase of the plan completed in 2019, including a drainage system in Coopers' Corner. The second phase would continue efforts to provide additional flood risk reduction by intercepting and diverting surface flood waters upstream of the Acampo Area towards the Mokelumne River and conveying and spreading flood flows onto agricultural lands with suitable soil profiles. In addition to improving flood protection for the community, the recharged floodwaters would improve groundwater conditions in a critically over-drafted groundwater basin. Completion of Phase 2 and future phases will not only improve water supply resiliency, but also further reduce the frequency and magnitude of flooding for area residents, businesses, a mobile home park, two schools and roadways, including State Route 99, which was closed for several days due to the 2023 flood event.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important request.

Sincerely,



John M. Vasquez, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator

Honorable John Garamendi
March 15, 2023

The Honorable Mike Thompson, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Tim Flanagan, Chief Information Officer, Solano County
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners