April 18, 2024

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair

State Water Resources Control Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: A Better Pathway for the Bay Delta via the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes**

Dear Chair Esquivel and Board Members:

As someone speaking for many friends, neighbors, and colleagues residing in (Vacaville), which is in the Sacramento River Basin, I urge you to adopt the *Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (previously known as voluntary agreements)* in your final staff report as an alternative to the unimpaired flows proposal in the current draft staff report. The Agreements provide the best approach and associated benefits for the affected communities, farms, businesses, the environment, native fish and wildlife populations, and the public.

We are deeply concerned with the current draft Bay Delta Plan update proposal calling for 55 percent unimpaired flows from Lake Berryessa into the Delta. This equates to a projected 75% reduction in local water supply that would be devastating to the economy, the environment, and the health and welfare of the residents of our local communities. It would severely reduce the availability of water that is critical for the sustainability of cities and rural communities, farms, wildlife, fisheries, and recreational lands.

We support a healthy Delta and appreciate the governor’s leadership in advancing the Voluntary Agreements. It is imperative that any regulatory framework considers and safeguards all beneficial uses of our water resources. The proposed unimpaired flow approach will have significant adverse effects not just locally and regionally but statewide. The unimpaired flows approach contradicts the goals of the water conservation framework and impedes our efforts towards developing more resilient and sustainable water infrastructure to better prepare for future droughts in California.

I recommend that you pursue the integrated and collaborative approach of the *Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes* that has broad support throughout the state. The Agreements provide a more practical approach that safeguards local water resources to be used for beneficial purposes including the ability to integrate flows that would improve our landscapes and the populations of fish species native to our rivers, tributaries, and the Delta. This approach is compatible and consistent with flood protection, water conservation, and other beneficial water uses in the region. We believe that this 21st century approach to water management will better serve the Sacramento River Basin and more effectively protect the Delta and achieves your water quality goals for the Delta.

Respectfully,