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Sent via ELECTRONIC MAIL to: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov

July 27, 2018

Felicia Marcus, Chair
c/o Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comment Letter – Revisions to Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments

Chair Marcus:

The California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Final Amendments to the Revised Water Quality Control Plan (Proposed Plan). CMUA represents publicly-owned electric utilities that provide nearly 25 percent of the state's power and 43 water agency members that deliver water to over 70 percent of Californians.

CMUA recognizes the inclusion of voluntary agreements in the Proposed Plan and would like to provide constructive comments to ensure the Final Plan is equitable for agencies providing drinking water and the environment.

New Language Requires Clarification

CMUA requests further explanation of the language in Table 3 at the bottom of Page 18 of Appendix K. As currently written, the language states that flows "shall be managed in a manner to avoid causing significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife beneficial uses at other times of the year." CMUA cannot locate any explanation for this new language and how these objectives would be managed. CMUA requests the State Water Board further explain this language as it would require agencies to determine what fish and wildlife would need six months in advance, which is difficult, if not impossible given the unpredictability of California's climate.

Voluntary Agreements Must Be Rooted in Certainty

CMUA appreciates the inclusion of voluntary agreements in the Proposed Plan. However, CMUA is concerned that without additional certainty regarding changes to an agency's unimpaired flow requirements, agencies will be reluctant to engage in these agreements. As currently written, agencies would enter voluntary agreements without any guarantee of reduced flows. Additionally, the State Water Board could change flow requirements annually while some of the projects suggested in the Plan would take multiple years and cost millions of dollars. CMUA recommends language in this section be expanded to discuss the collaborative nature of the voluntary agreement process.

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July 27, 2018

Page 2

Significant Impacts to Municipal Utilities

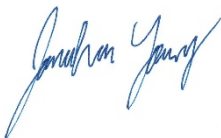
CMUA believes it is important to highlight the effects of the Proposed Final Amendments on municipal drinking water, particularly for Irrigation Districts whom provide wholesale municipal drinking water to their surrounding communities. The proposal would disrupt these collaborative partnerships and leave cities scrambling for another water source to serve their citizens. Given the short compliance timeframe to achieve the flow objectives, options such as desalination, water transfers or an in-Delta diversion all have consequences for the environment and/or ratepayers that need to be carefully considered when determining potential impacts.

Impacts on Hydrogeneration

California is a leader in renewable energy and the long-standing practice of producing electricity through hydrogeneration is a cornerstone of these efforts. In order to effectively utilize this resource, water must be stored and then released when utilities can maximize the resulting electricity. However, should the current proposal advance, the additional water released in February to June to meet the flow requirements would subsequently reduce the amount of water available for hydrogeneration during peak times throughout the summer. We urge the State Water Board to carefully consider the impacts of this reduction in hydropower and avoid proposals that negatively affect such an important part of achieving the state's renewable energy goals.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact me at 916 326-5806 or jyoung@cmua.org should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Young
Regulatory Advocate

cc: Members, State Water Resources Control Board
Eileen Sobek, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Eric Oppenheimer, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director, State Water Resources Control Board

From: Jonathan Young <jyoung@cmua.org>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2018 11:12 AM
To: LSJR-SD-Comments@waterboards.ca.gov; WQCP1Comments
Subject: Comment Letter – Revisions to Proposed
Attachments: Bay Delta WQCP CMUA Comment 7.27.2018.pdf

Categories: Red Category

Ms. Townsend,

Please see the California Municipal Utilities Association's comment letter regarding the Revisions to the Proposed Bay-Delta Plan Amendments. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter or have trouble accessing it, I can be reached at 916-326-5806.

Thank you,

Jonathan

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