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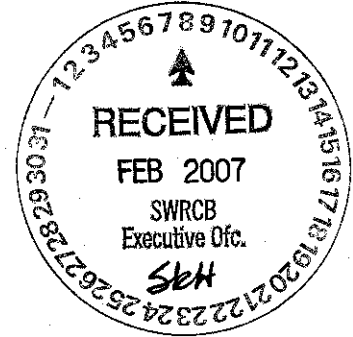
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February 8, 2007

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Song Her
Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000



Re: In the Matter of the Petition for Reconsideration by the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (Water Right Application 12842) of and Order Denying a Time Extension

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

This letter is submitted in support of the State Water Resources Control Board's issuance of an Order granting reconsideration of Order WR 2006-0018-DWR which denied North San Joaquin Water Conservation District's Petition for Extension of Time for Water Right Application 12842.

Since the filing of the Petition for Extension in 2000, North San Joaquin Conservation District ("District") has made substantial and demonstrable efforts to put its water to beneficial use, which constitutes "due diligence" as required by Water Code section 1396. Because these efforts were ongoing at the time the Extension was filed, and continued thereafter, the information the Chief of the Division of Water Right relied upon in making her decision in denying the Petition for Extension was outdated and it did not give an accurate and comprehensive view of the District's endeavors to comply with the Water Code, the State Water Board regulations, and the terms of the Permit.

Most significant is the District's membership in the San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority. The efforts of the Groundwater Banking Authority are crucial, as the groundwater basin underlying the San Joaquin County is in critical overdraft. The District's participation in this process is invaluable, not merely from a planning perspective, but also because its water rights are necessary for the County to fulfill its water needs.

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As such, the County strongly urges the State Water Resources Control Board to issue an Order granting reconsideration of Order WR 2006-0018-DWR which denied North San Joaquin Water Conservation District's Time Extension Petition for Water Right Application 12842.

Very truly yours,



Mia S. Brown, Attorney at Law on behalf of
Thomas J. Shephard, Sr.
Special Water Counsel for the County of San Joaquin