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California State Senate

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FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

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LEGISLATIVE BUDGET

January 4, 2011

RE: Policy statement in support of Water Right Application 30358A filed by the City of Davis and the University of California, Davis and Application 30358B filed by the City of Woodland

Dear Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

I write in support of the Water Right Application 30358A filed by the City of Davis and the University of California, Davis and Application 30358B filed by the City of Woodland.

Having served this Woodland- Davis region in many capacities, including currently representing the region in the California Senate, as well as serving six years as the Assembly representative, eight years on the Davis City Council and four years on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, I am quite familiar with the decades long effort of this region to improve water quality and water supply reliability while protecting the ecosystem values of the Yolo Bypass, the Sacramento River, and the fragile Delta.

As the Chair of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee for four years, it was my responsibility to learn about and to bring heightened attention to important statewide water issues including flood protection, the crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, water management and fisheries. In the Senate, I have continued my work on water issues as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Delta Stewardship and Sustainability and as a member of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

I believe that the project before you today is a well thought out solution to the challenging need to improve the quality of water that the region discharges to the Sacramento River. Further, it is my view that this project is consistent with state water policies, and is beneficial to efforts to improve conditions in the Delta.

In 1994, Jim Eagan with the Yolo County Flood Control District met with me in my capacity as Mayor of Davis to inform me of the opportunity to improve water quality for both our residents and for the discharge into the Sacramento River. Jim had the foresight to see that the region needed to take action to address the water quality issues, while diversifying the region's water supplies.

Seventeen years and numerous reports, analyses, and meetings later, the cities have brought forward to this board a responsible application. These applications will allow the region to meet looming SWRCB discharge requirements by improving the quality of water coming into treatment facilities; benefiting the water quality in the Sacramento River. This project also provides benefit to the fisheries that depend on the Sacramento River by facilitating the screening of one of the largest unscreened intakes remaining on the Sacramento River.

As my experience demonstrates, I am a strong advocate of balancing water demands with protecting the Sacramento River and Delta. In this case, I am happy to support this responsible application that meets both the needs of the community and that provides ecosystem benefits. In improving conditions for both water quality and fisheries in the Sacramento River and the Delta, this project is also consistent with statewide water management goals. I urge your approval of the two related applications before you.

Sincerely,

LOIS WOLK,
Senator, 5th District