

October 13, 2015

Mr. Scott Wilson, Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region California
Department of Fish and Wildlife
7329 Silverado Trail
Napa, CA 94558

Subject: Response to Your Letter Dated September 18, 2015, Regarding The Fish And Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort (FAHCE)—Fish Habitat Restoration Plan (FHRP) Review Process

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Board of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) welcomes your letter regarding the FAHCE—Fish Habitat Restoration Plan review process. Your letter assisted the Board's understanding of the complexity of this process and the need to ensure sufficient time is provided to consider and discuss the modeling supporting the flow analyses in the administrative draft of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

The Board is grateful for the dedication that California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has demonstrated to resolving the issues associated with the FAHCE process and shares your desire to resolve the water rights issues in a manner that provides adequate time for necessary dialogue between the District and other FAHCE Settlement Agreement signatories.

To this end, we find your request for a three month extension to the FAHCE project schedule to be reasonable. At its meeting on October 13, 2015, the Board directed District staff to issue a public draft of the FHRP and associated draft PEIR by January 31, 2016, instead of October 31, 2015.

The Board is hopeful that this three month extension will provide the technical representatives of the FAHCE Settlement Agreement signatories an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue to discuss their concerns regarding the modeling supporting the FAHCE reservoir re-reoperation curves and alternative PEIR analysis through the end of this calendar year. We agree that ensuring there is sufficient time will result in the development of better informed and supported draft FHRP and CEQA documents.

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Again, thank you for your letter, and your continued participation in FAHCE process. We look forward to working with your agency to achieve our mutual goal of improved fish habitat in Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,

Gary Kremen
Chair/Board of Directors

cc: Board of Directors (7)
FAHCE signatories

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