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February 9, 2016

Via First Class and Electronic Mail

Chair Barbara Keegan
Vice-Chair John L. Varela
Director Tony Estremera
Director Gary Kremen
Director Linda J. LeZotte
Director Richard P. Santos
Director Nai Hsueh
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3614

Re: Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort: Agenda Item 5.1 (February 9, 2016 Board Meeting)

Dear Directors:

We write on behalf of Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District (GCRCD), California Trout, and Trout Unlimited, as Initialing Parties to the Fish and Aquatic Collaborative Effort (FAHCE). American Rivers joins these comments.

The staff report describes monthly meetings of the Initialing Parties, development of administrative drafts, and the possibility that the Initialing Parties will negotiate and initial an amended agreement in March 2016 to describe the new regulatory pathway. Apart from the promising work to model alternative operations of your dams, the report does not identify specific steps that will be taken to address key remaining substantive issues relevant to finalizing the FAHCE Agreement. An example is whether and how the conservation program addresses the cumulative impacts of the water supply system and other of your facilities and activities.

We write to inform you that we will modify our participation in this process. We will not attend meetings, initial an amended agreement, or take other actions that merely address non-substantive issues. That work is premature, pending meaningful progress in the resolution of key substantive issues related to the conservation program. We will continue to participate in the modeling of alternative operations to assure that the final conservation program will protect and restore the anadromous fisheries on a long-term basis as required by the FAHCE Agreement and applicable laws. We will comment on drafts of the conservation program and Environmental

Impact Report once completed by staff. And we will work with staff and the resource agencies on the development of interim operations and other measures to protect these fisheries in 2016, per the Board's November 10, 2015 direction.

Thank you for considering this letter.

Sincerely,



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