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October 1, 2017

Mr. John L. Varela
Chair, Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3686

Dear Board of Directors:

Silicon Valley's innovation has propelled California to become the world's sixth largest economy. But our region produces more than iPhones and routers. We also produce farmer's market worthy fruits, vegetables and world class wine grapes.

Farmers and ranchers in Santa Clara County grow more than 100 different crops on almost 250,000 acres and contribute \$250 million to the local economy. We support the California WaterFix to protect our region's water supply for our family farms.

The water Silicon Valley current gets from the Sierras – more than half of its total supply – has to travel through an outdated network of pumps and levees that are harmful to the environment and vulnerable to catastrophic failure. WaterFix will replace outdated infrastructure and safeguard our water supply from natural disasters and the immanent effects of climate change. It will also allow more water to be stored during wet years – in reservoirs and in groundwater basins throughout California – and available to families, businesses and farms in dry years.

Since the 1930's when Santa Clara was one of the first regions in California to recognize the damage caused by groundwater overdraft and land subsidence, county farmers have worked hard to ensure our groundwater basin remains in balance and use the most up-to-date conservation methods. We are well aware of the consequences of losing even small portions of the region's water supply and the lasting damage it can have on our land and our economy. That's why we support the California WaterFix.

The Santa Clara County Farm Bureau encourage the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the State of California, to pursue this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Burback".
Janet Burback
President