



Mr. Zaffar Eusuff, Program Manager
Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 94236

Ms. Heather Shannon, Project Manager
Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program
California Department of Water Resources
901 P Street
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject: Letter of Support for a Disadvantaged Community Cost-share Waiver for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Application

Dear Mr. Eusuff and Ms. Shannon,

On behalf the Sierra Club is pleased to submit this letter of support for the 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Application for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin to obtain funding under Category 2 for preparation of a SGMA-compliant Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

This support of the application for DAC fee waiver is contingent upon the JPA's firm commitment that each GSA provide documented and effective outreach to normally excluded groups by committing to a truly open process with the diverse stakeholder engagement that includes DAC's and individuals with private wells. Additionally, consideration should be given to have quarterly meetings during the evening hours.

Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm for Sierra Club chapters in California. The Sierra Club is one of the nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. It was founded in 1892 by a group of Californians, including John Muir, who valued the state's wilderness areas. Today, the Club has chapters in every state and a national membership that exceeds 1 million. California is unique among states in that it has 13 chapters representing nearly 182,000 members. Sierra Club California was established in 1986 to help ensure that the Club speak with one strong voice on statewide environmental policy issues before the legislature and state agencies.

Sierra Club California, working in concert with the Delta Sierra Group, understands that achieving the objectives of long-term groundwater sustainability requires investment in regional planning and other projects that seek to improve the basin's sustainability and reliability as a water source.

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority and its member Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) have demonstrated, via a presentation of their work plan, a willingness to engage in the identification and engagement of stakeholders, including those communities identified as Disadvantaged, Economically Distressed or Severely Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). As such, we support efforts to continue this engagement and promote direct participation in the GSP development process by DAC representatives. With this grant, the entire community in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin will be in a better financial position to satisfy all SGMA compliance requirements and advance the long-term environmental, economic, and social viability of the San Joaquin Valley.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned directly if you would like any other information regarding our support of the 2017 SGWP Grant Application for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin.

Sincerely,

Eric Parfrey, Chair
Sierra Club California Executive Committee
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Mary Elizabeth, member
Delta Sierra Group
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