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GENERAL MANAGER
Thaddeus L. Bettner, P.E.

April 8, 2015

Brad Hubbard
Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: GCID Participation in Reclamation's Proposed Long-Term Water Transfer Program

Dear Brad,

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) sent you a letter on November 18, 2014, stating that the District would not participate in groundwater transfers but would allow for up to 10,000 acres (up to 33,000 acre-feet of transferrable water) of idling in the Proposed Long-Term Water Transfer Program (LTWTP).

Due to the dry spring, lower than average carry-over storage in Shasta Reservoir, and operational challenges this year with Central Valley Project and winter-run fishery concerns, GCID and other settlement contractors have sent the attached letter and plan to Regional Director Murillo for the 2015 operations. One action is to maximize idling and transfers which will have the result of decreasing April and May diversions and moving the transfer water to the fall which will benefit winter run fisheries.

As a result, GCID is increasing its participation from 10,000 acres to up to 20,000 acres (providing up to 66,000 acre-feet of transferrable water), which is based on the 20% land idling maximum.

If you would like to meet to discuss GCID's program or our comments, please contact me at 530-934-8881.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus L. Bettner
General Manager

Enclosure

Cc: Frances Mizuno, Executive Director,
San Luis Delta-Mendota Water Authority

April 3, 2015

Via Electronic Mail and First Class Mail

Mr. David Murillo
Regional Director
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, MP-100
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
dmurillo@usbr.gov

Re: 2015 Sacramento River Settlement Contract Compliance

Dear Mr. Murillo:

This letter is written on behalf of the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (Settlement Contractors) identified on the attached Exhibit 1. Other Settlement Contractors may write separately or join in this letter. At the outset, the Settlement Contractors have appreciated working with the Bureau of Reclamation and others over the past several dry years in our continuing efforts to manage water under the Settlement Contracts for various beneficial purposes in the Sacramento Valley, including cities, farms, fish, and birds. Importantly, all of these actions to manage water for these various beneficial purposes have been accomplished by working with Reclamation within the framework of the Settlement Contracts. We are again exploring innovative ways to manage water supplies for 2015.

With that said, we are in receipt of letters dated February 17, 2015, from Federico Barajas, Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, stating that pursuant to Article 5 of the Settlement Contracts, we are in a Critical Year as defined under the contracts, and that the monthly quantities of Base Supply and Project Water agreed to be diverted during the period April through October period shall be reduced by 25%. Based upon current forecasted hydrology, we concur that we are in a Critical Year, and that the Article 5 provisions requiring a 25% reduction in diversions under the Settlement Contracts are in effect. Accordingly, and pursuant to Article 3(c) of the Settlement Contracts, the Settlement Contractors have provided Reclamation with their written schedules of the amounts of water to be diverted each month in compliance with the 25% reduction imposed under Article 5. Article 3(c) also requires that Reclamation shall furnish water to be diverted by the Settlement Contractors in accordance with the written schedules submitted.

The Settlement Contractors recognize that we are in the midst of a very challenging water supply year. To that end, the Settlement Contractors will continue coordinating with Reclamation to implement options that fully honor the Settlement Contracts and also address the following operations issues in 2015:

- Scheduling Settlement Contract diversions in coordination with fishery releases from Keswick Reservoir to provide more precise and reliable temperature management throughout the year for spawning salmon upstream of Clear Creek.

As evidenced by the diversion schedules submitted to Reclamation, this involves the Settlement Contractors deferring a significant portion of diversions of Base Supply in April and May 2015 to later in the water year. The objective is to work with Reclamation to assure more operational flexibility in Lake Shasta and Keswick Reservoir during the late summer and fall, which will allow the optimal operation of the temperature control device and available storage to provide suitable temperature water for salmon. This is designed to avoid the temperature compliance problems experienced in 2014. Further, this operation will insure that other parts of the CVP system will not crash.

- The Settlement Contractors will make fisheries biologist Dave Vogel available to coordinate with Reclamation and the fishery agencies, including real time monitoring and evaluation of the redds and emerging fry during the water season, to assist in fine-tuning operations, not just from a temperature control point, but based on the actual spawning and emergence which are the key indicators for the proper temperature regime.
- Pursuing water transfers to neighboring water districts with no surface supplies this year, as well as water suppliers in other parts of the state with important needs for water. There are scheduling benefits associated with transfers that can help with temperature management during April and May, while also helping with water demands later in the summer.
- Use of groundwater wells during the April-May period to supplement diversions from the Sacramento River.
- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) will work closely with refuge managers at the three National Wildlife Refuges (Colusa, Delevan, Sacramento) to re-time deliveries from April-May into the summer. The refuges serve in concert with the ricelands and managed wetlands within the Settlement Contractors' service areas as the habitat and feeding grounds for the Pacific Flyway.

As consideration for the Settlement Contractors undertaking these actions, Reclamation will need to administer the Settlement Contracts as follows for 2015: (1) the Settlement Contractors may reschedule the amounts of Base Supply not diverted in April and May, 2015, into the critical months defined in the Settlement Contracts, or otherwise may shift the Base Supply back in the schedule month by month as needed to accommodate the demand shift pattern; (2) the accounting order for diversion schedules for each month will be regular monthly Base Supply, then unused Base Supply from any previous month, and then Project Water; (3) Reclamation will waive any charges for rescheduling of Base Supply from April and May, 2015, into the critical months; and (4) Reclamation will waive the requirements of Article 8(a)(1) of the Settlement Contracts, and each Settlement Contractor will only be charged for the quantity of Project Water that each Settlement Contractor diverts this water year.

David Murillo
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The Settlement Contractors look forward to continue working with Reclamation on 2015 operations issues, while confirming the foregoing to ensure that the Settlement Contracts are fully honored and performed by the parties. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Very truly yours,

SOMACH SIMMONS & DUNN



By

Stuart L. Somach
General Counsel
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Special Legal Counsel
Conaway Preservation Group, LLC, and
City of Redding

DOWNEY BRAND



By

Kevin M. O'Brien
Attorneys for Reclamation District 108, Sutter
Mutual Water Company, Natomas Central
Mutual Water Company, River Garden Farms
Company, Maxwell Irrigation District, Pelger
Mutual Water Company, Pleasant Grove-Verona
Mutual Water Company, Meridian Farms Water
Company, Carter Mutual Water Company,
Howald Farms, Inc., Oji Brothers Farms, Inc.,
Oji Family Partnership, Richter, Henry D., et al.,
Tisdale Irrigation and Drainage Company, and
Windswept Land and Livestock Company

J. MARK ATLAS
ATTORNEY AT LAW



By

General Counsel
Princeton-Codora Glenn Irrigation District and
Provident Irrigation District

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MINASIAN, MEITH, SOARES,
SEXTON & COOPER, LLP

By 

Dustin C. Cooper
General Counsel
Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District

Encl.
cc: Michael L. Connor
Pablo Arroyave
Federico Barajas
SLS:sb

EXHIBIT 1

SACRAMENTO RIVER SETTLEMENT CONTRACTORS

ANDERSON-COTTONWOOD IRRIGATION DISTRICT
CARTER MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
CITY OF REDDING
CONAWAY PRESERVATION GROUP, LLC
GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
HOWALD FARMS, INC.
MAXWELL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
MERIDIAN FARMS WATER COMPANY
NATOMAS CENTRAL MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
OJI BROTHERS FARMS, INC.
OJI FAMILY PARTNERSHIP
PELGER MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
PLEASANT GROVE-VERONA MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
PRINCETON-CODORA-GLENN IRRIGATION DISTRICT
PROVIDENT IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 108
RICHTER, HENRY D., ET AL.
RIVER GARDEN FARMS COMPANY
SUTTER MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
TISDALE IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE COMPANY
WINDSWEPT LAND AND LIVESTOCK COMPANY