



April 26, 2018

Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
California Water Commission
P.O. Box 934836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Re: California Water Commission Grant Opportunity Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program

Dear Chair Quintero and Members of the Commission,

We are pleased to support the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) in its development of *The Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage Exchange Program* (Chino Basin Project) grant application, submitted to the California Water Commission in response to the Funding Opportunity for the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP).

As the possibility of another prolonged drought faces California, new water sources and creative methods to provide guaranteed water to the Delta is critical. Water purveyors must work regionally and across the retail agency and state water contractor level to provide water for the environment and increasing populations throughout the state. The Chino Basin Project would guarantee a dedicated, new water source for the Delta which is climate-independent and would be available during dry, critically dry and successive dry years.

This project will construct an advanced water treatment facility and distribution facilities to store up to 15,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year in the Chino groundwater basin. In partnership with an existing State Water Project Contractor (SWPC), the stored water would be pumped into the SWPC distribution system in lieu of the SWPC taking water from Lake Oroville for use in southern California. The water would be held in Lake Oroville until it is needed for environmental benefits, when it could be used in blocks of 50,000 acre-feet to create pulse flows mimicking storm events during dry and critically dry years. All water from this project will be dedicated for the Chinook salmon in the Delta and will