January 4, 2022

Financial Assistance Branch

Department of Water Resources

PO Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 94236

Attention: Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Program

Re: Support of MWCD's North Coast Regional Partnership Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which acts as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Shasta Valley groundwater basin, is in strong support of the Montague Water Conservation District’s (MWCD) proposal, **Montague Water Conservation District, Main Canal Lining for Instream Benefit,** benefitting the Shasta Valley groundwater basin and theShasta River watershed, a key Klamath River tributary.

In-stream flow and water quality needs often conflict with irrigation demands in the Shasta River. MWCD is the largest irrigation district in the watershed and the only entity with significant storage on the Shasta River. MWCD owns and operates Dwinnell Reservoir, with a storage capacity of 49,000 acre-feet. In addition to providing irrigation water, MWCD supplies municipal water to the City of Montague and is working to secure State Water Resources Control Board’s approval to also provide conserved water to fish and wildlife through improving delivery efficiency of MWCD's main canal.

MWCD has long worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries and other partners to develop a comprehensive water-conservation strategy to enhance in-stream flows to protect and enhance Shasta River fisheries. The proposed project enhances flows in the Shasta River throughout the calendar year based upon an agency approved flow schedule that improves conditions for Threatened Coho Salmon and other cold water dependent species.

Through this grant application, the District is seeking funding to line a 6,000' reach of MWCD's Main Canal where significant seepage loss occurs. In exchange for lining a reach of MWCD's Main Canal, MWCD will permanently dedicate 660 acre-feet annually for in-stream benefit. The proposed project also increases the reliability of deliveries for irrigation and municipal purposes.

Updating the District’s infrastructure will conserve water, assist the GSA in reaching its groundwater sustainability goals, enhance imperiled salmon runs and move the community toward resolve of long-running local conflicts. This project is a wise, long-term investment that has gained broad support. The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District approved this letter on January 4, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Ray A. Haupt, Chair

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District