



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Flood Control & Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 750 • 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097
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March 29, 2022

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Regional Assistance, Financial Assistance Branch
715 P Street, 6th Floor, Mailbox 15
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Siskiyou County UC Cooperative Extension Grant Proposal to DWR Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding Solicitation

To Whom It May Concern:

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Scott Valley groundwater basin, is providing this letter of support for the Siskiyou County UC Cooperative Extension's application for project funding under the 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding Solicitation. Scott Valley is currently experiencing unprecedented drought conditions, impacting both the residents and the environment. This funding will support necessary projects and solutions for water supply reliability and drought resiliency, critical to sustaining the Scott Valley's economy, groundwater health and natural resources. Groundwater recharge has been identified as one of the key projects and management actions in Chapter 4 of the Scott Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and is considered a crucial strategy for both immediate and long-term implementation of the GSP.

The District has been a strong proponent for recharge efforts of the Scott Valley Irrigation District (SVID) and will continue to encourage further development of managed groundwater recharge. The District supports SVID's goal of using established infrastructure to demonstrate capturing and storing water through recharge. This water would have been otherwise lost out of the valley; therefore, storing water is beneficial to salmon fisheries. In addition, stored water will increase groundwater elevations, thereby supporting base flow in the Scott River during critical dry periods in the summer and fall. A separate, but critical, benefit to this project is the reassurances that surrounding residential water supplies can be maintained through this recharge water supply, which has been severely stressed due to the severe drought in past years.

The District, following the goals laid out in the Scott Valley GSP, supports the local UC Cooperative Extension Office and SVID's project proposal. We look forward to working with UC Cooperative Extension and SVID on the project and seeing the benefit it will have to the community in achieving long-term groundwater sustainability.

Sincerely,

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Brandon A. Criss, Chair

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District