



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Flood Control & Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 750 • 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097
Phone: (530) 842-8012, Fax Number: (530) 842-8013

October 27, 2022

Wildlife Conservation Board
John P. Donnelly, Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

Re: **Scott River Mountain Meadow Restoration Project**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, which acts as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Scott Valley groundwater basin, is writing in support of the **Scott River Mountain Meadow Restoration Project** being submitted by the Scott River Watershed Council. As many groundwater basins within California have done, the Siskiyou County GSA has recently completed the Scott River Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) which outlines multiple projects and management actions (PMAs) necessary to achieve the Basin's sustainability goals. Scott River Mountain Meadow Restoration Project is tied to Tier II PMAs, "East Fork Scott Project" and the "Upslope Water Yield Project", mentioned in Chapter 4 of the Scott Valley GSP, and are planned for near-term initiation and implementation. These projects support GSP objectives by increasing water yield from the upper watershed, especially the East Fork and French Creek, through green infrastructure. Green infrastructure may include: fuel reduction, road improvements, canopy opening to manage snow shade and accumulation, and other actions that reduce direct runoff. These actions will assist in achieving the thresholds and objectives for the interconnected surface water sustainability indicator and avoiding additional stresses on interconnected surface water and their groundwater dependent habitats.

The SRWC has been an active, community-based watershed restoration coordination group since 1992 and is recognized by the GSA as an important partner in promoting watershed restoration and forest health. The GSA, supports the Scott River Watershed Council's (SRWC) project application and believes water retention capacity in upland meadows is an important hydrologic reserve that may help augment water supply in late spring to early summer which provides benefit to the entire Scott River watershed.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Brandon A. Criss, Chair

Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District