

COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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February 24, 2025

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: Montague Water Conservation District's Managed Aquifer Recharge and Conjunctive Use Project Application Support Letter for the Klamath Basin Forests and Watersheds Restoration Conservation Partner's Program Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District), serving as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Shasta Valley groundwater basin, is providing this letter of support for the Montague Water Conservation District's (MWCD) funding application for the Managed Aquifer Recharge and Conjunctive Use Project to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) *Klamath Basin Forests and Watersheds Restoration Conservation Partners Program.* Irrigation efficiency and managed aquifer recharge projects are essential for ensuring water supply reliability and enhancing drought resilience, which are crucial for sustaining Shasta Valley's agricultural community and maintaining instream flows in the Shasta River for the benefit of fish and wildlife. This project proposal aims to improve water use for multiple beneficial users of groundwater.

The District has long supported projects, like the one proposed by MWCD, that utilize existing infrastructure to deliver water more efficiently while collaborating with participating landowners to collect groundwater, surface water, and biological data. This data will demonstrate that irrigation improvements and groundwater recharge are critical for sustaining the Shasta Valley agricultural community and enhancing fishery habitat. If funded, this project will support the goals of the Shasta Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by emphasizing groundwater recharge and benefiting all groundwater users.

The District fully supports this project and looks forward to collaborating with the Montague Water Conservation District and their partners on its implementation.

Sincerely,

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Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District