

<u>County of Siskiyou</u>

Flood Control & Water Conservation District

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February 24, 2025

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: Scott Valley Irrigation District Managed Aquifer Recharge 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 Scott Valley groundwater basin, is providing this letter of support for the Siskiyou County Farm Bureau's funding application for the Scott Valley Irrigation District's (SVID) managed aquifer recharge project to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) *Klamath Basin Forests and Watersheds Restoration Conservation Partners Program*. Managed aquifer recharge projects are essential for ensuring water supply reliability and enhancing drought resilience, which are vital for sustaining Scott Valley's agricultural community and maintaining instream flows in the Scott River to benefit fish and wildlife.

The District has long supported the development of managed groundwater recharge projects, both current and future. SVID's past and ongoing recharge practices, using existing infrastructure, collaborating with participating landowners, and collecting groundwater, surface water, and biological data, have demonstrated benefits for salmon fisheries. By capturing and storing water that would otherwise be lost from the valley, the project aims to continue raising groundwater levels and supporting baseflow in the Scott River during critical dry periods in the summer and fall. A key secondary benefit of this project is its potential to help maintain groundwater supplies and reduce irrigation needs during drier months.

In alignment with the goals outlined in the Scott Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), the District fully supports the Siskiyou County Farm Bureau's application for the SVID managed aquifer recharge project and looks forward to collaborating with them on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Nancy Ogren Nancy Ogren, Chair Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District