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November 17, 2010

Mary Scruggs
California Department of Water Resources
901 "P" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program Draft
Monitoring Entity and Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines

Dear Ms. Scruggs:

The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program draft Monitoring Entity and Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines, hereafter referred to collectively as "Guidelines".

The Agency was created by the California State Legislature in 1961 to contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for State Water Project (SWP) water. The Agency has contracts with water districts throughout Kern County to deliver SWP water. The Agency also manages and is a participant in the Pioneer Property banking project. Therefore, the Agency is uniquely qualified to provide comments on CASGEM and the draft Guidelines.

Comment 1: The draft Guidelines do not provide a process by which a water management agency may demonstrate compliance, while not enrolling in CASGEM.

Due to programmatic restrictions imposed by Senate Bill x7-6 (SBx7-6) and the draft Guidelines, multiple water management agencies statewide are either prohibited or not required to participate in CASGEM. For example, SBx7-6 specifically exempts public drinking water supply wells from CASGEM. Additionally, the draft Guidelines ask that monitoring data from groundwater banking areas is not reported. Despite these limitations, neither SBx7-6, nor the draft Guidelines provide a process by which a water management agency may maintain full compliance, and therefore eligibility for water grants and loans, while not enrolling in CASGEM. Additionally, DWR staff has verbally indicated that water management agencies that are not required to participate should still enroll as Monitoring Entities by the January 1, 2011 deadline, with the understanding that they would not be required to prepare or submit a

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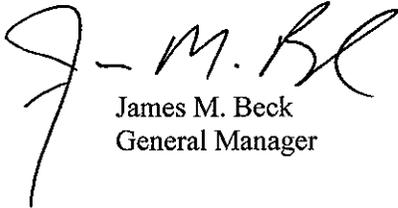
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monitoring plan. However, neither the Guidelines, nor SBx7-6 allow for this interpretation. Rather SBx7-6 requires that all Monitoring Entities prepare and submit a monitoring plan to DWR. It is unreasonable to require the preparation of a monitoring plan if no monitoring is required; therefore it would be unreasonable for DWR to require enrollment in CASGEM by water management agencies with no requirement to monitor. For that reason, the Guidelines should be amended to include a process by which an entity may *not* enroll in CASGEM, but still document compliance and maintain eligibility for water grants and loans.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Bauer of my staff at (661) 634-1400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J-M. Beck". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

James M. Beck
General Manager