



July 9, 2013

Laura McLean  
California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management  
Financial Assistance Branch  
Post Office Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject: Letter of Support for the Stormwater Flood Management Proposition 1E Round 2 City Watersheds of Sonoma Valley Project

Dear Ms. McLean:

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preserve and Open Space District (District) is pleased to collaborate with the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) on a grant application to the Stormwater Flood Management Proposition 1E program for the City Watersheds of Sonoma Valley Project. This grant is extremely valuable to the continuing efforts made by the District, Water Agency, and other project partners to meet the water management needs of the community while improving watershed function through enhancing the connection between surface and groundwater systems.

Since its inception in 1990, the District has worked with the community to protect the diverse scenic open space, natural resource, agricultural, and recreational lands of Sonoma County for future generations. In that time we have collaborated with the Water Agency on several initiatives designed to further our shared vision and commitment to the stewardship of Sonoma County's natural resources, including the goal of Carbon Free Water by 2015 and participation on the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan. The District is a member of the Basin Advisory Panel, whose purpose is to develop and oversee the implementation of the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan. These efforts demonstrate the productive relationship between the District and the Water Agency.

The District will provide about \$380,000 in cost sharing funds to design and construct 1.8 miles of new trails throughout the Montini Open Space Preserve for the City Watershed project. These new trails will ultimately be managed and maintained by the City of Sonoma, to whom the Preserve will be transferred subsequent to trail completion.

This project has enjoyed a high degree of collaboration since its protection by the District in 2005, made possible through a partnership between the District, the California Coastal Conservancy and the City of

Laura McLean  
July 9, 2013  
Page 2

Sonoma. The Sonoma Overlook Trail Stewards and Sonoma Ecology Center have also been key partners in the public outreach and involvement components of this project and in trail design and restoration activities. California State Parks has collaborated by reviewing the management plan, assigning one of their top trail designers to design the Preserve trail system, and allowing the District to construct a key access and fully accessible spur to the trail on one of their park units. The District will transfer the Preserve to the City of Sonoma subsequent to trail construction, expected to occur within this fiscal year, with the District retaining a conservation easement with the City over the Preserve. The District looks forward to collaborating with the Water Agency in creating a natural-looking detention basin that is consistent with the conservation easement and maintains and enhances the rural landscape features and visual quality, habitat features, and recreational features of the parcel on which the basin is proposed.

This project will benefit the community. A detention/recharge basin located on the Montini Open Space Preserve will receive flows from the storm drain system and release them gradually. The District is happy to lend the City Watersheds of Sonoma Valley project our fullest support and highly recommends its sponsorship by the Department of Water Resources. We look forward to hearing of its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Keene".

William Keene  
General Manager  
Sonoma County Agricultural Preserve and Open Space District  
[bill.keene@sonoma-county.org](mailto:bill.keene@sonoma-county.org)  
(707) 565-7348