North of the River Municipal Water District

4000 Rio Del Norte Street • Oildale, CA 93308 • Office (661) 393-5411 • FAX (661) 399-8911

October 7, 2014

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

Dear Mr. Eusuff:

On behalf of the Regional Water Management Group participants in the Tulare Lake Basin Portion of Kern County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Kern IRWMP), we wish to thank you for the recommendation for 100 percent funding of Kern IRWMP's 2014 Drought Solicitation Implementation Grant application. This funding will be extremely beneficial to address the difficulties in meeting water needs for local communities and farms after three consecutive years of below-normal surface water supplies.

The North of the River Municipal Water District wholeheartedly supports the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) recommendation, and strongly urges DWR to maintain the Kern IRWMP funding recommendation at its current level of 100 percent. The four projects included in the Drought Solicitation Implementation Grant application will result in increased water use efficiency, conservation of otherwise lost water, drought protection including increased drought supplies, mitigation of groundwater overdraft and water quality upgrades. In addition, a local disadvantaged community will benefit greatly due to the replacement of its drinking water supply infrastructure. The four projects will provide tremendous value to our region that will also accrue to the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region because of its contribution to efficient dry year water management programs. A funding award of less than 100 percent will make it difficult for some agencies to implement their projects and achieve the desired benefits.

Therefore, we appreciate and support DWR's funding recommendation. The Kern IRWMP Regional Water Management Group looks forward to working with DWR to implement the projects contained in our Drought Solicitation Integrated Grant application and continuing our efforts to promote Integrated Regional Water Management Planning in the Kern Region.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nunneley
General Manager