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March 29, 2024

Colonel Chad Caldwell Commander, Sacramento District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1325 J Street, Room 1350 Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

RE: expression of INTENT, partnership agreement with Federal Government to develop a Water Utilities Master Plan, per *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act of FY23*

Dear Colonel Caldwell:

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our County's desire to execute a partnership agreement with the Federal Government for the purpose of developing a Water Utilities Master Plan pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' authority under Section 8375(a)(300) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (P.L. 117-263).

Solano County's Water Utilities Master Plan (Plan) will build upon the Solano County One Water Framework (Framework), a stakeholder-driven process currently underway to identify criteria for holistic planning and implementation of water supply, wastewater, and drainage improvement, flood protection, and ecosystem enhancements in the County. Together, the Framework and Plan will move the County away from single resource management practices and toward developing a multi-benefit, holistic approach to better address the impacts of climate change and improve the health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Solano County's Plan will identify high-priority water, wastewater, recycled water, drainage and flood infrastructure needs, and support equitable projects and programs that provide multiple benefits to countywide land uses and the increasing challenges associated with water management. Moreover, the Plan will align with the County's General Plan, leverage existing infrastructure, expand the water supply portfolio, and promote collaboration with local and regional stakeholders. The Master Plan will be developed in two phases: Phase 1 includes developing One Water Framework outlining key goals, objective, and strategies for the Master Plan; and Phase 2 includes directed studies and key components for the Master Plan.

We understand that the Army Corps' Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure assistance authority allows the Corps to assist a non-federal interest in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection projects, and that such assistance can be in the form of planning assistance, as well as technical, design, and construction assistance.

Solano County's plan will incorporate findings from specific watershed studies as distinct and necessary components of the Master Plan. The Drainage and Flood Protection Feasibility studies for Suisun Valley and the Eastern Solano County/Delta Upper Watershed regions are one category of critical studies that will inform and help to identify priority actions to be included in the Master Plan.

Colonel Caldwell, US Army Corp of Engineers March 29, 2024 Page 2

These studies also can also be utilized independently in order to meet goals and actions needed for County-wide enhancements, and will utilize the expertise of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to inventory existing drainage and flood control facilities to promote public health and safety, protect fish, wildlife, and environmental resources and further efficient, equitable economic development in the County.

As dedicated federal funding becomes available for the Environmental Infrastructure authority authorized under Section 8375(a)(300) of P.L. 117-263, Solano County is willing to provide the necessary non-federal cost share for all eligible increments of work under this project.

This letter constitutes an expression of intent and not a contractual obligation and we understand that the project sponsor and/or the Corps may opt to discontinue the project development process prior to the execution of the partnership agreement.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact Misty Kaltreider, Water and Natural Resources Program Manager, Solano County Department of Resource Management at (707) 784-3311 or <u>mkaltreider@solanocounty.com</u>.

Sincerely,

itik N. Machbur

Mitch Mashburn, Chair Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Alex Padilla, United States Senator The Honorable Laphonza Butler, United States Senator The Honorable John Garamendi, United States Representative The Honorable Mike Thompson, United States Representative The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember Misty Kaltreider, Water & Natural Resources Program Manager, Solano County Paragon Government Relations Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.