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July 27, 2012

Ken Salazar, Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

John Laird, Secretary  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Kern County Water Agency's Participation in the BDCP Process

Dear Secretary Salazar and Secretary Laird:

The Kern County Water Agency (Agency) greatly appreciates Wednesday's joint announcement by Governor Brown and Secretary Salazar and the commitment it represents to completing the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) by June 2013. The announcement bolstered the Agency's confidence that the issues faced in completing the BDCP can be resolved. Yesterday, the Agency's Board of Directors continued the Agency's participation in the BDCP for the next 90 days. As you are aware, the Agency's participation in the BDCP is contingent upon its Member Units continuing to provide the necessary funding.

The Agency was encouraged by the Governor's and the Secretary's commitment to issue a significant report in 90 days that addresses the two issues of greatest concern to the Agency. As described in the Agency's letter on May 24, 2012, the Agency is interested in defining the various components of the financing plan for the BDCP and the decision-tree concept in a manner that allows potential participants to evaluate the cost-benefit (or feasibility) of participating in the project. Developing appropriate financing mechanisms and a scientifically defensible decision-tree to operate a new conveyance facility are critical elements necessary to identify a project that provides sufficient benefits to be affordable (and therefore financeable) for agriculture. Other critical elements include permittee status for the Public Water Agencies and an acceptable biological opinion reconsultation process to determine Central Valley Project and State Water Project operations before a preferred project is completed. The Agency is committed to continuing active participation in resolving these issues.

Thank you for your personal efforts to bring the BDCP to this point and for the dedication that U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor, California Natural Resources Agency Deputy Secretary Dr. Jerry Meral, California Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin and California Department of Fish and Game Director Chuck Bonham have shown throughout this process.

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Secretary Salazar and Secretary Laird  
July 27, 2012  
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As the Governor stated in his remarks, completing this project is “. . . another test of whether we can govern ourselves.” We stand with the Governor in our belief that we can.

Sincerely,



Terry Rogers  
Board President

cc: Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Kern County Congressional and Legislative Delegation  
Honorable Karen Ross  
Honorable Matt Rodriguez  
Honorable Michael Connor  
Honorable Mark Cowin  
Honorable Don Glaser  
Ms. Nancy McFadden  
Ms. Martha Guzman-Aceves  
Mr. Cliff Rechtschaffen  
Dr. Jerry Meral  
Mr. Chuck Bonham  
Kern County Water Agency Board of Directors  
State Water Contractors  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
The Gualco Group, Inc.