



December 02, 2020

Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
c/o Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Re: Comments – Limited Order for Yuba River Development Project Certification

Dear Chair Esquivel, Vice Chair D’Adamo and Board Members Doduc, Firestone and Maguire:

As the CEO of the Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to request the State Water Resources Control Board vacate the water quality certification issued in July for the Yuba River Development Project due to the threat it poses to the long-term financial viability of Yuba Water Agency, and ultimately Yuba County.

Yuba Water Agency is an indispensable asset to Yuba County and our region. The vision laid out more than 60 years ago by the founders of Yuba Water was intended to position Yuba County to be a thriving and prosperous community. We’ve waited decades for that vision to become a reality.

Now, after so many years being at a disadvantage, we are close to becoming a stronger, more vibrant community thanks to foundational investments led by Yuba Water in areas like flood risk reduction and sustainable management of our area’s natural resources. The anticipation of our future opportunity is so great right now, it’s palpable. But without this continued investment, what business would ever set up shop in an area where they have to constantly worry about floods?

Yuba Water’s sustainable management of our groundwater and surface water supplies also means business investors don’t have to worry about dry taps in Yuba County. This is especially important for our local farmers and ranchers who are an important part of our region’s economic activity.

These investments are all possible because of their carbon-free hydropower, helping to fill the state’s growing demand for clean energy, and providing a sustainable revenue source to make these financial investments possible. Flood risk reduction, sustainable water management and hydropower generation are just the basics that the team at Yuba Water does as part of their everyday responsibilities.

Yuba Water Agency has invested millions of dollars in the community to provide much needed drinking water and wastewater infrastructure that will support economic development in the south county and attract new business to our area – jobs we desperately need.

The agency's investments in forest health will reduce the risk to our foothill communities who live under constant fear of a devastating megafire, like the one that destroyed Paradise, took so many lives, and cost billions of dollars.

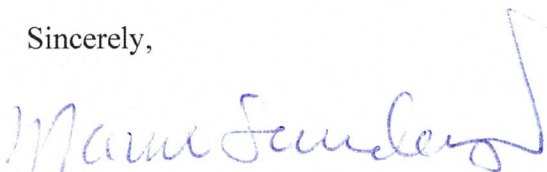
And one critical aspect of every vibrant community is a thriving school system. Yuba Water is investing in curriculum for all grades with special programming to teach about our watershed, and is in the planning stage for a multi-million-dollar water education center on the Yuba River. In addition to being an incredible asset for our children (and learners of all ages), this facility will be a real draw for tourism, and a point of community pride.

Yuba Water's work will ultimately support business growth, more jobs and more affordable housing, something else our community desperately needs.

Yuba Water Agency is an incredible partner in these efforts. They are leaders in innovation, passionate about sparking new life into Yuba County. We at the Chamber are excited for this community effort to bring about change, new opportunities and strengthen our resilience. We are eager to continue partnering with them as they help build a thriving, sustainable community for all of us.

My understanding of the potential implications if this water quality certification is allowed to stand, is that the financial impact to Yuba Water would prevent this dream of ours – of Yuba County's – from becoming a reality. Please take the time to consider all of the potential social and economic impacts associated with this decision. The people of Yuba County are counting on you.

Sincerely,



Marni Sanders  
Yuba-Sutter Chamber of Commerce  
Chief Executive Officer