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August 31, 2023

Mr. Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for Natural Resources
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request for Suspension of the California Environmental Quality Act under Executive Order N-7-23 for Proposed Land Clearing and Groundwater Recharge Activities

Consolidated Irrigation District (District) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency make a determination that the activities proposed herein are eligible to be conducted under the suspension of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code, Division 13) pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Floodwater Capture and Groundwater Recharge Executive Order N-7-23 (Executive Order).

The District is a California Irrigation District organized and existing under and by virtue of the Irrigation District Law, Division 11, of the California Water Code. The District has prior rights and was formally organized on September 8, 1921, and provides for the delivery of surface water from the Kings River to landowners within the District for irrigation and groundwater recharge.

The District also serves as the Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency within the Kings Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (Kings Subbasin), which, was designated as subject to conditions of critical overdraft by the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 – Interim Update (2016). Since adopting the Central Kings Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) on December 11, 2019, the District has been taking action to avoid undesirable results by increasing groundwater recharge activities to support sustainable management of the Kings Subbasin by 2040.

In support of the Executive Order and furtherance of the Central Kings GSP, the District intends to clear agricultural plantings and construct a groundwater recharge basin on District owned property located at 13565 South DeWolf Avenue in Fresno County (APN 385-101-12S) (DeWolf Property). The DeWolf Property has been in agriculture production for more than 40 years and is currently planted with approximately 77 acres of grape vines. The District's existing Benight Recharge Pond is adjacent to the DeWolf Property which provides for the conveyance of Kings River Flood Water to the proposed recharge basin (Exhibit A – DeWolf Property). It is anticipated that the proposed recharge basin would provide a minimum of 5,000 acre-feet of groundwater recharge based on an assumed infiltration rate of 1.0 foot per day for approximately 90 days. This proposed activity would provide a direct benefit to the region by reducing the risks of local catastrophic flooding in

the Tulare Lake Basin and reducing the effects of future droughts by increasing storage in groundwater aquifers within the Kings Subbasin.

Consistent with that intent, subject in part to your determination that the activities described in this letter are eligible to proceed under paragraph 6 of the Executive Order, the District will:

1. Remove approximately 77 acres of grape vines on the DeWolf Property. The District will utilize a land clearing contractor to remove all vineyard stakes, posts, wire, and drip tubing prior to chipping the grape vines. All chipped material will be hauled offsite.
2. Construct a groundwater recharge basin and install temporary canal turnout facilities on disturbed lands. The District will utilize an earthwork contractor to grade the property and construct basin levees (not to exceed 6-feet) and levee keyways. The District will self-perform the installation canal gates and piping from the adjacent Benight Pond to divert floodwater into the recharge basin.
3. Divert available Kings River water into the recharge basin utilizing the District's pre-1914 and other water rights.
4. Monitor and report groundwater levels monthly in accordance with the District's Flood Emergency Funding Agreement with the Department of Water Resources.

Without the suspension of CEQA under paragraph 6 of the Executive Order, the District would have to ensure CEQA compliance (estimated at 6 months) prior to carrying out the proposed activities. A determination that the proposed activities fall within paragraph 6 of the Executive Order would facilitate the construction of the recharge basin to capture and recharge Kings River floodwater.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Phillip Desatoff at pdesatoff@cidwater.com or (559) 896-1660.

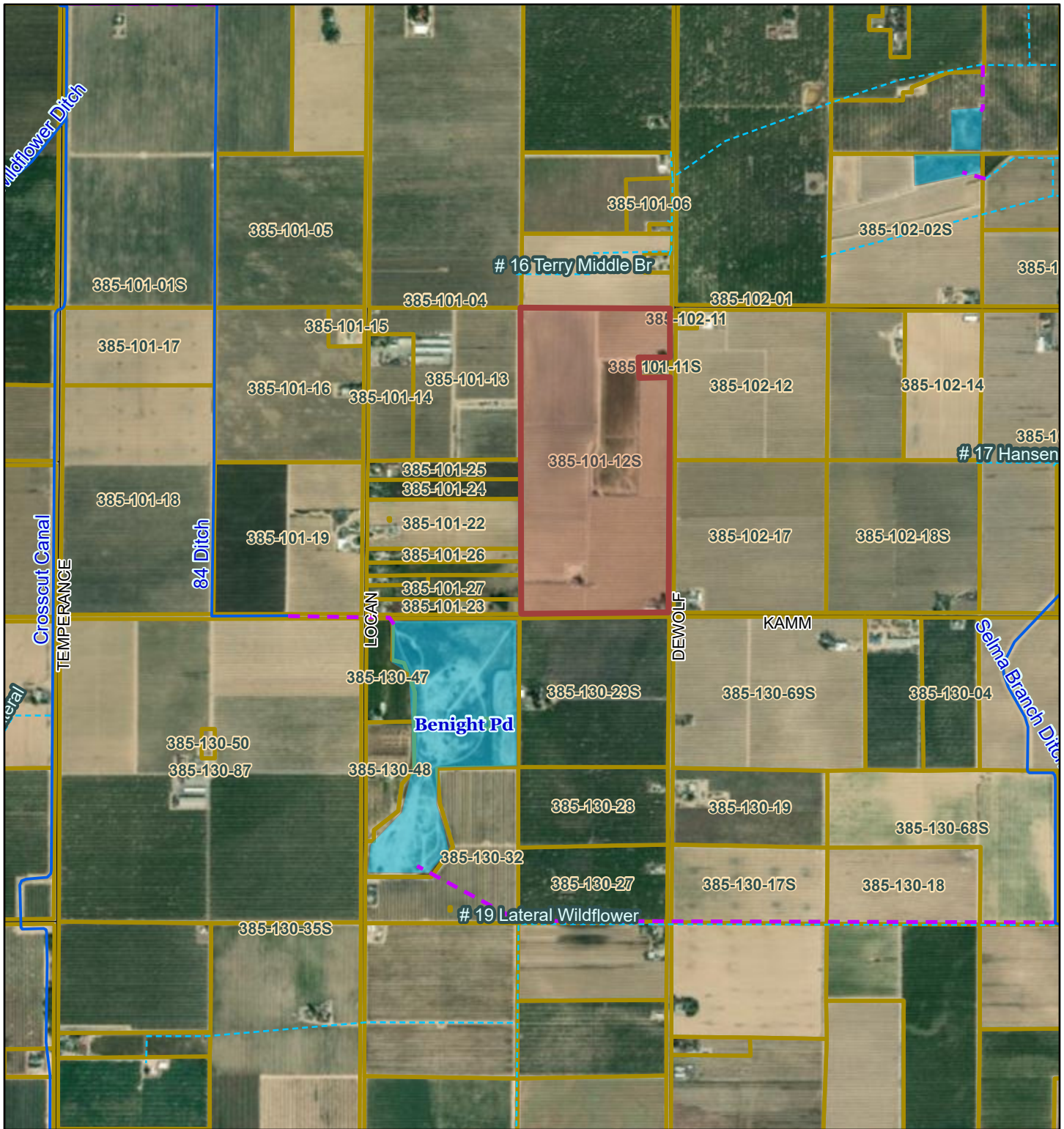
Sincerely,



Phillip G. Desatoff
General Manager

cc: Nancy Vogel, California Natural Resources Agency
Christopher Calfee, California Natural Resources Agency
Stephanie Shimazu, California Natural Resources Agency
Steven Springhorn, California Department of Water Resources
Dane Mathis, California Department of Water Resources

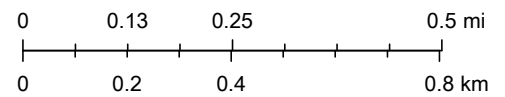
Exhibit A - DeWolf Property (13565 S DeWolf Ave, Selma, CA 93662)



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- Private Pipeline
- District_Canals
- Spillway
- Ponds
- Fresno
- District Boundary
- Roads



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