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February 24, 2017

Glenn Meeks, Senior Engineering Geologist
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Delivered via email only to: Glenn.Meeks@waterboards.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin to

Remove the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR)

Beneficial Uses within a Designated Horizontal and Vertical Portion of the Tulare Lake Bed

Dear Mr. Meeks:

The Central Valley Clean Water Association (CVCWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin to remove the Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN) and Agricultural Supply (AGR) beneficial uses from groundwater within horizontally and vertically delineated areas underlying a portion of the historical Tulare Lake Bed. CVCWA is a non-profit association of public agencies located within the Central Valley region that provide wastewater collection, treatment, and water recycling services to millions of Central Valley residents and businesses. We approach these matters with the perspective of balancing environmental and economic interests consistent with state and federal law.

In general, we support the larger effort by the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) to review existing Basin Plan beneficial use designations to determine whether such designations are appropriate and whether implementation programs provide an appropriate level of protection for the waterbodies that support these beneficial uses. With respect to the proposed Basin Plan Amendment, CVCWA supports the de-designation of MUN and AGR beneficial uses in groundwater in a portion of the historical Tulare Lake Bed where technical analyses showed that existing water quality does not support these uses, and communication with municipal, domestic,

and agricultural water users within and proximate to the proposed beneficial use de-designation area revealed that groundwater within the de-designation area is not currently used, nor anticipated to be used in the future for MUN and AGR beneficial uses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Debbie Webster, Executive Officer

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