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March 28, 2019

Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board Letter of Support for Joe Del Bosque's Reappointment to the California State Water Commission

Dear Governor Newsom:

As evidenced by this letter, the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board wishes to go on the record as strongly supporting the reappointment of Joe Del Bosque to the California Water Commission for a four year term. Mr. Del Bosque has served on the State Water Commission since 2010, including several years as Vice-Chairman. Going further, to convey the professional respect that Mr. Del Bosque holds in the California agricultural community, Mr. Del Bosque was selected to host President Obama when he visited California in the fall of 2014 during the height of California's drought and resulting water crisis.

Joe Del Bosque, of Los Banos, is President and CEO of Empresa Del Bosque, Inc., a diversified farming operation in the San Joaquin Valley. Since 1985, Joe has farmed cantaloupes, almonds, asparagus, cherries and organic melons. He is Chair Emeritus of AgSafe, a nonprofit organization whose mission is the prevention of injuries and fatalities among agricultural workers. Mr. Del Bosque is Director At-large- at the California Melon Research Board. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Fresno Regional Foundation. He is a member of the California Farm Bureau, California Water Coalition, and the Western Growers Association. He is also a member-grower of the San Joaquin Sustainable Farming Project, whose mission is to find better farm management practices that lessen environmental impacts on our water resources. Previously he has served as Director of the Pacheco Water District and the San Joaquin Drainage Authority.

Joe Del Bosque has been involved with farm water since his father took him to work on the farm as a boy in 1958, irrigating cantaloupes, even before the CVP started delivering USBR water to what would become the San Luis Water District. During his time as a farm manager, and later managing his own farm, Joe learned much about water supply, storage and conveyance. On the farm, he learned, and still practices, water conservation and efficiency. Owning a diversified farm has given him a great appreciation for the beneficial use of water to produce food for the nation and the world. Since 1990, under CVPIA, his farm on the Westside has had to learn to adapt to the uncertainties of allocations ranging from thousands of acre feet of water to zero. Joe has witnessed the devastation this has caused to the local economies and to the farm workers living and working there. Seeing the need to become more involved, he became active with local water agencies, and later as an advocate, communicating the impacts of water shortages to the San Joaquin Valley, and for the need for water reliability.

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In closing, if you should have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Tony Boren, Executive Director of the Fresno Council of Governments at 559 233-4148 Ext. 204. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Cardenas, Mayor of Fowler
Chairman of the Fresno Council of Governments