



UKIAH VALLEY BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

501 Low Gap Rd., Rm. 1010 ♦ Ukiah ♦ California 95482 ♦ (707)463-4441 ♦ fax (707)463-7237

November 9, 2017

Director Grant Davis
Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support – Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant

Dear Director Davis:

In May of 2017, the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVBGSA) was created to lead the continuing effort to improve groundwater management practices in the region. The UVBGSA members represent the Upper Russian River Water Agency, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation and Improvement District, City of Ukiah, and Mendocino County. In addition, our organization has two Stakeholder Directors representing the tribal and agricultural community.

The UVBGSA supports the submittal of an application by Mendocino County, on behalf of the UVBGSA, to the Department of Water Resources for a Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant available through Proposition One to encourage sustainable management of groundwater that supports the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The UVBGSA will utilize the funds to develop a Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (UVGSP) to preserve and enhance the economic and environmental health and well-being for the Ukiah Valley through the regional stewardship and comprehensive management of water and groundwater resources in a practical, cost-effective, sustainable and responsible manner. The proposal will build on previous work conducted by Mendocino County under the Department of Water Resources' Counties with Stressed Basins Grant. The proposal focuses on the development of an UVGSP to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Ukiah Valley Basin's water supply, and the continued resiliency of the Russian River ecosystem. The UVGSP will provide a roadmap for the region's future over a 50 year planning horizon.

The region's water management community has successfully worked together for the past two years to develop this new organization. The UVBGSA, along with our community partners and stakeholders will benefit from the comprehensive planning actions that are included in the grant application. The funds from this grant would be extremely beneficial in helping our rural region meet the sustainability goals set forth in SGMA.

We hope the State recognizes the important and beneficial effort that is occurring in the Ukiah Valley and awards a Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant to the region. Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue that affects all sectors of life in the Ukiah Valley.

Sincerely,

Carre Brown, Chair
Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency