



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

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April 26, 2018

Remleh Scherzinger, General Manager  
Nevada Irrigation District  
1036 West Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Re: Placing Centennial Expenditures on the May 23, 2018 Board agenda

Dear Mr. Scherzinger,

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) was pleased to provide comment on the Raw Water Master Plan Update (FATR #2135), item number 7, on the April 25, 2018 Board agenda. As stated, SYRCL is cautiously optimistic about this new direction and approach to engaging the public in objectively evaluating future water supply needs for the District.

The purpose of this letter is to emphasize one of SYRCL's greatest concerns expressed in our public comments at the April 25, 2018 Board meeting: that expenditures, including property acquisitions, legal analysis, planning, engineering, promotion, study, and all field work related to Centennial Dam cease while the Raw Water Master Plan (RWMP) update process proceeds and comes to its objective conclusion. SYRCL looks forward to lending its extensive experience in stakeholder processes and scientific and policy analysis to assure a successful and objective outcome of the RWMP update process.

To this end, we respectfully offer the following strong recommendation: that a resolution be put before the Board directing staff to cease, to the extent possible, all expenditures and activities related to the furtherance of the Centennial project or any other water storage project on the Bear River until the RWMP process is complete and the Board accepts its conclusions and recommendations. A litany of reasons and rationales for this request could be listed, but the following single point is offered to focus the attention of the NID Board and management on this most critical action.

As a result of its premature and continued activities in furtherance of Centennial, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) begins the RWMP update process with a deficit of public trust. Stakeholder processes are delicate and require constant vigilance to the risks of failure and their concerted mitigation. A single wrong turn can result in substantial avoidable effort to recapture

the trust necessary for success. Most important among these are actions and decisions taken in establishing and launching the process.

Today, NID's single greatest risk of failure of the RWMP update process is that any activity with the slightest whiff of support or furtherance of the Centennial project will be taken by the public as NID's bias within the RWMP process. Because of the existing trust deficit, your public is very informed and engaged and will immediately discount the RWMP process and seek to undermine it if NID continues work on Centennial. It simply will not work and the public will respond accordingly.

To prevent public disenchantment with the RWMP process SYRCL strongly recommends that the NID Board at its May 23, 2018 meeting move and deliberate the following or similar resolution: "The Board hereby directs staff to cease, to the extent legally possible, all actions, expenditures, analysis, promotion, further information dissemination, or discussion in the furtherance of the Centennial Water Storage Project or any other water storage project involving the Bear River until the Raw Water Master Plan, authorized on April 25, 2018 under resolution 2018-09, is complete and accepted by vote of the Board."

Be assured this request is offered in the spirit of engagement and support of building trust between NID and its constituents to the end of a collaborative and enriching future for NID and its important mission to, "provide a dependable, quality water supply; continue to be good stewards of the watersheds, while conserving the available resources in our care."

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss the details of this request and SYRCL's expectations regarding it.

Respectfully,

Melinda Booth  
Executive Director

cc: William Morebeck, Division IV, President, Board of Directors  
Nancy Weber, Division I Board Member  
John H. Drew, Division II Board Member  
Dr. Scott Miller, MD, Division III Board Member  
Nick Wilcox, Division V Board Member