DATE:     August 15, 2018

TO:       Members of the Ad Hoc Process convened by Representative Huffman

FROM:     Sonoma County Water Agency

RE:       Preliminary Analysis of Alternatives to Relicensing the Potter Valley Project

Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) is pleased to provide two reports for your consideration in this process. These are: McMillen Jacobs Associates, “Potter Valley Project Capital Modifications Feasibility Report” (July 2018) and EnviroAnalytics Group, “Potter Valley Project – Evaluation of Sediment Stabilization Measures – Alternative 4” (July 2018). The consultants prepared these reports at our request, and we now provide them, to advance constructive discussion of a regional solution related to the Potter Valley Project (Project).

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is now in its second year of the licensing proceeding for this project. In its Scoping Document No. 2 (September 18, 2017), p. 34, it stated: “Commission staff will consider and assess all alternative recommendations for operational or facility modifications, as well as protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures identified by the Commission, the agencies, Indian tribes, NGOs, and the public.” Multiple stakeholders have already proposed alternatives to relicensing the Project as is. These proposals include: modifications to provide fish passage, removal of Scott Dam, and removal of the entire Project (Scott and Van Arsdale Dams).

Sonoma Water engaged McMillen Jacobs Associates to evaluate the feasibility of these alternatives. We engaged EnviroAnalytics Group to address the management of reservoir sediment loads under the decommissioning alternatives. Each consultant is a leading expert in its respective field. We instructed each to provide neutral analysis and not to prejudge which alternative might be the basis of a regional solution or FERC’s ultimate licensing decision.

Sonoma Water provides these reports to help inform all interested parties about the feasibility and costs of various alternatives. Sonoma Water encourages other stakeholders who have made similar analyses to distribute them as well, as together we seek to understand and resolve the extraordinary complex issues in this proceeding.