



April 16, 2020

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Stephen Lucas, Executive Officer
Butte Local Agency Formation Commission
1453 Downer Street, Suite C
Oroville, CA 95965

Re: Formation of Tuscan Water District

Dear Mr. Lucas:

At the March 17, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors of Durham Irrigation District, representatives of the Agricultural Groundwater Users of Butte County, including Rich McGowan, Darren Rice, and Ed McLaughlin, discussed the intended formation of the Tuscan Water District and the reasons therefor and the benefits thereof. Their presentation was well organized and persuasive. They requested the District's support of their efforts.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to inform you of our conceptual support for the formation of the Tuscan Water District. As we well know, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) it is imperative that groundwater users within the sub-basin whose lands are not within existing water or irrigation districts have the means to manage and protect their groundwater resources and through the district provide water services to themselves and their neighbors.

Durham Irrigation District does this for its landowners and residents. It is a member of the Vina Subbasin Joint Powers Agency and in such capacity, is working closely with the County of Butte and the City of Chico, the other parties to the JPA, in developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for these purposes.

We therefore support localized control over sustainability efforts and see the formation of the Tuscan Water District as an effort to protect the groundwater resources upon which landowners and residents within the proposed District are dependent. Our support, however, is conceptual at this time, as the particulars of the proposed District remain incomplete. We will follow carefully proceedings before Butte LAFCo for the formation of the District and trust as they are fleshed out publicly, we may be able to fully support such.

We look forward to participating in the LAFCo process concerning formation of the Tuscan Water District.

Thank you,

Matt Doyle, Chair

cc: Richard McGowan