CalEPA
California Environmental
Protection Agency

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for Environmental Protection

June 28, 2017

Ms. Alexis Strauss
Acting Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dear Acting Regional Administrator Strauss:

Governor Brown's Office asked me to respond to your letter of May 17, 2017, requesting the State of California's position on the proposed listing of the North Orange County Groundwater Basin (North Basin) on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL).

Protecting public health, the environment and the reliability of safe drinking water are State priorities and we agree with the United State Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) that threats posed by the contaminated plume in the North Basin must be remediated. The State also supports the principle that polluters should pay to clean up contamination. Listing this site will provide the parties responsible for the contamination in the North Basin with added incentive to develop and fund a cleanup plan for this site. For these reasons, the State concurs with U.S. EPA's proposal to list the site on the NPL.

As you are aware, state and local agencies, including the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Santa Ana Regional Water Control Board and the Orange County Water District, have been working independently and in cooperation with U.S. EPA on remediation of the North Basin contamination. These efforts include the Department's remediation of three of the contaminated sites, the Santa Ana Water Board's oversight of remediation at six other contaminated sites, and the Water District's administrative settlement agreement with U.S. EPA to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study to address the contamination. The State looks forward to working cooperatively with U.S. EPA to continue these efforts, in conjunction with efforts to compel the responsible parties to conduct and fund a comprehensive remediation of contaminated groundwater in the North Basin site.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for Environmental Protection

cc: See next page.