**North Bay Water District**

**22950 Broadway**

**Sonoma, CA 95476**

December 7, 2020

Since 1963, the North Bay Water District (“NBWD”) has been an important ally to farmers and ranchers. Protecting resources while ensuring our independence as farmers is central to the District’s mission.  NBWD needs your help to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in the county.

Initially, NBWD was formed to secure water for agricultural needs in southern Sonoma County.

Over the years, NBWD has expanded its influence to address critical issues that impact agriculture throughout the County. Our long-term goal is to expand the boundaries of NBWD to amplify agriculture’s voice as we continue to collectively address existing and future regulatory challenges.

With your continued support we will continue to engage in developing agriculture-based and cost-efficient solutions addressing groundwater management mandated by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Without a seat at the table the current Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are leaning toward no additional groundwater pumping over 2018 levels and significant costs for groundwater. In addition, we are also facing challenges related to groundwater recharge projects, groundwater level monitoring to demonstrate minimal impacts of agriculture water use, sustainable management of groundwater, and delaying the timeline for replacing stationary engines.

Without the efforts, and ongoing engagement of NBWD, agriculture will have no voice in these regulatory outcomes. Instead, Sonoma Water, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the State Water Board will determine the future costs of water for each of us as well as impose regulatory hurdles.

There is a window of opportunity now to strengthen the role of the North Bay Water District by participating in and driving the discussion surrounding these regulatory challenges.

We sincerely hope that you will participate in the conversation, as the future of agriculture’s role in sustainability and cost-effectively management of all our collective resources depends on your participation.  Join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:00pm on Zoom. If you have any questions and/or in order to obtain the link to the Zoom meeting call me (707-695-8930) or email at mulas@vom.com.

Sincerely,

Mike Mulas

President

North Bay Water District