California Wildlife Conservation Board July 15, 2020

Forest Conservation Program

Re: Mattley Meadow Restoration Project

Dear Technical Reviewers, WCB Staff and Board:

A public-private project, Mattley Meadow, was first proposed by the U.S. Forest Service in collaboration with the Amador-Calaveras Consensus (ACCG) as part of the Cornerstone Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) in 2006. ACCG is a community based local collaborative that works to create healthy forests and watersheds, fire-safe communities, and sustainable local economies. ACCG fosters partnerships among private, nonprofit, state, and federal entities with a common interest in the health and well-being of the landscape and communities in the Mokelumne and Calaveras watersheds.

The Forest Service solicited Plumas Corporation to assist with project planning and developing a restoration design in 2013. Plumas Corp and the Forest Service hosted a field trip to the project area in 2014 to review the conceptual design developed by Plumas Corp with the Forest Service interdisciplinary team and ACCG stakeholders, including the Calaveras Enterprise newspaper who wrote an article about the project. The project design was finalized in 2015, and revised in 2018 after consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish & Wildlife on the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. Delays due to Forest priorities on post-Rim Fire projects stalled the project planning. In 2019 when the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority agreed to serve as the CEQA Lead Agency and the Forest Service listed the project on their Schedule of Proposed Actions the project began to move forward through the environmental compliance processes. ACCG assisted in the distribution of noticing the public for comments on the project in early 2020. No comments objecting to the project were received. The project has support of ACCG and community members as a worthwhile project.

ACCG is excited to see Mattley Meadow be restored as a component of the CFLRP. Considerable resources have been invested to date in the Mattley Meadow restoration project during the planning process including approximately $200,000 for inventory and monitoring in the Cornerstone CFLRP, $15,000 from ACCG in-kind support, approximately $75,000 for design and planning from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and $50,000 for hydrological monitoring from WCB’s Streamflow Enhancement Program. All of the resources invested in this project, as well as Forest Service in-kind contributions, demonstrate the conferred benefits this project will realize in enhanced wet meadow and aspen habitat, better water quality, and improved climate resilience.

ACCG strongly recommends your thoughtful consideration of this valuable project. Please contact me at (530) 277-3843 or regine.CHIPS@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Regine Miller, ACCG Administrator