September 20, 2022

**Via E-mail** legal@waterauditca.org

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| William McKinnonGeneral CounselWater Audit California952 School Street #316Napa CA 94559 |

Re: **July 27, 2022 Letter to City of Bakersfield**

Dear Mr. McKinnon:

On behalf of the City of Bakersfield (“Bakersfield” or “City”), this letter further responds to your July 27, 2022 letter to elected officials and representatives of Bakersfield, and also responds to your August 12, 2022 letter to me. This letter also follows the City’s separate September 12, 2022 response to your August 12, 2022 Public Records Act request to the City.

Your July 27, 2022 letter demanded that the City “authorize and fund a study” to “inquire into and review the feasibility of alternative actions to mitigate the ongoing injury to the public trust caused by the dewatering of the Kern River in the City of Bakersfield.” The City has been working for decades to increase flows of water in the Kern River for the benefit of the citizens of Bakersfield, and the local environment. The City expects to review and study the issues raised by Water Audit California and local organizations in connection with the City’s ongoing efforts to increase Kern River flows while securing and preserving the City’s ability to continue to deliver a safe, clean and reliable water supply to Bakersfield residents.

In that regard, the Bakersfield City Council’s Water Board (a committee of the City Council) previously directed the Bakersfield Water Resources Department to prepare a Master Plan to study and address how the City can effectively manage and protect the City’s water resources, including the City’s Kern River water resources. The City intends to address and study the issues raised in your letters as part of that Master Plan.

The City would hope to have a productive and rewarding dialogue with any entity or organization which shares or supports the City’s goals and efforts to increase and restore Kern River flows. In that regard, we would be happy to have further discussions with you regarding these matters, and we will certainly consider any additional information or comments you provide to the City regarding these matters.

If you have any questions about these matters, please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Colin L. Pearce

CLP:bah

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cc: Adam Keats, Esq.
Art Chianello, Water Resources Manager
Virginia Gennaro, City Attorney
Christian Clegg, City Manager.