



October 15, 2015

Perry Norris
Executive Director
Truckee Donner Land Trust
10069 West River St.
Truckee, CA 96161

Dear Perry,

On behalf of Sierra Business Council, I am writing to express our continued support of the project to restore Van Norden Meadow. Our mission is to pioneer innovative solutions in the Sierra Nevada that foster community vitality, improve environmental quality, advance economic prosperity and promote social fairness in the region. The restoration of Van Norden Meadow will result in increased tourism and recreational use and over time will likely lead to a positive net economic due improvements to watershed function.

We understand that it is necessary to open the valve at the base of the dam to release water from the reservoir. The release of water at this time benefits the South Yuba River by restoring flow during a prolonged drought and will reduce the risk of a dam break as we move into a predicted El Niño winter.

We expect that the lowering of the reservoir will result in an increase of wetland habitat within the reservoir footprint, including the establishment of meadow and riparian species. This will directly benefit Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trillii*), a species listed as endangered by the State of California, among a suite of other species. Over the long term, the habitat that is restored at Van Norden Meadow will sustain higher base flows, filter water, attenuate flood flows, and improve resiliency at the headwaters of the South Yuba River.

We appreciate the work of the Truckee Donner Land Trust to acquire, conserve, and now restore Van Norden Meadow.

Sincerely,

Steve Frisch
President
Sierra Business Council