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August 1, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
California State Capitol, Room 2136
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

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- Twain Harte Community Services District
- Utica Power Authority

Re: The Assembly Democratic Caucus Water Bond Working Group;
Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee
- *Proposed Principles for Developing a Water Bond* -

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), we applaud the water bond working group’s efforts to set the tone for future water bond discussions with the *Proposed Principles for Developing a Water Bond*, and thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

- We support the working group’s recommendation to “respect existing California water rights, including area-of-origin protections”. Protecting and providing water right assurances is paramount for this region. For more than six decades, the leadership at the State and Federal level have been unequivocal in their commitments to the understanding that water that originates in the area of origin must always be available to meet the needs of water users in the watershed.

The Proposed Principles statement further reinforces the Governor’s commitment to protect historic water rights as was stated in his July 25, 2012 message when he and then Secretary Ken Salazar outlined revisions to the proposed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The Governor’s statement is significant: to “make sure implementation of BDCP will not result in adverse effects on the water rights of those in the watershed of the Delta, nor will it impose any obligations on water users upstream of the Delta to supplement flows in and through the Delta.”

- We support the working group’s recommendation that protection and restoration of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta remain a high priority. However, we encourage you to ensure that any plan for Delta protection considers, with the same specific focus and priority, protection and restoration in the headwaters in the Sierra

Nevada watersheds, which provides approximately fifty percent of the source water for the Delta. As such, it is essential that the State recognize that without a solution in the "Delta Watershed", there can be no Delta solution nor statewide solution.

- Wildland fire in the Sierra Nevada will lead to devastating water supply consequences for Delta inflows and cause yet another crisis in California. Major wildfire events in the state's largest natural winter reservoir, the "Sierra Nevada", can decimate the landscape changing soil to sediment that will negatively impact the carrying capacity of California's water supply. This changed landscape accelerates runoff and increases flooding only to put further pressure on the State's levee system.

- MCWRA supports the principle that recommends expanding California water storage options to counter the effects of climate change and extended drought. It is crucial that the State exercise and implement several storage options from the crest of the Sierra Nevada to the ocean. It should no longer be acceptable to continue the water wars, but to embrace the need to expand the State's water carrying capacity critically necessary to satisfy the long-term water supply, water quality, hydropower, agriculture, environment, and recreation needs of the State.

While the State's focus is the Delta, investment, proper management in the Sierra Nevada, and regulatory assurances will lead to water supply reliability for all of California. Your thoughtful consideration of the many complex issues surrounding California's water future is greatly appreciated. Again, thank you for this opportunity, and if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please call me at 530.957.7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury, Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: The Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

The Honorable:

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