

August 2, 2013

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

Dear Chairman Rendon:

**RE: PROPOSED PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING A WATER BOND**

We are writing as a diverse set of stakeholders to applaud the water bond working group's efforts to set the tone for future water bond discussions with the Proposed Principles. Your thoughtful consideration of the many complex issues surrounding California's water future is greatly appreciated.

We understand that addressing issues such as surface storage, Delta conveyance, and many others is critical to any long-term water solution. While the signers of this letter may not agree on some of these topics, we all agree that a critical piece of California's water infrastructure is not currently being adequately addressed in Sacramento—the forests, meadows, lakes and streams of the Sierra Nevada.

With that in mind, in reviewing the Principles we feel that there are some modifications to be made that would ensure that discussions around California's water future are more holistic:

- We support the working group's recommendation that a water bond "restore the health of California's watersheds, to protect our important coastal and inland waterways, especially for salmon that depend on both." **However, we feel that a specific focus on watersheds that are key sources of California's water, such as the Sierra Nevada region and the Southern Cascades, should also be included as a priority.**
- We support the working group's recommendation that protection of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta remain a high priority. **However, we encourage you to ensure that any plan for Delta protection considers the protection and restoration of the source of fresh water that flows through the Delta as a priority as well.**

A reliable supply of high quality water is fundamental to securing drinking water for all Californians and essential for providing flood protection, maintaining agricultural productivity, hydropower generation, the environment, and supporting a vibrant and diverse economy. Snowpack in the Sierra Region provides a natural form of water storage and Sierra forests and meadows play a role in ensuring water quality, yield, and reliability. Over 60 percent of California's water supply originates in the Sierra Nevada,

serving end users throughout the State. Up to half of the fresh water that flows into the Delta starts its journey in the Sierra.

Sadly, the health of Sierra Nevada forests, meadows and streams are in decline, putting the primary source of water in California at risk. Investing in natural infrastructure, such as improving forest and watershed health, restoring meadows and streams in the upper watersheds, addressing water quality issues such as mercury contamination, and reducing the risk of large damaging fires is essential to ensuring water supply and improved water quality for all California communities.

Further, we believe that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy provides an excellent mechanism for investment in this critical part of the State, given its strong presence in our region and proven track record in administering grant funds. Without an investment in the Sierra Nevada, a significant element of a comprehensive fix to California's water issues will be ignored with significant downstream impacts and costs. Please feel free to call on any of us for more information on this matter.

Sincerely,



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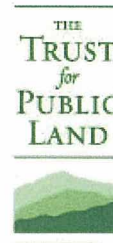
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