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October 14, 2013

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

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- Tuolumne Utilities District
- Twain Harte Community Services District
- Utica Power Authority

Re: Statewide Water Action Plan – Our Associations' Support of ACWA's Proposal

Dear Governor Brown;

This letter is submitted to you in support of ACWA's recommended Statewide Water Action Plan (SWAP). We provide this support for ACWA's plan and commend ACWA's executive director Tim Quinn for his facilitation in this process because it is a good start to identifying a wide-ranging list of critical issues that the Administration must address if we are to succeed.

Combined forces of unchecked population growth, rising sea level, climate change, extended droughts, and the concern for endangered species, habitat and sustainable forests to ensure reliable water supply and water quality, combined with limited new water supplies have put California's citizens, its economy and its environmental resources all on the brink of disaster. We need your strong leadership to develop a Statewide Water Action Plan that holistically addresses the tough choices for environmental regulation, new and expanded infrastructure from the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and changes in the operation of the state's water systems that will protect all Californians and successfully adapt to future conditions.

Additional upstream storage to supplement Delta flow is a solution and a means of providing improved Delta health, protection of valuable agricultural land, and the possibility of increased delivery south of the Delta, in addition to increased reliability. Our fear is that the difficulty and challenge of finding this statewide comprehensive solution will lead to half measures and redirected negative consequences, like moving ahead with the tunnels without also resolving the tough in-Delta and upstream Delta headwater issues; the source of water for the Delta.

We ask your affirmation and support of the Natural Resources Agency policy points on BDCP that it

- will not result in any exemption for the CVP and SWP from contributing water when the needs of the entire Delta are evaluated in the Water Quality Control Plan,
- will not seek any change in the priority of water rights,
- will not impact upstream water users, whether to meet water quality requirements, increased flows, or for other mitigation requirements.

Further, we ask that you make a strong commitment to protect the Delta headwaters in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Climate change and reoccurring drought in the Sierra Nevada Mountains will only increase the frequency of catastrophic wildland fires, which could have devastating water supply consequences for Delta inflows. Wildland fires can decimate the landscape, reduce natural storage, accelerate runoff and change soil to sediment. These compounding effects will further reduce statewide water reliability and supply, degrade water quality, reduce hydropower generation, and further degrade the environment, impact recreation, tourism, the statewide economy, and further impact the Delta.

We support your commitment to solve the statewide water crisis and request and encourage that you enlist the stakeholders and stewards of the Delta's source water in the Sierra Nevada Mountains to help find a holistic "Delta Solution" that works for all of California. I can be reached at 530.957.7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury, Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: MCWRA Board of Directors

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