



[www.mountaincountieswater.com](http://www.mountaincountieswater.com)

Board of Directors  
Don Stump – President  
Norm Krizl – Vice President  
Art Toy – Treasurer  
Bill George – Director  
Delbert Rotelli – Director

Barbara Balen – Ex Officio  
Lowell Jarvis – Ex Officio

John Kingsbury – Executive Director

November 22, 2013

VIA U.S. Postal Service and Email

John Laird, Secretary  
Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Matthew Rodriguez, Secretary  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Karen Ross, Secretary  
Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Executive Members

- Amador Water Agency
- Calaveras County Water District
- County of Calaveras
- County of Placer
- El Dorado County Water Agency
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- Foresthill Public Utility District
- Grizzly Flats Community Services District
- Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Placer County Water Agency
- South Tahoe Public Utility District
- Tuolumne Utilities District
- Twain Harte Community Services District
- Utica Power Authority

Re: California Statewide Water Action Plan

Dear Secretaries Laird, Rodriguez, and Ross;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Public Review Draft of the California Water Action Plan. The plan is a positive step forward to implement California Water Policy and we applaud the hard work and dedication of those within the administration who collaborated on drafting the document.

One major component missing from the comprehensive plan is the recognition of the Sierra Nevada headwaters that provides most of the water for the State’s drinking water supply. These forested watersheds should be an integral part of the plan as the health and resiliency of these headwaters are vital to a sustainable California. Actions related to this issue in the current draft are limited to one item on meadow restoration.

The Action Plan does not adequately outline several other critical issues confronting California water management. Specifically, the final draft should affirm that it will adhere to area-of-origin protections, water right laws and contractual agreements, adapt the regulatory structure to clearly address climate change, provide for regulatory, operational, and supply assurances for those upstream of the Delta, sufficiently address the recent modeling that calls out reservoir “dead pool” conditions, affirm that there will not be redirected consequences upstream as a result of a BDCP, and lastly provide key action items, timelines to implement the plan, as well as, designating responsibility and accountability for implementing all elements of the California Water Action Plan.

To help attain and sustain a reliable water supply for all of California, we will need to advance the stewardship of not only the Sierra Nevada Mountains, but across all the

watersheds and headwaters in the State, increase the water carrying capacity in the watersheds, increase surface water supply and storage starting at the crest of the Sierra, all while reducing demand by increased water efficiency practices, and optimize recycling opportunities, groundwater injection, and desalination. There is no silver bullet. All these options should be outlined and considered in the final plan, without sacrificing one region's water reliability to benefit another region.

Included with this summary, I have enclosed proposed language changes to the Public Review Draft of the California Water Action Plan for your consideration. If you have any questions, please call me at 530.957.7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury, Executive Director  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: MCWRA Board of Directors

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

The Honorable:  
Congressman Tom McClintock  
U.S. House of Representatives  
428 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Randy Moore  
United States Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Regional Forester  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Assemblymember Frank Bigelow  
California State Capitol, Room 4116  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Assemblymember Beth Gaines  
Capitol State Capitol, Room 2130  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Senator Ted Gaines  
California State Capitol, Room 3070  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Barnie Gyant  
United States Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Deputy Regional Forester  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Assemblymember Brian Dahle  
California State Capitol, Room 2174  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Senator Tom Berryhill  
California State Capitol, Room 3076  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Jim Nielsen  
State Capitol, Room 4062  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mark Cowin, Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Ken Alex, Director  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Sunne McPeak, President  
Charles Gardiner, Executive Director  
Delta Vision Foundation  
*Email only*

Jim Branham, Executive Director  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Chris Knopp, Executive Director  
Delta Stewardship Council  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500

Felicia Marcus, Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Debbie Davis  
Community and Rural Affairs Advisor  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Steve Frisch, Executive Director  
Sierra Business Council  
10183 Truckee Airport Rd #202  
Truckee, CA 96161

Kathy Mannion, Legislative Advocate  
Regional Council of Rural Counties  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 Sacramento, CA 95814