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February 6, 2014

The Honorable Senator Lois Wolk  
California State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 848

Dear Senator Lois Wolk:

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), I appreciate your continued and gallant effort to rebuild the Delta estuary and California’s water supply reliability. A water bond is the funding vehicle to provide for a comprehensive statewide water supply and water quality solution.

As you know well, there is no silver bullet solution. To increase water supply, water reliability, and to enhance water quality, will require implementing a “Water Supply Portfolio” using a statewide water system approach. A statewide solution must be balanced and include the headwaters in the “Delta Watershed”. The State should consider all of the following:

- ❖ Increase the water carrying capacity in the watersheds,
- ❖ Increase surface water supply and storage starting at the crest of the Sierra,
- ❖ Reduce demand by increased water efficiency practices,
- ❖ Optimize recycling opportunities, groundwater injection, and desalination,
- ❖ Advance the stewardship of not only the Sierra Nevada Mountains, but across all the watersheds and headwaters in the State,
- ❖ Provide for operational and regulatory assurances.

While I appreciate a set aside funding allocation in SB 848 for each hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan, unlike other proposed water bonds, there is no allocation for the Overlay areas, specifically Mountain Counties.

- 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

In 2005, the State recognized Mountain Counties in the Water Plan Update as an Overlay due to its statewide significance. As an Overlay, Mountain Counties provides high quality, cold water from high in the Sierra for many beneficial uses within the region and downstream in and through the Delta estuary. Without a reliable water source starting at the crest of the Sierra Nevada, the Delta will not be sustainable.

I respectfully ask that you set aside a funding allocation specific for the Mountain Counties Overlay area. Additional funding opportunities for projects in Mountain Counties could enhance Delta water supply, provide for additional cold water for aquatic species, improve water quality, and reduce flooding risk, which will reduce pressure on the Delta levee system.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or if I can be of any assistance, please call me at 530.957.7879.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Kingsbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical stroke at the end.

John Kingsbury, Executive Director  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

C: Dennis E. O'Connor, Principal Consultant  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Water  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jim Metropulos, Energy and Environmental Policy  
Senator Lois Wolk  
California State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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