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April 29, 2014

The Honorable Henry Perea
 California State Capitol, Room 3120
 P.O. Box 942849
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0031

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

Executive Members

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- South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD)
- Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)
- Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD)
- Utica Power Authority (UPA)

Re: Water Bonds

Dear Assembly Members Perea and Rendon:

The proposed financial investment outlined in AB1331, AB2554, and AB2686 clearly recognizes the importance of a healthy Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. A resilient Delta can be sustainable only if it has a reliable source of clean water. The Delta's primary source of that clean water comes from our largest natural winter reservoir; the Sierra Nevada Mountains (Sierra). The Sierra snowpack is the lifeblood for Californian's quality of life and well-being from the crest of the Sierra to San Diego. As such, we would like to offer the following observations and proposed amendments as you package a water bond, good for all of California.

In the Definitions section of each of the above mentioned assembly bills, reference is made to the projected snowpack by the year 2050. *"Scientists project a loss of at least 25 percent of the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains by 2050. The Colorado River basin, which provides drinking water to southern California, has experienced prolonged drought."* In the Mountain Counties Overlay Area (CA Water Plan, Update 2009), of significance, are 10 major Sierra tributaries to the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. (Map; page 3)

The watersheds and tributaries in the Mountain Counties Overlay Area, provides 40% of the State's developed water supply. AB2554, Chapter 6, Section 79735, references the entire Sierra and Cascade Range; *"The Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range region is an important part of the state's economy as the source of approximately 75 percent of California's developed water supply."* In as much as 75 percent of the developed water supply comes from the Sierra and Cascade, to counter the effects of climate change and extended drought, it is critical that California expand its water supply capacity not only in the valley, but above the rim dams in the foothills and higher elevations in the watershed. We need to capture and store the precipitation for use

later with slower releases to sustain hydropower generation, agriculture, the environment, recreation, tourism, and downstream beneficial uses.

We support a \$3 billion continuous appropriation in Chapter 9 slated for projects to expand the State's water storage capacity. Specific to this chapter in AB2554, we support the language to *"expand the state's water storage capacity to address the impacts of climate change on the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and water storage resources"*. However, a water bond should carve out and designate funds from the \$3 billion, as in other chapters, to the Water Commission specific for regional water supply projects that provide multiple benefits and address the potential impacts of climate change on the Sierra snowpack..

Also, while much focus is on damage from earthquakes, flooding, and levee failure, equally devastating are catastrophic wildland fires and landslides. These too, can also have significant regional and statewide water supply and water quality consequences. Major wildfire events in the state's largest source of water can decimate the landscape, changing soil to sediment that will negatively impact the carrying capacity of California's water supply. Fire scorched landscapes accelerate runoff, increase the potential for landslides, increase water supply maintenance costs and can place water supplies at risk. Accelerated runoff also increases the risk of downstream flooding, which puts additional pressure on the State's levee system, causing downstream public safety concerns. As such, we support the language in AB2554, Chapter 6, Section 79735.

We appreciate your leadership and you are to be commended for your on-going outreach and collaboration to solve the water crisis, achieve the co-equal goals, and safeguard that one region's water supply does not compromise another region's water reliability.

As repeated at the Water, Parks, & Wildlife Committee Hearing today, the various water bond bills are a "work in progress". Therefore, please accept and consider the attached proposed amendments. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 530.957.7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury, Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: The Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

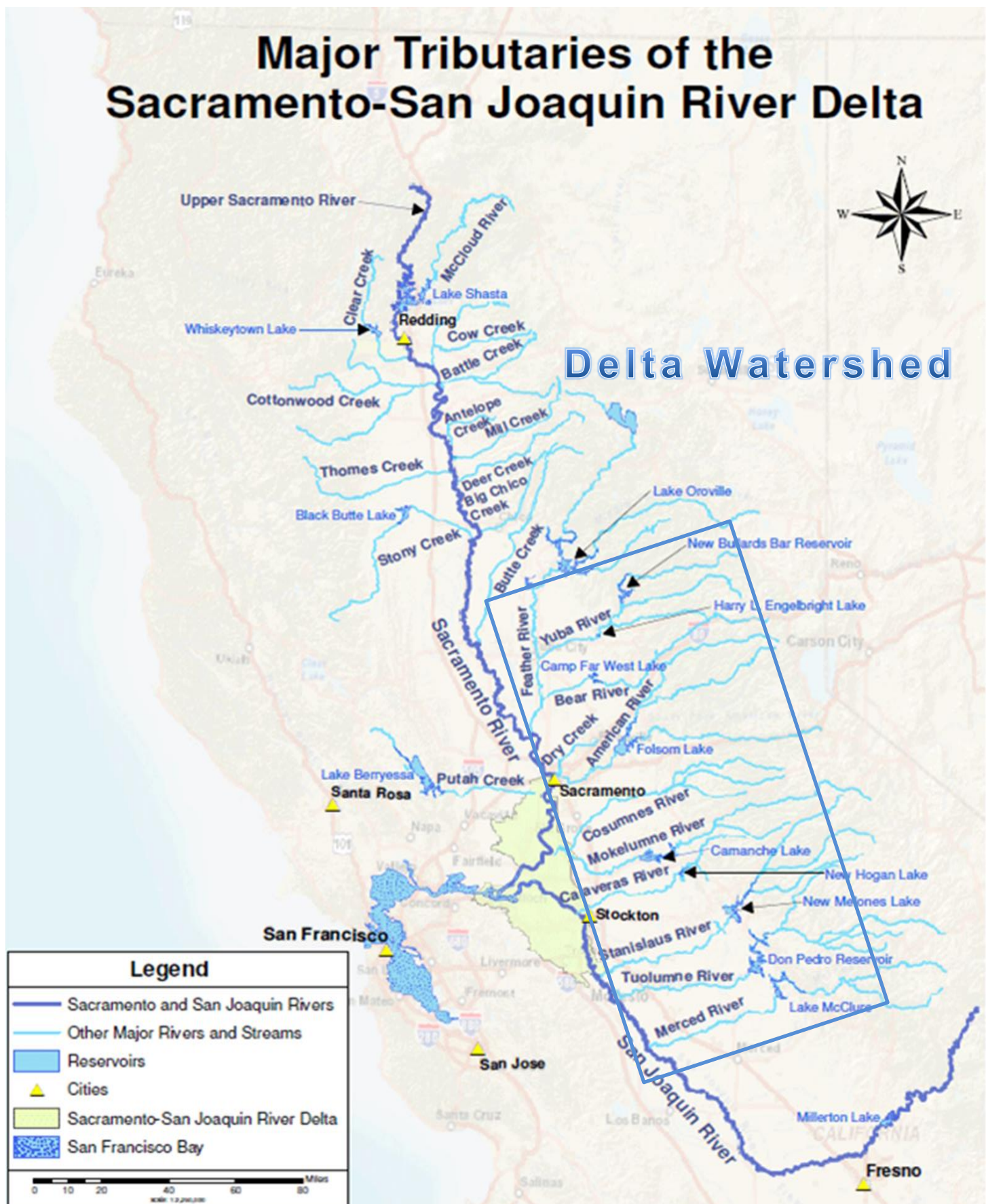
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Alf Brandt, Legislative Director, Assembly Member Anthony Rendon
Jessie Cuevas, Legislative Director, Assembly Member Henry Perea
Tina Cannon Leahy, Principal Consultant - State Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee

The Honorable:

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Senator Jim Neilsen
Assembly Member Travis Allen
Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra
Assembly Member Paul Fong
Assembly Member Beth Gaines
Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez
Assembly Member Jim Patterson
Assembly Member Mariko Yamada

Senator Ted Gaines
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
Assembly Member Jim Frazier
Assembly Member Mike Gatto
Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez
Assembly Member Adam Gray
Assembly Member Freddie Rodriguez

Major Tributaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta



Legend	
	Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers
	Other Major Rivers and Streams
	Reservoirs
	Cities
	Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta
	San Francisco Bay

0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles
Scale: 1:2,250,000

BOND AMENDMENTS

AB1331, AB2554, AB2686

Note: Applies to all unless otherwise stated

1. **Add Definition** “Delta watershed” means the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region and the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region as described in the department’s Bulletin No. 160-05. (CWC 85060).
2. **Change 79702 (a)** to read; “A sustainable water future ~~can provide the means~~ is critical for California to maintain vibrant communities, globally competitive agriculture, and healthy ecosystems, which are all a part of the quality of life that attracts so many to live in California.”
3. **Add to 79709:** Projects funded under this Division will be consistent with (CWC 85021). “The policy of the State of California is to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California’s future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency. Each region that depends on water from the Delta watershed shall improve its regional self-reliance for water through investment in water use efficiency, water recycling, advanced water technologies, local and regional water supply projects, and improved regional coordination of local and regional water supply efforts.”
4. **Change 79709 (f) to AB1331 & AB2554:** Special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, energy efficiency, land use, and sanitation.
5. **Change 79709(e) to AB2686:** Special consideration will be given to projects that employ new or innovative technology or practices, including decision support tools that support the integration of multiple jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, water supply, flood control, energy efficiency, land use, and sanitation.
6. **Change 79721(h)** to read; “Ensure access to reliable, clean, safe, and affordable drinking water for California’s communities.”
7. **Change 79722 (c)** to read; “...A project that receives funding by this chapter may be implemented by any ~~public water system or other public water agency~~ eligible applicant as defined in section 79714 of this Act.
8. **Change 79726 (2)** to read; “Identifying, planning, designing, and constructing projects that improve or replace existing water systems to provide safe, reliable, accessible, energy efficient, and affordable drinking water, provide other sources of safe drinking water, including, but not limited to, replacement wells, and prevent contamination.”
9. **Support AB2554, Chapter 6 with the following changes:**
 - a. **Change 79732** to read; “In protecting and restoring California headwaters, rivers, lakes, streams, and watersheds, the purposes of this chapter are to...”
 - b. **Change 79732 (b)** to read; “Implement watershed ~~adaptation~~ strategies and projects in order to reduce the impacts of climate change on California’s communities and ecosystems, giving priority to projects within the Mountain Counties Overlay Area because of the natural resource significance of Sierra Nevada headwaters to California.”
 - c. **Change 79732(h)** to read; “Implement forest management and fuel treatment projects to reduce wildfire risks, protect watersheds tributary to water storage facilities, increase water yield and quality, and promote watershed health.”

- d. **Change 79732(i)** to read; “Protect and restore rural and urban watershed health to improve watershed storage capacity, forest health, protection of life and property, flood control, and stormwater resource management, and greenhouse gas reduction.”
- e. **Change 79732(k)** to read; “Promote educational opportunities to instruct and inform Californians, including young people, about the multi-benefit values of watersheds.”
- f. **Change 79732(n)** to read; “Assist in the recovery of endangered, threatened, or migratory species by improving watershed health and water supply for instream flows pursuant to Section 1707, fish passage, coastal or inland wetland restoration, or other means, such as natural community conservation plan and habitat conservation plan implementation.”
- g. **Add 79732(p):** Implement fuel thinning programs within headwaters lands to reduce the potential for large, intense wildfires as a priority for public safety, protecting water quality and water supply reliability.
10. **Change 79741(a)** to read; “Protect water conveyance and infrastructure systems and help adapt to climate change, including, but not limited to, sea level rise, seismic risk, wildfires, erosion, landslides, avalanches and subsidence.”
11. **Change 79741(b)** to read; “Provide incentives for water agencies throughout each watershed to collaborate in managing the region’s water resources and setting regional priorities for water conveyance, distribution, and infrastructure.”
12. **Change 79742(f) in AB1331 & AB2554** to read; “Not less than 10 percent of the funds authorized by this chapter shall be allocated to projects that directly benefit disadvantaged or economically distressed communities.
13. **Change 79742(d) in AB2686 to read;** “Not less than 10 percent of the funds authorized by this chapter shall be allocated to projects that directly benefit disadvantaged or economically distressed communities.
14. **Change 79743(e)** to read; “Watershed ~~protection~~, restoration, and management projects, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire or improve water quality, water supply or water supply reliability.”
15. **Add 79743(4)(j) to AB2686 & AB2554:** Projects to reduce transmission or distribution system water losses, with priority given to disadvantaged and economically distressed areas.
16. **Add 79743(j) to AB1331:** Projects to reduce transmission or distribution system water losses, with priority given to disadvantaged and economically distressed areas.
17. **Change 79744(a) in AB2686 & AB2554** to read; “...For purposes of this subdivision, and because of the significance of its statewide water supply, the Mountain Counties Overlay is ~~not also~~ eligible for funds from the Sacramento River hydrologic region or the San Joaquin River hydrologic region. Multiple integrated regional water management plans...”
18. **Change 79707(c) in AB1331** to read; “...For purposes of this subdivision, and because of the significance of its statewide water supply, the Mountain Counties Overlay is also eligible for funds from the Sacramento River hydrologic region or the San Joaquin River hydrologic region. Multiple integrated regional water management plans...”
19. **Change 79745(1)(A)** to read; “Assist small rural water suppliers and regions to implement water conservation, water efficiency, or metering programs and measures that are not locally cost effective.”
20. **Change 79746(f) in AB1331 & AB2554** to read; “Technical assistance and grant writing assistance for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas.”

21. **Change 79746(a)(6) in AB2686** to read; “Technical assistance and grant writing assistance for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas.”
22. **Change AB1331 & AB2554, 79746(6)** to read; “Reasonable geographic allocation to eligible projects throughout the state including both northern and southern California and coastal, ~~and~~ inland, and mountain regions.”
23. **Change AB 1331 & AB2554, 79762(c)** to read; “Restore and expand water storage capacity of existing surface water storage reservoirs.”
24. **Add language in AB2554, 79762(c) to AB2686, 79761:** In order to expand the state’s water storage capacity to address the impacts of climate change on the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and water storage resources, the purposes of this chapter are to:
 - (a) Construct new surface water storage projects.
 - (b) Restore and expand groundwater aquifer storage capacity.
 - (c) Restore and expand water storage capacity of existing surface water storage reservoirs.
 - (d) Remediate or prevent contamination of groundwater aquifers.
 - (e) Construct and expand stormwater retention facilities.
 - (f) Construct small raw water storage facilities that will improve resiliency and operational efficiencies in raw water conveyance facilities.
25. **Add 79762(f) to AB1331 & AB2554:** Improve forest management to increase watershed storage and retention.
26. **Add to 79761, AB2686:** Improve forest management to increase watershed storage and retention.
27. **Add 79763(f) to AB1331 & AB2554:** Local and regional programs in economically distressed areas in the Delta watershed that contributes to self-reliance.
28. **Add to 79761, AB2686:** Local and regional programs in economically distressed areas in the Delta watershed that contributes to self-reliance.
29. **Add 79763(h) to AB1331 & AB2554:** Scientific studies, assessments, and demonstration projects that address forest water supply yield projects authorized under this section.
30. **Add to 79761, AB2686:** Scientific studies, assessments, and demonstration projects that address forest water supply yield projects authorized under this section.
31. **Change 79764 in AB 2554:** A project in the Delta watershed or a rural area that receives water from the Delta watershed shall be eligible for funding pursuant to this chapter to further the policy set forth in Section 85021. Of the funds authorized in this Chapter, up to one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) shall be available to further Section 85021.
32. **Add to Chapter 9 in AB 2686:** A project in the Delta watershed or a rural area that receives water from the Delta watershed shall be eligible for funding pursuant to this chapter to further the policy set forth in Section 85021. Of the funds authorized in this Chapter, up to one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) shall be available to further Section 85021.

Date: April 29, 2014

Prepared by: John Kingsbury, Executive Director
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