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John Kingsbury – Executive Director

June 12, 2014

Hand Delivered

To: **Honorable California State Assembly Members**

Regarding: SB 1199 (Hancock): Wild and scenic rivers: Mokelumne River – **OPPOSE**

The Mountain Counties Water Resources Association opposes Senate Bill 1199 because it removes water supply options in a time of drought and extended water shortage and because it short circuits a state-funded million dollar collaborative use process. The bill effectively removes options for Amador County to store any extra water and effectively removes options for Calaveras County to use 90% of its reservations on the Mokelumne River.

Authored by Oakland Senator Loni Hancock, SB1199 would designate a 37-mile portion of the Mokelumne River in Calaveras and Amador Counties, which is in Senator Tom Berryhill’s district, as a “wild and scenic river” in the California Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

If signed into law, SB1199 would designate specified segments of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River and the main stem of the Mokelumne River in the California Wild and Scenic River statute. For the North Fork, 20 miles will be wild, while nine will be recreational. For the main stem of the Mokelumne River, three miles will be scenic, and 4.6 will be recreational. The designation of the main stem will terminate at the upper extent of the Pardee Reservoir flood surcharge pool at 580 feet elevation above main sea level. A total of nearly 37 river miles will be included.

If SB 1199 becomes law, it would set a precedent and could derail the State’s long-term water supply planning and create serious implications for regional water storage development and water diversions not only on the Mokelumne River system, but on other major rivers in the watershed in the Sierra Nevada, which provides 60-70 percent of California’s water supply.

The legislature’s job is to help ensure future water supply reliability for all of California. This should not be a partisan issue. Now is not the time to take water storage options off the table for California. We encourage a **NO** vote.

**Executive Members**

Amador Water Agency (AWA)

Calaveras County Water District (CCWD)

County of Calaveras

County of Placer

El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA)

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)

Foresthill Public Utility District (FPUD)

Grizzly Flats Community Services District (GFCSD)

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD)

Nevada Irrigation District (NID)

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)

South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD)


Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD)

Twain Harte Community Services District (THCSD)

Utica Power Authority (UPA)

I am available if you would like to discuss this matter further. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 530.957.7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury, Executive Director  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

The Honorable:

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