

MOUNTAIN COUNTIES AREA OF CALIFORNIA

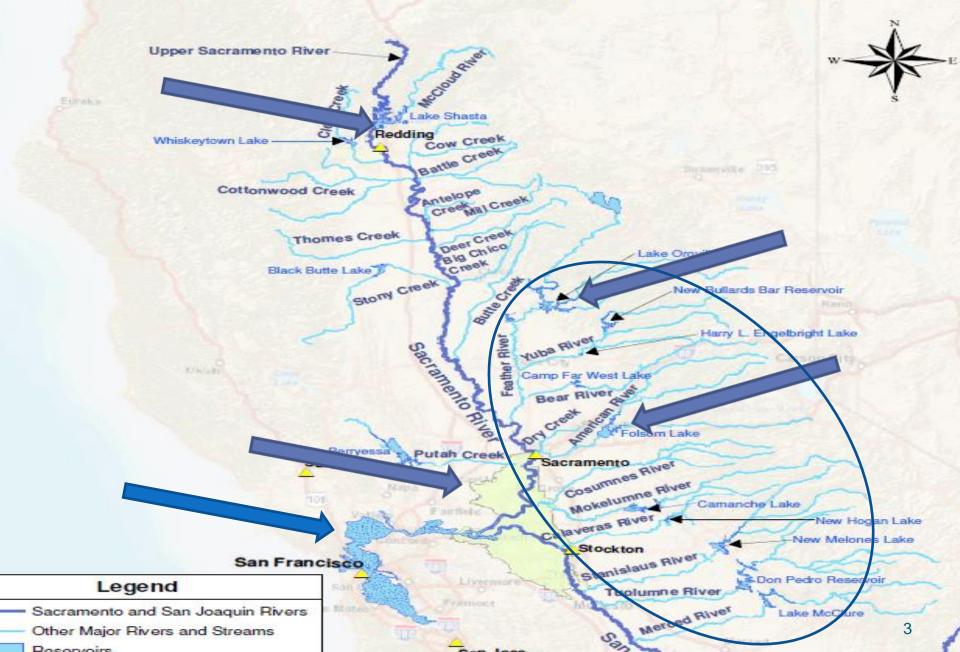


Leadership, Advocacy, Education

Water Interests of 68 Members in all or a portion of 16 of the 58 Counties in California



Major Tributaries of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta



Organization/ Committees

Board of Directors – Meet Bi-Monthly

- Governance Committee
- Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Integrated Regional Water Management Committee



- Urban Water Institute
- Delta Vision Foundation
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Delta Conservancy
- American Water Works Association Conf.
- Association of California Water Agencies
- California Water Plan Plenary
- Sierra Water Work Group Summit
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- Forest Service District Ranger Conference
- Delta Stewardship Council
- Sierra Business Council
- Municipal Water District of Orange County
- MCWRA Member Presentations

- Department of Water Resources Water Plan Update, 2018, Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
- California Water Commission Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Department of Water Resources Urban Stakeholder Committee (USC)
- Governor's Office of Planning and Research Sierra Region Land Use/Water & Rural Community Planning Committee
- > Senator Jim Nielsen Water Working Group

Representing the Region

















Activities /Statistics

EVENTS / WORKSHOPS / EXECUTIVE BRIEFINGS / TOURS

To	otal	Attendees	Presenters
Events	17	1,570	134
Workshops and	12	325	26
Executive Briefing	js		
Tours	12	266	
TOTAL	41	2,161	160

PROGRAM SPONSORS/UNDERWRITTEN: \$50,985.38

MCWRA WEBSITE SUBSCRIBERS: 355

MCWRA WEBSITE WEBPOSTS: 426

Upcoming Events

- ➤ Legacy of Flint, Michigan Last week of March
- Mountain Counties Supervisors / Delta and Valley County Supervisors - October
- ➤ Congressman Doug LaMalfa and CA Legislators Feb/March
- Southern California taking pressure of Northern California
- ➤ Rice University Student Tour *March 13-15*
- ➤ The Delta Then and Now April
- MCWRA Board Delta and Southern California tour June
- ➤ Members Helping Members Technology Symposiums (2)

April-May

Planning Stage

Water storage Water storage

Time for more water storage



John Kingsbury, Executive Director of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association in the US explains why it is time for more water storage to help pave the way for a prosperous future in

historical drought, one thing we can count on is that history will repeat itself. Californians can take full credit for willingly sacrificing landscape and adjusting habits to save water supply for another year. Totlets have been replaced lawn has been converted to plastic leaks have been fixed prime agricultural land has been fallowed, and we have learned to be more efficient with our water supply. However, most consumers in California are weary from coping with the drought and the accompanying mandated emergency wateruse restrictions. Though highly successful in their own right, urban consumers only conserved 2.5 % of the total statewide water demand

în California, statewide average water use is roughly 10% urban, 40% agricultural, and 50% for the aquatic environment. Although urban consumers conserved water, state and federal agencies did little to conserve a portion of the 50% aguatic environmental water. State and tederal. regulators should have balanced the social-economic impacts of urban and agricultural water users when

determining how and when to allocate water to the environment during a drought

So, fast-forward to the next drou There are powerful en support dam removal, surface storage, and are more strenuous consen indoor use and outdoor ir water outbacks on agricult environmental movement is ignores the statewide efforts to

storage facilities, and increase surface wa

In the Stiring of 2016, with water flowing over reservoir spillways from the largest reservoirs in

reservoirs behind dams. These dams, built decades ago, have dedicated in-stream flow releases designed to meet many beneficial uses of the environment, agriculture, and urban and municipal needs. Let's not forget flood control. As the planet warms, more precipitation will land in the Sierra Nevadas in the form of rain rather than snow. Rain, not absorbed by the forest floor, moves unimpeded through the watershed, breaching dams, causing valley flooding and pressure on the levee systems before the water is wasted to the sea. All because California does not have adequate storage facilities to capture excess

It has not been since Governor Edmund G. Brown's vision to build a statewide water system for California, and President John F. Kennedy's famous speech in 1962 at the site of San Luis Reservoir, that the people of this state have been united to build a

"Water is man's oldest and most precious natural resource," President Kennedy said. "For many years, some believed that the water problems of this state were too controversial and too complicated to solve. They believed there was no escaping the effects of drought and flood." And then it was built. San Luis Reservoir, when full, holds up to 6528 gallons of water and is the US' largest off-stream reservoir. Construction began in 1963 and completed in 1967.

Now, half a century later, most Californians are again united. In 2014 California voted overwhelmingly to support a water bog

Several well-known water storage projects are under consideration and include raising Shasta Dam.

current water wars in California.

Additional storage will provide for new urban and municipal uses, drought preparedness, flood protection, tourism, and recreational opportunities Surface water stored behind dams provides cold water for endangered fish, such as migrating steelbead trout and salmon. Water released from reservoirs can help balance the wind and solar electricity grid by generating carbon-free hydro. Indeed, as the population grows, so must Californian water for food production, unless we are content with our children and grandchildren subsisting on two meals a day or food from third world countries.

Complex and integrated California has a very comp

water system has three legs: water supply. water demand and the environment. To achieve balance and stability, all three legs must be of equal length. While continuing to advance water use efficiency practices through technology, it is critical that the state balances rural, urban, agricultural, environmental, recreational, and hydropower generation interests equally so as to not gore the ox. Until we restore and thin forests to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the watersheds; recover lost storage from sediment displacement; improve watershed health to capture and sequester rain and snow; and build sufficient surface water storage to store that water for later use, the statewide water system will never achieve equilibrium.

It is time for more water storage to help pave the way to a prosperous future for California. Unless we have the fortifude to increase surface water storage as the voters have called for, we will continue to ration the half-full glass of water. We should reflect on the vision of Governor Brown and the words of President Kennedy: "Progress represents the combined will of the American people and only when they are joined together for action, instead of standing still and thinking that everything that had o be done has been done. It's only when they join ogether in a forward movement that this country wes ahead and that we prepare the way for those

er and power agencies, and regional water advocacy, education, and leadership to support the water

state. Its mission is to unite agencies, groups and individuals whose interests include protecting and enhancing Mountain County water resources throughout the foreseeable future. The Mountain Counties Area consists of approximately 41,000km2 within 16 of the state's 58 counties. It includes eight National Forest units, three National Parks, ten major watershed areas and accounts for about 25% of all natural runoff in California, over half of all snowmelt runoff in the State, and 40% of the state's developed water supply, more than from any other single source. This total increases to more than 60% of the state's developed water supply when combined with other water from sources within the entire Sierra Nevada. The larger Sierra Nevada Region is the source

rests of its members, and long-term integrated water management of the region and the

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June 21, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Hill Regarding: SB 814 - Drought: excessive water use: urban retail State Capitol, Room 5035 Sacramento, CA 95814

ADVOCACY

Water suppliers - Oppose

Dear Senator Hill:

to SB 814 (Hill).

Assemblywoman Marie Waldron 350 W 5th Ave, Ste 110

Escondido, CA 92025

I am writing on behalf of Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) to express our opposition to SR 814 (Hill) California State Capitol, Room 2158

Sacramento, CA 94249-0001 P.O. Box 942849

Re: ACR 22 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Danie:

Dear Assembly Me

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman

Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee

State Capitol, Room 3173

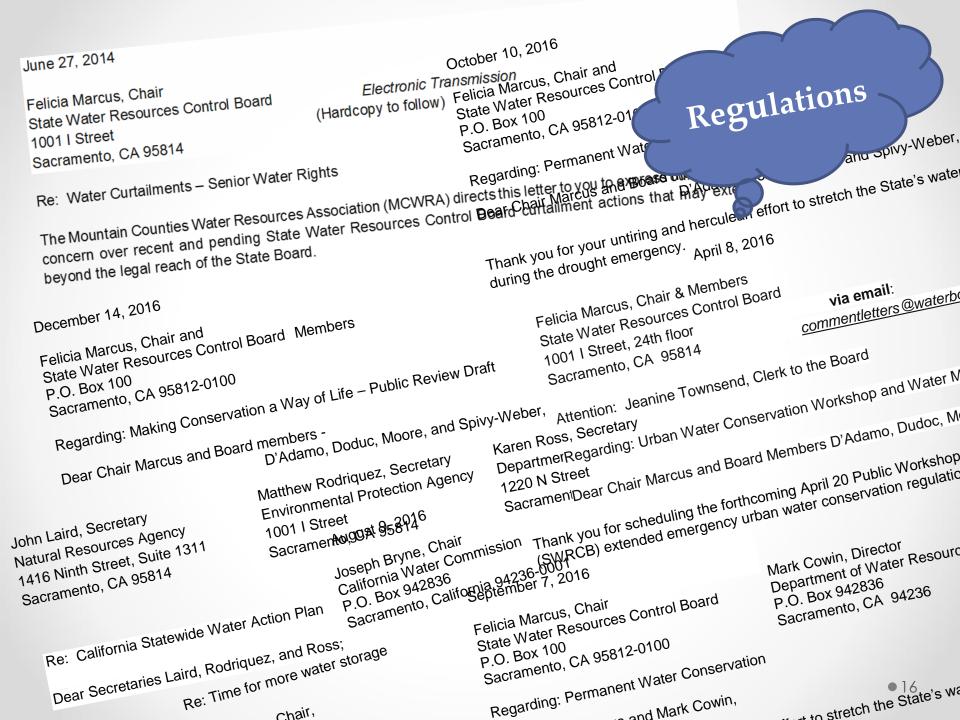
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1298 (Hertzberg) Local Government: Fees and Charges — OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Eggman

On behalf of Mountain Counties Water Resources Association, I am writing to express our opposition to SB 1298 (Hertzberg), which seeks to address Proposition 218 issues related to stormwater management. conservation-based rates and lifeline rates.









October 21, 2016

Ms. Felicia Marcus State Water Resources Control Board P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812



The Urban Water Institute is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 to further the interest of the water community. The Institute is non-partisan and our mission is to conduct conferences to educate the urban water community on key and current urban water policy issues.

The Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) advocates for the water interests of its members in all or a portion of 16 counties from the southern tip of Lassen County down to Fresno County.

Long-term water use efficiency in California is a pertinent issue to urban and rural areas alike. At the Urban Water Institute's Annual Conference in August of this year, we held a session with approximately 150 attendees from urban and rural interests from stakeholders across the State. Enclosed for your consideration are recommended policy principles for long-term water use efficiency in California.

Please contact our Executive Director, Jim Noyes at (626) 429-4881 or jnoyes66@aol.com, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jim Noyes

Executive Director

Urban Water Institute

Sim Notes

John Kingsbury

Executive Director

Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

cc: Dorene D'Adamo, Tam Doduc, Steven Moore, Francis Spivy-Weber





March 9, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor of California State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

We appreciate the opportunity to bring to your attention the role that biomass facilities play in maintaining healthy forests and therefore sustaining a healthy watershed.

The waters of our great state begin in the mountains. Whether it falls initially as snow or rain, the millions of tiny creeks that permeate our mountains and foothills eventually combine to form our great rivers, upon which nearly every Californian relies. This same precipitation also finds its way underground, where gravity and geology determine its role in the hydrologic cycle California depends upon.

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January 29, 2016

Mr. Campbell Ingram, Executive Director Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy 1450 Halyard Drive, Suite 6 West Sacramento, California 95691

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Port of Stockton/Ad-Hoc Water Hyacinth Committee's BIOFUEL Demonstration Project Grant Application

Dear Campbell Ingram:

At their January 22, 2016 meeting, the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) Board of Directors authorized this "Letter of Support" for the Port of Stockton/Ad-Hoc Water Hyacinth Committee's BIOFUEL Demonstration Project Grant Application......

Sincerely,

John Kingsbury, Executive Director Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: Paul Koelher, Vice President, Pacific Ethanol Inc.

Jeff Wingfield. Director of Environmental, Government & Public Affairs, Port of Stockton Roger Patterson, Assistant General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Mark Cowin, Director, Department of Water Resources Chuck Bonham, Director, Department of Fish & Wildlife Randy Forini, Chair, Delta Stewardship Council Felicia Marcus, Chair, State Water Resources Control Board Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association Drought, Permanent Conservation, the Delta, Tunnels, Bay- Delta Flow Objectives, Climate Warming, Watershed Health, Sustainable Groundwater Management



AND, let's not forget about these significant regulatory challenges:

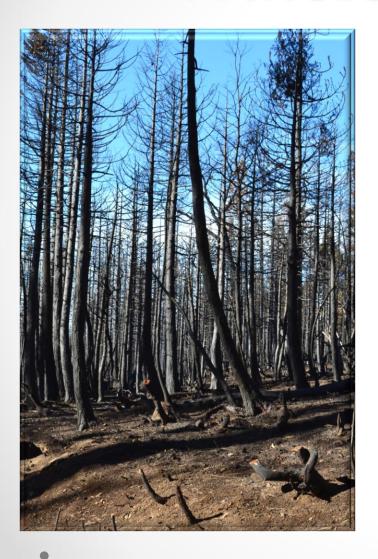


- Water Right Curtailments
- Wild & Scenic River Designations
- Dismantling the historical Water Rights system
- Eroding Area-of-Origin Assurances
- Environmental and Regulatory Overreach

"Take the Drought Pledge and Stop New Dams" - Friends of the River -

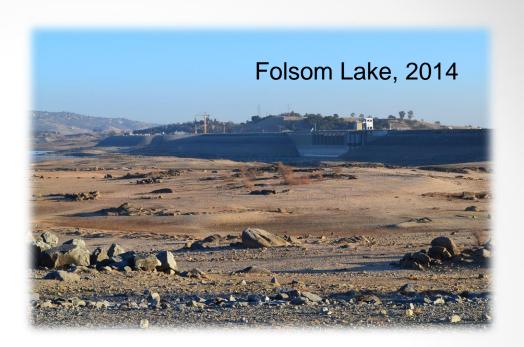


Watershed Health



- Overstocked
- Mega-fires like the Rim, King, Butte, and other fires
- Hydrology changes high intensity fires
- Massive amounts of sediment clog waterways, degrade water quality, impact reservoir storage
- Degrade ecosystem/wildlife habitat

Drought



- Nature's Drought Cycle
- > Regulatory Drought
- > Or both?





Permanent Conservation

Mandated urban conservation does not equal water use efficiency. Brown lawns are not a sign of efficiency, they are a sign of rationing





Protecting the water in this region

"Water efficiency should focus on reducing waste, not restricting use"

Water Wasted to the Sea

San Luis Reservoir – 2,041,000 A/F
 11 Percent Capacity

August 2015 439,175 A/F

August 2016 228,345 A/F

California Natural Resources Agency called for allowing between 85,000 and 200,000 acre-feet of extra water to wash out to sea this summer to bolster smelt habitat.

"Delta Smelt Resiliency Strategy"

Delta Problems our Problems

- > Seismic risk
- > Endangered species
- Pumping impacts on energy and fish
- ➤ Sea level rise levee pressure and flooding
- Subsidence and Carbon off-gassing
- ➤ Non-native invasive species
- Water quality issues (salt, pesticides, nitrogen, etc., etc.)
- > Inefficient for water conveyance



Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Improve habitat and provide flows that support native species and not non-native fish

Tributary inflows of from 35 percent to 75 percent of "unimpaired flow" is analyzed in the Report

State Water Resources Control Board

Unimpaired flow is the total volume of water that would flow past a particular point of interest if no diversions (impairments) were taking place in the watershed above that point

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California's Warming Climate and Environment

- Increased persistence of droughts
- Sea Level Rise / Salt Intrusion X2
- Higher water demands from higher temperatures
- Shifting snow to rain events
- Warmer water temps in streams and reservoirs
- Increased flood flows and flood frequencies
- Longer, more intense fire seasons
- Population Vehicles
- Increased asphalt, cement, plastic grass

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What Needs to Happen for California and its future

- 1. Water Purveyors Must Have a Unified Voice
- 2. Support from County Supervisors/State Legislators
- 3. Focus the discussion and take action to bring balance to water for all uses





What Needs to Happen for California and its future

- > Fix the Forest
 - Advance the stewardship in the watersheds and headwaters in the State

> Increase the water carrying capacity in the watersheds



- ➤ Inefficient water conveyance system
- > Pumping impacts on energy and fish
- > Endangered species
- ➤ Invasive plants
- ➤ Water quality issues
 - **≻**Subsidence



Doing

What Needs to Happen for California and its future

- Reduce Water Demand
 - Improve water use efficiency practices and technology
 - Provide incentives
 - Education
- Recover and Increase surface water storage
 - Upstream and downstream
 - Dredging and raising existing reservoirs
- Apply Co-Equal Goals to all of California
- Re-operations, Conjunctive uses, Water Transfers
- Optimize recycling, groundwater injection, stormwater capture, groundwater banking, and desalination
- Operational and Regulatory Certanity
- Protect water rights and priority system





Know the Issues - Have the Vision Build the Relationships

- ✓ Regional and Statewide Leadership
- ✓ Regional and Statewide Advocacy
- √ Regional and Statewide Education