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April 22, 2017

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Delivery Hand Carried 4/22/17*

#### **Regarding: AB 1668 (Friedman) – OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Garcia,

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), I write to express our opposition to AB 1668 (Friedman), which seeks to augment the existing drought planning process. While we agree with Assembly Member Friedman's efforts to develop an enhanced drought planning structure based on lessons learned from the state's recent drought, we are very concerned with some aspects of the bill.

MCWRA detailed its opposition in general to this bill (AB 1668) and the related companion bill (AB 1669) in a letter delivered to your office and to each Assembly Member's office on Friday, April 14, 2017, which has been included herein for reference. The state would greatly benefit from a more strategic approach to water management than what is being proposed in this legislation. I encourage discussion and consideration of the questions and concerns raised in the April 14, 2017 letter.

Specifically, AB 1668 would establish arbitrary targets that would trigger specific water shortage contingency actions, without considering local water supply conditions. One very important lesson from the drought is the value of local water supply investments and the wide variance in local and regional water supply conditions, which this approach does not consider.

Additionally, this bill also would require energy intensity information from water suppliers, without stating a specific purpose for the collection of the data.

However, requiring this data will not help a water supplier plan for emergency water-related situations and is contrary to the intent of existing statute (SB 1036, Ch. 485, Stat. 2014).

Lastly, with respect to requirements related to noncompliance and subsequent enforcement actions, this language is vague and seems to penalize water suppliers.

For these reasons, and the reasons detailed in the April 14, 2017 letter, MCWRA opposes AB 1668 (Friedman) and respectfully requests your "NO" vote when the bill is heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on April 25, 2017.

If you have questions or if you would like to discuss this information, please contact me at (530) 957-7879.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JKingsbury', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

John Kingsbury, Executive Director  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

Attachment: Letter dated April 14, 2017

c: Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association - *(email transmittal)*  
Tim Quinn, Executive Director, Association of California Water Agency - *(email transmittal)*  
John Woodling, Executive Director, Regional Water Authority - *(email transmittal)*  
Ryan Ojakian, Senior Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Robert Spiegel, Principal Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus  
John Kennedy, Policy Consultant Assembly Republican Caucus

The Honorable:

Assembly Member Laura Friedman

Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee

Assembly Member James Gallagher  
Assembly Member Frank Bigelow  
Assembly Member Steven Choi  
Assembly Member Kansen Chu  
Assembly Member Laura Friedman  
Assembly Member Todd Gloria  
Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez  
Assembly Member Matthew Harper  
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Assembly Member Devon Mathis  
Assembly Member Blanca Rubio  
Assembly Member Rudy Salas  
Assembly Member Tony Thurmond  
Assembly Member Jim Wood

Assembly Member Brian Dahle  
Assembly Member Kevin Kiley  
Senator Tom Berryhill  
Senator Ted Gaines  
Senator Jim Nielsen