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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 1669 (Friedman) – OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Garcia,

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), I write to express our opposition to AB 1669 (Friedman), which would grant new authorities to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

MCWRA detailed its opposition in general to this bill (AB 1669) and the related companion bill (AB 1668) 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.

While we are committed to the goals of long-term water-use efficiency, AB 1669's "command-and-control" approach is fundamentally flawed.

Specifically, it is not necessary to transfer the responsibility for developing conservation standards from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to the SWRCB. DWR has a proven track record of success and the expertise and regulatory structure needed to develop any future efficiency standards.

Additionally, the use of emergency regulations to adopt interim conservation standards also is unnecessary and violates public trust given that there are current standards in place and the drought emergency has been lifted.

Despite the author's best intentions, unfortunately, AB 1669 would limit water use throughout California without regard to local water supply conditions, water rights and contracts, or local investments in water supply reliability and drought resiliency.

For these reasons, and the reasons detailed in the April 14, 2017 letter, MCWRA opposes AB 1669 (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 stylized, flowing script.

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, 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  
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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  
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Senator Jim Nielsen