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April 8, 2017

Joe Yun, Executive Officer
 California Water Commission
 P.O. Box 942836
 Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Regarding: Congratulations

Dear Joe Yun,

I first wish to congratulate you on your new position as Executive Officer for the California Water Commission.

We first met working together on the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC). Your 28 years of experience working in water resource planning and management for the Department of Water Resources, in private consulting, and in your key role on the WSIP shows the leadership and experience necessary to help guide the Water Commission in its critical role in California water management.

As you are acutely aware, most of California's infrastructure was built in the 1960s for a different time, hydrology, and population. Climate is and has been warming. By 2050, conservative estimates are that we'll lose 25 to 40 percent of the Sierra snowpack, the state's largest winter reservoir. The population has more than doubled since the state and federal water projects were constructed. In 1960, there were 15.87 million people in California. Now there are estimates of around 36 million people and projections of over 60 million people by the year 2050. California's population is larger than many nations of the world.

Significant to California is the water stored in the forest and foothill meadows and ponds, in reservoirs behind dams, and ground water basins. As seen this year, rain not absorbed by the forest or foothill floor, moves unimpeded through the watershed, breaching dams, causing valley flooding and pressure on the Delta levee system before the water flows to the ocean. This was a lost opportunity.

In 2014, California voters overwhelmingly united to support a water bond to support construction of surface water storage. The Water Commission will likely consider several proposed well-known surface water storage projects for funding; Shasta Dam raise, Sites Reservoir, Temperance Flat, and the expansion of Los Vaqueros and San Luis Reservoirs.

In addition to much needed Proposition 1 funding to restore natural surface water impoundments and sequestration in the Sierra watershed through meadow restoration, there are several water storage projects within the Mountain Counties Area that could also provide regional and statewide public benefits.

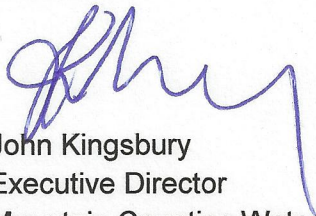
Mountain Counties Area Regional Projects: Alder Reservoir, Blagen Mill Pond Restoration Project, Centennial Reservoir, Herring Creek Reservoir Expansion, Sierra Pines Reservoir, Sugar Pine Dam Raise, Tuolumne County Water Supply Reliability Project, Upper Strawberry Reservoir, and Wilson Lake Rehabilitation and Meadow Restoration Plan.

These additional surface water storage projects will help reduce ground water extraction and subsidence in the Delta by using surface water during wet years and the ground water basin during dry years. Additional storage in this region will provide a buffer for new urban and municipal uses, drought preparedness, downstream flood protection, and provide additional cold water for endangered fish. The water released from these reservoirs will help balance the wind and solar electricity grid by generating carbon-free renewable hydropower energy. Please also keep in mind that there is no better opportunity to develop clean renewable hydropower energy than in the Mountain Counties Area.

It is time to increase the state's ability to capture and sequester the millions of gallons of fresh water that could later provide for many local, regional, and statewide beneficial uses.

Again, congratulations on your new position. I look forward to working with you and if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at (530) 957-7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury
Executive Director
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

C: Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association