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October 3, 2022

Transmitted via electronic transmission

Governor Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Transmitted via email: Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov

RE: Assembly Bill 1717 (Aguiar-Curry)

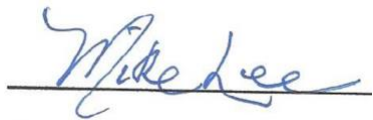
Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), we write to thank you for your veto on Assembly Bill 1717 (Aguiar-Curry), relating to public works. AB 1717 would have introduced additional barriers to implementation of fire mitigation projects in communities that desperately need public funds to complete these projects, putting our forests and rural communities at further risk of extreme wildfire. We appreciate your thoughtful approach to “cutting red tape” when it comes to fire mitigation projects.

MCWRA advocates for the water interests of its 58 members in 12 of the mountain counties within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) of woodland and forested lands in the Sierra Nevada. These foothill and mountain areas contain the headwaters for 40% of the state’s developed water supply, which also provides for hydropower production, irrigation, recreation, water recycling, tourism, and instream flows that fuel the engine of our State’s economy. Megafires continue to threaten MCWRA communities, water resources, and the state’s overall water supply. Increasing the pace and scale of forest management projects on these lands is critical to protecting California’s forested watersheds.

MCWRA would appreciate the opportunity to work with your Administration as they engage with the Legislature and sponsors of the bill to find a balance that allows for these projects to proceed without interruption or delay. Thank you again for being mindful of the importance of not delaying critical fire mitigation projects on our forested lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mike Lee, President
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

Cc: Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA)