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April 21, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary  
1020 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1337 (Wicks): State Water Board Enforcement: OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Maienschein:

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association Board of Directors, I am writing to respectfully express our opposition to Assembly Bill 1337. AB 1337 would restrict water diversions through regulation and enforce the regulations through orders to divert and use water under claims of right.

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.

Water suppliers are responsible for delivering water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes throughout the state. AB 1337 would change how California has managed and delivered water throughout the state for over a century. With the bill's introduction, the State Water

Resources Control Board (Board) will be given unmanaged authority to control water use as it sees fit. The proposed system of water management and water managers would be at the disposition of the state and the Board. Water rights would be reduced, and agencies within the state would struggle to meet the needs of homes and businesses.

Instead of introducing an overhaul to the water management system within the state, we support the Legislature in modernizing the administration of the current water rights system. The impact and consequences of passing of AB 1337 should not be taken lightly. This bill would provide unfettered

authority for the Board to adopt regulations when it sees fit and for any purpose it sees fit. Once those regulations are adopted, the bill would hand the Board punitive authority to curtail and penalize diverters and users without the information needed to make informed decisions. Ultimately, the real losers of AB 1337 will be the communities and industries that depend on the reliable supply of water that California's existing water rights system ensures.

Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions regarding our position. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Ratterman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Ratterman, President  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association