



**GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION  
OF CALIFORNIA**

August 2, 2013

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The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Chairman, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
State Capitol – Room 2136  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: COMMENTS – PROPOSED PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPING A WATER BOND**

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

On behalf of the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA), I am writing to provide groundwater specific comments on your Proposed Policy Principles for Developing a Water Bond. GRA's membership includes over one thousand professionals located throughout California with technical and legal expertise in groundwater. GRA has helped formulate statewide policy on the development, management, and protection of the state's groundwater resources, soil and groundwater remediation, and environmental assessments.

Groundwater, the hidden resource that is commonly overlooked because of its lack of visibility and limited public awareness as compared to surface water, is not adequately addressed in the Policy Principles. Groundwater constitutes 30-40 percent or more of the water supply statewide on an annual basis, it is a sole source of supply in many California communities, and climate change predictions suggest an even greater reliance on groundwater in the future. For these reasons, it is critical that the Policy Principles include more specific reference to groundwater.

Additionally, the Policy Principles do not address the statewide chronic groundwater level declines occurring in many of California's groundwater basins. Most critical is the well-known Tulare Basin that constitutes chronic groundwater declines since 1960 and an associated loss of groundwater storage of 60 million acre-feet of water (ample water to supply all of California's residents for 8 years). To address the chronic groundwater level declines in a groundwater basin requires additional recharge beyond "groundwater storage," and necessitates the implementation of proactive, local groundwater management with a portfolio of management options including conservation, managed aquifer recharge, and water reuse. The Local Groundwater Management Funding program (AB303) has successfully improved groundwater management statewide and identified the need for more local assistance and should be continued and expanded in the future to help local communities address their supply issues and become less dependent on imported water and state support.

GRA has the following suggested edits and recommended additions to the Proposed Policy Principles for Developing a Water Bond, dated July 2, 2013:

1) (f) Expand California water storage options, including surface storage, *groundwater storage*, *groundwater recharge*, groundwater cleanup, *recycled water*, and stormwater capture

1) (g) Strike a fair, intelligent balance between improvements and maintenance of existing infrastructure and construction of new infrastructure *for surface water and groundwater supplies*

Add 1) (h) *Enhance California's public awareness of surface water and groundwater resources and challenges on a local, regional and statewide basis to increase source water protection, conservation, water reuse, and water supply reliability.*

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Legislative Advocates Chris Frahm or Rosanna Carvacho at 916-594-9700.

Sincerely,



Timothy K. Parker  
Chairman, GRA Legislative Committee

*Sent via Email to Sri Ramesh [Sri.Ramesh@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Sri.Ramesh@asm.ca.gov)*

cc: Alf Brandt, Legislative Director, Assemblymember Anthony Rendon  
GRA Board of Directors  
GRA Legislative Committee