



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF MADERA

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August 13, 2013

Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair
California State Assembly
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2014 Water Bond

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

The Madera County Board of Supervisors has carefully considered its position concerning a modified statewide 2014 Water Bond. We understand that there are ongoing negotiations regarding reducing the size of the \$11.14 billion Water Bond before it is placed on the 2014 ballot. We believe the passage of a Water Bond in 2014 is an essential component to continuing the development and delivery of a reliable water supply through the Delta to the citizens of the State, while maintaining the ecology and water requirements of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. To that end, Madera County would support a bond measure that includes:

Definitive Surface Water Storage Program

Additional surface water storage, both north and south of the Delta, is crucial for assurance of an adequate water supply, flood protection, cold water for fish, and efficient and successful groundwater storage projects. Storage projects such as the enlargement of Shasta Dam, Temperance Flat and Sites Reservoirs would assist in regional conjunctive-use projects and provide multiple benefits to residents, growers, delta levees, and the environment.

The continued over-drafted groundwater basins of the Central Valley are also a very serious threat to the economic future of California agriculture, and the Central Valley is in dire need of the development and importation of more surface water to eliminate mining groundwater.

Forest Restoration and Fuel Reduction Funding

Funding that supports forest restoration and fuel reduction is crucial to a successful surface water storage program as it can generate substantial amounts of surface water volume to existing reservoirs. Poorly managed forests eventually lead to uncontrollable forest fires. The debris and soil erosion resulting from forest fires will eventually end up in our reservoirs, taking up vital storage space while being costly to remove.

Funding Assistance for Disadvantaged, Rural, and Mountain Communities

It is important that the Water Bond contain funding to support disadvantaged, rural, and mountain communities to improve their water systems to comply with Safe Drinking Water Act. Madera County has many rural and mountain communities that are currently not in compliance with the Act and do not have the funds to improve their water systems. Additionally, funding should be designated for disadvantaged, rural, and mountain communities to build and upgrade wastewater treatment systems. Due to their small rate base, these communities lack the economies of scale to replace undersized/antiquated treatment plants or upgrade outdated existing facilities.

Retention of Water Rights and Area of Origin Language

Retention of language that specifies that the area of origin and other water rights are not diminished or impaired by the provisions of the water bond is crucial to its success. It is very important that programs or facilities implemented or constructed to improve Delta conditions must not result in redirection or unmitigated, adverse impacts to the counties and watershed of origin.

Madera County does not have a sufficient water supply for our future growth or agricultural needs, and thus cannot afford to have our water exported to other counties. It is imperative that we retain “area of origin” allocations for water that originates in Madera County.

In closing, the Madera County Board of Supervisors would support a holistic Water Bond that would ensure a long-term, sustainable solution that would withstand the test of courts, biological cycles, and interlinked economics throughout the state. Including the above aspects is a critical step to reaching that solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Max Rodriguez', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Max Rodriguez
Chairman

cc: Honorable Frank Bigelow
Tina Cannon-Leahy, Principal Consultant
Alf Brandt, Principal Consultant
Doug Haaland, Chief Consultant
Sara Pietrowski, Legislative Assistant