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August 19, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
 California State Capitol, Room 2136  
 P.O. Box 942849  
 Sacramento, CA 94249-0063

**Executive Members**

- Amador Water Agency
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- Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Placer County Water Agency
- South Tahoe Public Utility District
- Tuolumne Utilities District
- Twain Harte Community Services District
- Utica Power Authority

Re: Water Bond Working Group;  
 - 2013 Water Bond Framework -

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

On behalf of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), we appreciate the water bond working group’s efforts to set the tone for future water bond discussions with the *2013 Water Bond Framework*, and wish to provide additional comments to further the development of the Framework and the Assembly Water Bond.

Proposed Suggested Language Change is in “quotations and **bold** or ~~strike-through~~”.

- IV. General Provisions
  - B. Retain Assurances
    - B. 1 Water Rights/Area of Origin

We support the working group’s position in B. 1 that the State must preserve Water Rights/Area of Origin protections. This position reaffirms over six decades of State leadership assurances that water that originates in the area of origin must always be available to meet the needs of water users in the watershed.

Suggested Language Change for IV. B. 1.

B. 1. “**Preserve**” Water Rights “**and**” Area of Origin “**Statutes and contracts**”.

Add B. 6. Quoting Governor Jerry Brown, add “**Implementation of BDCP will not result in adverse effects on the water rights of those in the watershed of the Delta, nor will it impose any obligations on water users upstream of the Delta to supplement flows in and through the Delta.**”

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**VI. Protecting Rivers, Lakes, Streams and Watersheds (\$1 B)**

A. Purpose: Economic Benefits of watersheds, Fishery and Instream Flow

B. Funding:

B.1. Broad Range of Activities – watersheds, wetlands, water quality

Section A. as it relates to Instream Flow, the working group must consider upstream consequences of new flow criteria being developed to improve the Delta ecosystem. The flow criteria is being developed in an accelerated unimpaired or natural flow regime that would compromise Water Rights and Area of Origin Statutes, see reservoir levels critically reduced, loss of water supply for upstream communities and less cold water for fish migration. Also, significant is reduced hydropower generation that would cause additional challenges to increase renewable power generation (AB 32). The Mountain Counties area has more hydropower generation facilities than any other region in the State. The State should address and mitigate for potential upstream water supply impacts in the proposed Assembly Water Bond.

Add B. 4. “Reduce impacts on upstream reservoirs”

Section B. calls out specific activities to protect fish. Major wildland fires in the Sierra Nevada will cause significant water supply and water quality consequences for Delta inflows that also affect the fish. Wildfires can decimate the landscape. The soil changes to sediment, which reduces the carrying capacity of California’s water supply, reduces the cold water pool for the fish, and accelerates runoff and increases flooding only to put further pressure on the State’s levee system.

Suggested Language Change for VI, B. 1.

B. 1. ~~Broad Range of Activities – watersheds, wetlands, water quality~~ **“Reduce risk of catastrophic fire”**

Add B. 5. “Remediate watersheds to increase water yield and enhance water quality”

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**VII. Climate Change Preparedness & Regional Self-Reliance for Water (\$ 1 B)**

We support regional self-reliance and funding to help with Integrated Regional Water Management activities. Disadvantaged Communities need funding to assist with grant applications and project implementations.

Suggested Language Change for VII, B. 3.

Add B. 3. d. “Disadvantaged Communities”

C. Policy

C. 1. Retain Current Regional Allocations

“Regional” Allocations as defined in the California Water Plan 2009 would technically exclude the Delta and Mountain Counties in the Assembly Water Bond. The California Water Plan identifies both The Delta and Mountain Counties as “Areas of Interest”.

Suggested Language Change for VII, C.1.

VII. C. 1. Retain Current Regional Allocations “; **The Delta and Mountain Counties hereinafter referred to as a Region**”

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**VIII. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Sustainability (\$ 1 B)**

We support the working group’s position on Ecosystem Restoration and Delta Sustainability. As important as the Delta, is the Ecosystem and Sustainability of the Sierra Nevada headwaters, which provides approximately 50% of the Delta’s water source. Without a reliable water source starting at the crest of the Sierra, the Delta is not sustainable. A statewide solution must be balanced and include the headwaters in the “Delta Watershed”.

Suggested Language Change for VIII.

**VIII. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Sustainability “The Delta and the Delta Watershed as a Place”**

A. Purpose: Ecosystem Restoration and ~~Delta~~-Sustainability

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**IX. Storage for Climate Change (\$1 B)**

B. Funding

B. 1. Surface and Groundwater Storage

It is essential that the State implement water storage options to counter the effects of climate change and extended drought. Rain on snow events exceeds the carrying capacity of existing storage facilities as what happened in 2010/2011. The spring rainfall exceeded reservoir storage capacity and was washed to the sea. Increasing surface and groundwater storage, coupled with increasing the capacity in the State’s largest natural winter reservoir, the Sierra Nevada, will satisfy long-term water supply and water quality issues, enhance hydropower generation, provides for sustainable agriculture, the environment, recreation and California’s economy.

Suggested Language Change for IX. B. 1.

IX. B. 1. **“New”** Surface and Groundwater storage

Add: IX. B. 4. **“Improve the State’s major watersheds to increase water supply and improve water quality”**

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While the State’s focus is on Delta conveyance and ecological restoration in the Delta, the State must acknowledge that the Sierra Nevada is the essential element that needs investment to enhance water supply if California is to achieve and sustain the State’s co-equal goals.

Your thoughtful consideration of the many complex issues surrounding California's water future is greatly appreciated. Again, thank you for this opportunity, and if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please call me at 530.957.7879.

Sincerely,



John Kingsbury, Executive Director  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

c: The Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Board of Directors, Mountain Counties Water Resources Association

The Honorable:

Assemblymember Frank Bigelow  
California State Capitol, Room 4116  
P.O. Box 942849  
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California State Capitol, Room 2130  
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Senator Tom Berryhill  
California State Capitol, Room 3076  
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Senator Ted Gaines  
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