



Joint Letter to Water Parks & Wildlife Chair on
Proposed Principles for Development of a Water Bond

August 21, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Chair
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Tina Leahy, Alf Brandt & Sri Ramesh

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The water agencies within the San Gabriel Valley commend you and the Water Bond Working Group for both the *Proposed Principles for Developing a Water Bond* and the *Water Bond Framework* and thank you for your leadership on this critical statewide policy issue. We believe that the passage of a water bond to assist local agencies in meeting the long-term needs of their constituents is critical to the health of our great state.

While the San Gabriel Valley water agencies support the Principles and the Framework, we are very interested in how these two elements translate into actual bond language. As emphasized by the San Gabriel Valley Legislative Caucus' letter to the Association of California Water Agencies dated May 29, 2013 (attached); our general interests are the unique needs of the San Gabriel Valley and the resources required to sustain the most aggressive and successful large scale groundwater cleanup effort in the Country along with the diversification of our water supply through the use of significantly more recycled water.

Specifically, clean and safe drinking water is one of our primary goals and we are encouraged to see this important goal recognized as a distinct chapter in the Framework. The over 1.3 million residents of the San Gabriel Valley rely on the Main San Gabriel groundwater basin (Basin) as their source of reliable and safe water supply. The Basin is also designated as the largest SuperFund clean-up site in the United States by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While the largest, the Basin is also arguably the most successful example of groundwater contamination clean-up in the State and County. The efforts of the Water Quality Authority, Cooperating Respondents and groundwater producers are a model of how groundwater clean-up

can be achieved for all to learn from. Strong support and leadership toward this clean-up effort from the State should be further demonstrated by a commitment to fund an additional \$100 million of the clean-up costs. This represents only a small percentage of the total clean-up costs but it is a true demonstration of the state's commitment to groundwater clean-up, greatly influencing the future participation of the cooperating respondents and helps to ensure the San Gabriel Valley continues to rely on local groundwater supplies rather than turning to pumping additional water from the fragile Bay-Delta eco-system.

Regional self-reliance is also of specific interest to the San Gabriel Valley. We currently rely on the imported water system to provide about 20 percent of the total water use within the San Gabriel Valley. Imported water is used to supplement groundwater pumping and increase the overall yield of the Basin. We have the opportunity to reduce our reliance on water pumped from the Bay-Delta from about 40,000 acre-feet per year on average to about 30,000 acre-feet by using highly treated recycled water for groundwater replenishment in-lieu of imported supplies. Not only does this effort reduce our need to pump water from the fragile Bay Delta eco-system by 25 percent, it also greatly reduces our carbon footprint. We ask that the Legislature recognize the unique opportunity we have to directly increase our regional self-reliance by reducing our need for imported water by 25 percent with a single feasible project by committing \$50 million toward financing this \$100 million project effort.

We look forward to working with you, your colleagues, and your staff as you work to shape a water bond.

Sincerely,



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San Gabriel Basin WQA



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