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Assembly California Legislature



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February 27, 2014

Hon. Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Water Conservation Funding in AB 1331

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

Thank you for your leadership of the Water Bond Working Group, to develop the Assembly's proposal for a water bond in AB 1331. We appreciate the Working Group's development of the *Principles and Framework* for a water bond to replace the \$11.14 billion water bond currently on the ballot.

We believe one Principle stands out and deserves more significant allocation of funding in AB 1331 – water conservation. The first Principle set water conservation as a critical statewide water policy priority for state investment, to:

- e. Promote development of new water technology to support greater water conservation and water reuse.

AB 1331 currently includes \$250 million in water conservation funding as part of the regional allocations for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program (WC 579745). However, limiting water conservation funds for distribution through the IRWM Program restricts the type and number of efficiency projects that could benefit the state. First, limiting funds to IRWM proposals does not adequately include all potential project applicants because not all water users in the state actively participate in IRWM plan development. Second, water conservation may not ride to the level of an IRWM project proposal because it has become part of baseline programs at water agencies across the state. The State nevertheless has an important role to play in incentivizing the leading edge of water conservation, both between urban and agricultural regions as well as between large and small scale water users.

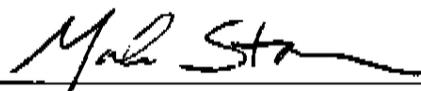
We request that the January 7, 2014 version of AB 1331 be amended to allocate \$500 million for water conservation on its own in the regional funding chapter, but separate from the regional allocations for the IRWM Program. The allocation for recycled water now enjoys \$500 million in independent funding and conservation and efficiency programs requires less infrastructure build out to be effective. The category for water conservation should include allocations for both urban and agricultural water conservation as well as make considerations for large and small scale users.

The need for State investment in water infrastructure is clear. Investment in water conservation offers a critical link to sustainable water future for California. Those investments should be substantial.

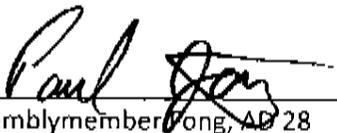
Sincerely,



Assemblymember Williams, AD 37



Assemblymember Stone, AD 29



Assemblymember Fong, AD 28



Assemblymember Gatto, AD 43