

Reeb Government Relations, LLC

August 20, 2013

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

RE: 2013 Water Bond Framework

Dear Assembly Member Rendon:

I am writing on behalf of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) to express appreciation for the open and deliberative process by which the Water Bond Working Group is developing an alternative to the water bond now slated to appear on the November 2014 General Election ballot.

WRD supports funding for projects and programs that will reduce regional reliance on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for future water supplies. As you know, WRD is pursuing projects to increase local water supplies from stormwater capture, groundwater storage, recycled water and brackish groundwater desalination.

WRD has reviewed the 2013 Water Bond Framework. WRD prefers the approach in the current water bond whereby allocations for recycled water and advanced treated water projects are separate from the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant and loan program. While the District's Water Independence Now (WIN) program will provide regional benefits, it will also provide statewide benefits by eliminating the need for imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Colorado River as sources for groundwater replenishment. The Framework proposal to include separate allocations for water recycling and desalination projects within IRWM is helpful, but pits such projects against other regional priorities.

WRD was especially pleased to support the Groundwater Protection and Water Quality chapter in the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2010 because the \$1 billion in funding was "to increase opportunities for groundwater recharge and optimization of groundwater supplies." WRD saw that potential funding as an opportunity for it to be far more aggressive in expanding the District's treatment capacity

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for remediation of the saline groundwater plume in the West Coast Basin. WRD believes remediation of the plume and the resulting production of drinking water could provide about 600,000 acre-feet of new water supply for the region. The District is hopeful that a revised bond measure contains a similar level of funding for a similar purpose.

WRD supports the inclusion of groundwater storage within the Storage for Climate Change chapter. This approach is consistent with the current water bond. As you know, WRD and a plurality of groundwater producers in the Central and West Coast Basins are pursuing amendments to the groundwater adjudications governing those basins to allow for a storage and retrieval program. Funding in the water bond could assist the implementation of such a program.

WRD shares the concerns of the Water Bond Working Group regarding the overall amount of the water bond. The District believes, however, there is room for public support for a total bond amount closer to \$8 billion than the \$5 billion included in the 2013 Water Bond Framework.

Thank you for providing WRD the opportunity to provide comments regarding the 2013 Water Bond Framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Reeb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert J. Reeb

RJR:

Cc: WRD Legislative Delegation