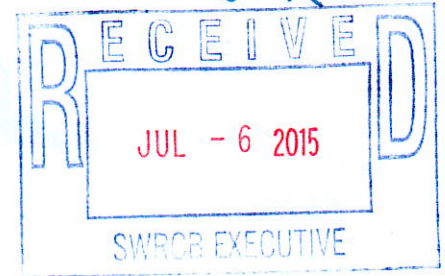


CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
95814

Control to OLA  
Cy: Bd  
CT  
DWR



June 23, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair  
Members of the State Water Resources Control Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: American River Community Involvement in Statewide Water Supply Decisions**

Dear Chair Marcus and members of the State Water Resources Control Board,

Our offices have been closely tracking the ongoing drought, the increasingly strained California water supply system, and the recent efforts to address temperature concerns related to Shasta Reservoir and the Sacramento River.

We request that representatives from the American River region immediately be consulted and included in water supply management decisions. This region has the potential to be severely impacted and could be part of a solution.

We understand your staff is currently working with state and federal stakeholder agencies including U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other agencies to develop a revised Temperature Management Plan for the Sacramento River.

We are extremely concerned about the redirected impacts on the water supplies for the over 1,000,000 people we represent in the Cities of Folsom, Roseville and Sacramento and San Juan Water District which serves the communities of Fair Oaks, Orangevale, and Citrus Heights that depend on the American River and Folsom Lake as their local water supply.

While we understand the Temperature Management Plan is still under development, it is our understanding that initial scenarios would draw Folsom Lake down to 120,000 acre-feet at the end of September -- as a best case scenario. We further understand this storage level is an estimate and certain

events could change that outcome. Heat waves, tidal events, storms and diversions that are hard to estimate in advance bring uncertainty to the estimated end of September storage for Folsom Lake.

However, it is important to underscore that if these projections hold true, Folsom Lake has never been drawn this low before. The further reduction in lake storage that presumably would occur during a dry October, November, and December would mean that the 500,000 people that rely on that intake would be – for months – in a very precarious and delicate stage where a minor change in operations could severely reduce, if not completely cut off, their primary water supply. Moreover, the water supplies for another 500,000 people could be impacted in the early fall due to drastically low flows in the American River.

The Sacramento region is doing its part in response to the drought. All agencies in the greater Sacramento region continue to work individually and regionally to significantly reduce their water supply needs. In fact, over the last two years, the region has led the state in terms of water usage reductions.

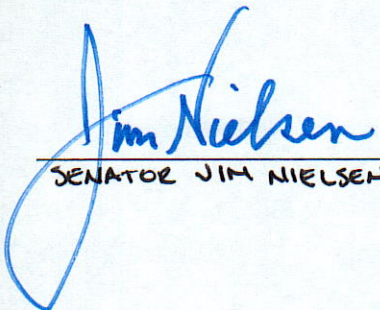
In May, the average water conservation for Folsom Reservoir direct diverters was 45 percent and the City of Sacramento's water conservation rate was 35 percent. Our agencies have also taken actions to improve our reliability by constructing interties and improving the pumping ability of intake structures. Lastly, the communities within the American River Basin have made substantial investments in the habitat and fisheries along the lower American River through the Water Forum.

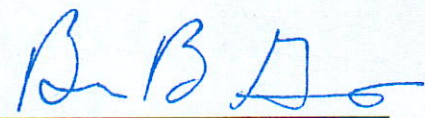
We understand you and your colleagues face a tough balancing act as the drought continues and the state's water supplies continue to shrink. But we believe the situation has moved into a new, particularly troubling phase and we must be prepared for the worst, including another extremely dry fall and winter. The situation requires the State Water Resources Control Board's very careful consideration to ensure that there is not a public health and safety disaster surrounding Folsom Lake.

Again, we request that representatives from the American River region immediately be consulted and included in water supply management decisions related to the revision to the Temperature Management Plan and future related issues.

Please provide written confirmation to our offices of your intentions as they relate to what we are asking for in this letter. We thank you and your staff for your continued dedication to this incredibly difficult and trying situation and we look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

  
SENATOR JIM NIELSEN, SD 04

  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER BETH GAINES, AD 06

Ted Gaines  
SENATOR TED GAINES, SD01

Ken Cooley  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER KEN COOLEY, AD08

Ken McCarty  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER KEVIN MCCARTY, AD 07

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_