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Assembly California Legislature

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March 15, 2017

Public Comment
2016 Bay-Delta Plan Amendment & SED
Deadline: 3/17/17 12:00 noon

Felicia Marcus, Board Chairwoman
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Comment Letter – 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED

On behalf of the Bay Area Caucus (BAC), we are writing to express our concerns with the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB or Board) proposal to update California's 2006 Bay-Delta Plan, specifically the Revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED). As such, the BAC respectfully requests that you extend the comment deadline for the SED one last time, beyond March 17, 2017, by 60 days. We ask for this final delay to strongly encourage the SWRCB to collaborate with the Natural Resources Agency and the Department of Fish & Wildlife to push for voluntary settlements with key stakeholders.

While we commend the efforts of the SWRCB and support the intent behind the proposed SED, i.e., to increase the San Joaquin River flows to improve water quality and protect fish and wildlife, we are concerned that an unimpaired river flow increase of 30-50% will have a detrimental impact on the water supply for San Francisco and the Bay Area. We believe that there are alternatives to simply increasing the flow of water that would protect wildlife with a lower amount of water being added to the San Joaquin. Further, we support efforts to spend money to increase the efficiency of water used locally by farmers and residents, so that less water would need to be taken from urban users.

If approved, the SWRCB's current plan would substantially cut water supplies to 2.6 million Bay Area residents in San Francisco, Silicon Valley and the East Bay by up to 50% at the first sign of any future drought. Bay Area residents are active supporters of water efficiency and are diligent about protecting our state's water supplies. As such, water users in the Bay Area already use less water per capita than anywhere else in California, at just 54 gallons per day versus the statewide average of 82 gallons.

Bay Area residents are strong advocates for protecting wildlife and the environment, and therefore the BAC supports the Board's proposal to allocate an "environmental water right," or a share of water for the environment. We believe having an environmental water right will ultimately result in better outcomes for our fish species if it is managed effectively. The BAC

encourages further consideration of the environmental water right, including greater flexibility to manage this water supply.

We recognize the Board is responsible for striking a delicate balance among all stakeholders at the negotiating table, and at some point, a final decision on the SED must be made. However, the BAC requests that you extend the SED comment deadline this one last time of March 17, 2017 by an additional 60 days. We believe this additional time will allow key stakeholders to actively continue voluntary settlements, e.g., habitat restoration projects and other alternatives aimed at protecting fish and wildlife, aside from simply increasing the San Joaquin River's water flow.


Sincerely,



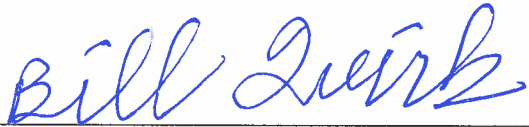
PHIL TING
Assemblymember, 19th District



Assemblymember David Chiu



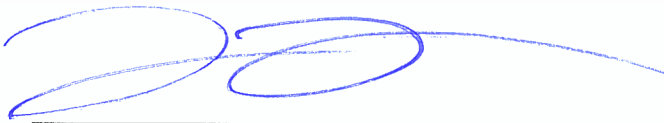
Senator Nancy Skinner



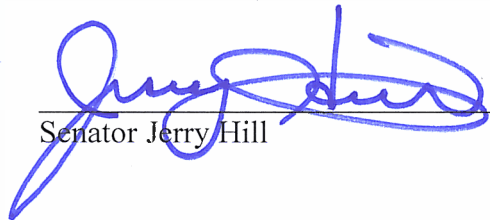
Assemblymember Bill Quirk



Senator Scott Wiener



Assemblymember Tony Thurmond



Senator Jerry Hill



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