



February 16, 2017

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SWRCB EXECUTIVE

The Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Concerns with SWRCB Flow Proposals

Dear Governor Brown:



The undersigned counties throughout the Sacramento Valley are very concerned with the recent scientific basis report (Phase II) prepared by the State Water Resources Control Board as part of its Water Quality Control Plan update. We support a healthy Delta, but the approach proposed by the State Water Board will redirect impacts upstream into the Sacramento Valley and will likely fail to achieve its goal of protecting Delta water quality.



The State Water Board proposal calls for a 35-75 percent unimpaired flow into the Delta. The result would redirect significant amounts of water away from the Sacramento Valley into the Delta. The simplistic approach would go beyond what is needed for environmental needs and would result in a substantial amount of water being put out to the ocean without any benefit. This in turn would be devastating to both the economy and the environment in the counties we represent, adversely affecting the availability of critical water for cities and rural communities, farms, wildlife refuges for birds and many other species, salmon and other fisheries and recreation.



More specifically, the "unimpaired flow" approach will have two significant effects in our region:



- 1) Evacuate critical water in storage and prevent the diversion of water throughout our region, which will significantly affect precious water supplies for all these purposes. This is particularly true in dry years like we have seen this decade, where water available in storage is critical to helping Californians get through these challenging times. In other words, we will go backward under the State Water Board approach—not forward—in our efforts to better prepare for the next drought in California.



- 2) Less surface water available will lead to significant additional groundwater pumping throughout the region, which will make our efforts to implement sustainable groundwater management envisioned under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) more difficult. In our region, the groundwater resources are currently sustainable and we will continue to work hard with other local agencies to assure that our precious groundwater resources remain sustainable into the future. The State Water Board proposal will make our collective efforts to achieve groundwater sustainability more difficult if not impossible.



FEB 7 2017

Date


DAVID A. KEHOE, CHAIRMAN
Shasta County Board of Supervisors

2/16/17

Date


JIM WHITEAKER, CHAIRMAN
Sutter County Board of Supervisors

02/06/2017

Date


DENNIS GARTON, CHAIRMAN
Tehama County Board of Supervisors

02/09/2017

Date


RANDY FLETCHER, CHAIR
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

/ldr

cc: Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary – Governor Brown
Karla Nemeth, Deputy Secretary for Water Policy – CA Natural Resources Agency
Felicia Marcus, Chair – State Water Resources Control Board
Bruce Babbitt, Special Advisor – CA Natural Resources Agency