



February 5, 2015

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
 Members of the Board
 State Water Resources Control Board
 P.O. Box 100
 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Re: Protection of water rights priority system and stored water supplies

Dear Chair Marcus and Board Members:

This coalition of public water agencies, water companies, water user associations, communities, and landowners urge the State Water Resources Control Board ("Water Board") to uphold and enforce California's long-established water right priority system, including its protections for stored water supplies. This is particularly important in light of the unprecedented stress being placed on the Central Valley Project and State Water Project ("CVP-SWP") to satisfy multiple project purposes.

The California water rights system is orderly, well-established, tested and is intended to protect water rights, including previously stored water. The water rights system is particularly important for managing water supplies during drought periods because it provides a known and well established legal framework, administers water resources in an orderly manner, and protects public trust resources.

Despite periodic storms this water year, California's stored water supply remains at alarmingly low levels. This past year revealed the tremendous value of stored water for all beneficial uses. As we move into 2015, it is critical that the Water Board take action to 1) maximize the opportunities for project operators to store water early in the year for use later in the year; and 2) administer the priority system and protect storage releases from diversion by those not entitled to the water to assure that all diverters are diverting consistent with the water rights priority system.

We stand ready to work with the Water Board in implementing these actions in an efficient and effective manner. We will work with your office to schedule a time to discuss these important actions in more detail.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kightlinger
 Metropolitan Water District

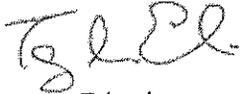
David Guy
 Northern California Water Association



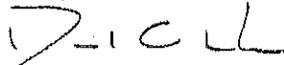
Steve Knell
San Joaquin River Tributaries Authority



Beau Goldie
Santa Clara Valley Water District



Terry Erlewine
State Water Contractors



Dan Nelson
San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority



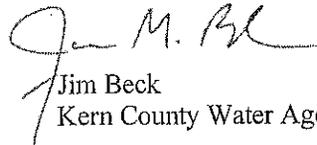
Dan Masnada
Castaic Lake Water Agency



Ray Stokes
Central Coast Water Authority



Tom Birmingham
Westlands Water District



Jim Beck
Kern County Water Agency



John Sweigard
Merced Irrigation District



Kirby Brill
Mojave Water Agency



Steve Knell
Oakdale Irrigation District



Mike Gilkey
Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District



Jill Duerig
Zone 7 Water Agency

cc: Tom Howard
Michael Lauffer
Michael George