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Martin E. Zvirbulis
Secretary/General Manager/CEO

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capital, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 313 (Gray) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) I am writing to inform you of our support of AB 313 and respectfully request that you sign the bill into law. AB 313 would create a new Water Rights Division within the Office of Administrative Hearings, and would then bifurcate the State Water Resources Control Board's authorities to issue administrative civic liability complaints and adjudicate their subsequent hearings.

The authority to issue complaints would be transferred to the Department of Water Resources, and the adjudication of complaints would be transferred to the new division. The division's rulings would be in the form of "recommendations" to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), who would be charged with the discretion to adopt, modify, or reject the division's recommendation. Additionally, the bill would authorize the State Water Board to issue a complaint to the division for seeking a cease-and-desist order, instead of allowing the State Water Board to issue directly the order, as currently allowed. CVWD strongly believes that AB 313 forges a balance between the legislation's merits and satisfying your prospective concern with where the ultimate authority resides for resolving administrative disputes.

Under AB 313, administrative law judges in the new Water Rights Division would handle all water rights matters, providing a neutral body for hearings regarding those complicated, and often controversial, issues. The bill ensures an efficient, productive transfer of power to the new Water Rights Division, preventing any duplication of work or similar responsibility to fall under the SWRCB. For these reasons, CVWD supports AB 313 and respectfully requests your signature.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Zvirbulis, P.E.
General Manager/CEO

cc: The Honorable Adam Gray
Association of California Water Agencies
Byron Bethany Irrigation District

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President

Luis Cetina
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