



NCWA

Northern California Water Association

*To advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Northern California
by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality.*

September 27, 2017

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

RE: Request for Signature on Assembly Bill 313 (Gray) – Water Rights Fairness

Dear Governor Brown:

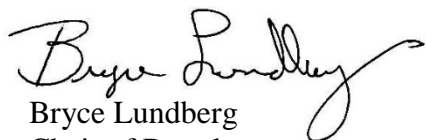
On behalf of the water suppliers and local governments in Northern California, the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) supports AB 313 (Gray) and urges your signature for this important water rights fairness legislation.

We believe that this bill provides sound governance and will help assure fundamental fairness in California's water rights management. The bill establishes a new water rights management structure, requiring that specially trained administrative law judges conduct water rights enforcement hearings. This intermediate transfer of power ensures a neutral body will efficiently adjudicate complex, often controversial, and critically important water rights matters. AB 313 removes conflicts and inefficiencies, and guarantees hearings are run with requisite legal expertise.

The bill received overwhelming bipartisan support through both the Assembly and Senate, a clear sign that the issue resonates across the state. The structure in the bill is similar to provisions recently adopted for the Board of Equalization. Importantly, AB 313 does not pre-judge any issue and it does not favor one constituency over the other. Instead, it simply allows for the constitutional protection of due process to be afforded to California's water suppliers.

We urge you to act immediately to sign AB 313 to make our water rights administration function more effectively, efficiently and fairly.

Sincerely yours,



Bryce Lundberg
Chair of Board



David Guy
President