



April 3, 2017

The Honorable Adam Gray  
State Capitol, Room 3152  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 313 (Gray): Water - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Gray:

The above listed organizations support your Assembly Bill 313, which would upgrade the state's water management structure and restore fairness that all water right holders deserve.

AB 313 would address issues with and upgrade the administration of California's water rights and enforcement programs, and the management of our water infrastructure and groundwater resources. This measure would remove conflicts of interest in the existing system where state agencies operate as judge, jury and prosecutor.

AB 313 proposes to restructure the administration and enforcement of water rights and the State Water Project. Currently responsibilities and enforcement authority are found throughout various departments of government that sometimes work in opposite directions. The current system of managing California's water, our most precious resource, simply does not work.

The current system provides the State Water Resources Control Board authority over allocating water rights and permits, enforcing those rights and allocating the punishment, if they believe there has been a violation by a water user. This action is intended to be quasi judicial. However, when water rights hearings held by appointed water board members used their own staff as investigator and prosecutor while the board members themselves acted as judge and jury. Additionally, they have inadequate structural separations of duties to effectively serve the quasi judicial functions. The current system creates an inherent challenge for the board to provide a fair hearing and appropriate judicial review when the board serves as investigator, judge, jury and prosecutor. AB 313 has several elements to assist in creating appropriate balance including moving the permitting to the Department of Water Resources and providing for Superior Court review.

The bill attempts to reform the system and promote efficiency and fairness. By moving some of the functions and reforming the system, the water board can focus on important issues such as water quality.

In closing, we support the intent of AB 313 and its approach to addressing the conflicts of interest and inherent biases in the current system and look forward to working with you and the legislature to reform the current broken system.

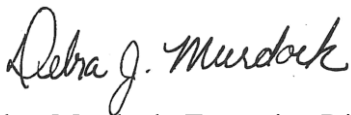
Sincerely,




Tricia Geringer, Executive Director  
Agricultural Council of California



Kelly Covello, President  
Almond Alliance



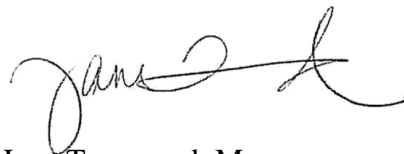
Debra Murdock, Executive Director  
Association of California Egg Farmers



Nick Matteis, Executive Director  
California Association of Wheat Growers



Michael Miiller, Director, Government Relations  
California Association of Wine  
Grape Growers



Jane Townsend, Manager  
California Bean Shippers



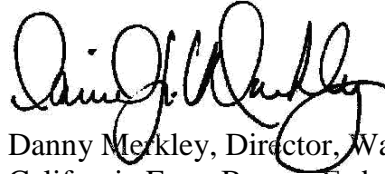
Justin Oldfield, Vice President  
Government Affairs  
California Cattlemen's Association



Joel Nelsen, President  
California Citrus Mutual



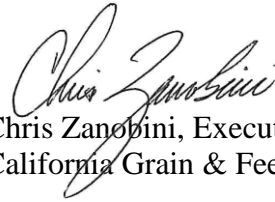
Roger Isom, President, CEO  
California Cotton Ginners & Growers  
Association



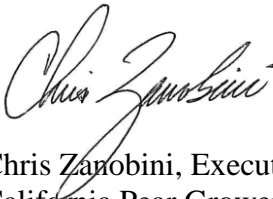
Danny Merkley, Director, Water Resources  
California Farm Bureau Federation



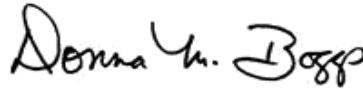
George Radanovich, President  
California Fresh Fruit Association



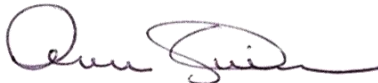
Chris Zanobini, Executive Director  
California Grain & Feed Association



Chris Zanobini, Executive Director  
California Pear Growers Association



Donna Boggs, Associate Director  
California Seed Association



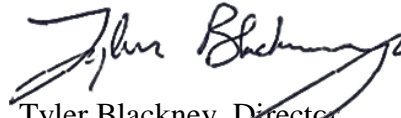
Ann Quinn, Executive Vice President  
California Warehouse Association



Jodi Raley, Director, Regulatory Affairs  
Western Agricultural Processors



Trudi Hughes, Director, Government Affairs  
California League of Food Processors



Tyler Blackney, Director  
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
California Wine Institute

Cc: Members, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
Ryan Ojakian, Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee  
Robert Spiegel, Assembly Republican Caucus