



September 22, 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 San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, I am writing to urge you to quickly sign AB 313, which establishes long overdue and reasonable governance over California's water rights management system. AB 313, introduced by Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced), passed the Legislature with strong bipartisan support. On a daily basis, our resource managers strive to improve water supply, quality, service, and infrastructure for the public we serve – farmers, municipalities, disadvantaged communities, and environmental stewards – however, institutions created over a half-century ago to govern our water supply systems and a broken regulatory regime often impair our ability to meet California's ambitious 21st century water policy goals. Your signature on AB 313 will represent an important step toward modernizing California's water supply system.

In 2010, the Little Hoover Commission observed, "California's conflicted water governance structure ... will impede progress in achieving these [water] policy goals." We agree. AB 313 ensures water rights holders are afforded the same basic right of due process our justice system promises all. The procedural structure it creates is similar to that recently adopted for the Board of Equalization. Nothing in AB 313 guarantees a better outcome for the water rights holders; rather, it simply allows for the constitutional protection of due process to be afforded to California's water users. For these reasons, I urge you to act immediately to sign AB 313. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Jason Peltier
Executive Director

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