



May 14, 2014

1100 K Street  
Suite 101  
Sacramento  
California  
95814

Telephone  
916.327-7500

Facsimile  
916.441.5507

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Huff  
Senate Minority Leader  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Connie Conway  
Assembly Minority Leader  
State Capitol, Room 3104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: 2014 Water Bond**

Dear President pro Tem Steinberg, Minority Leader Huff, Speaker Atkins and Minority Leader Conway:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I want to express our appreciation for the continued discussion in the Legislature regarding water bond legislation. We are hopeful that the process underway will result in the successful passage of a water bond that provides for a comprehensive, balanced approach to address California's water needs.

CSAC recognizes the complexities of water use and distribution throughout the state and has reiterated its position on this issue over the years through various policy statements, including, but not limited to support for statutory protection of counties of origin and watershed areas, support for existing water rights, the need for new and expanded water resources, and the need for local water conservation efforts. In addition, since 2000 we have supported three of the four water bonds that were placed before the voters – Propositions 13, 1E and 84. In 2002, we opposed Proposition 50 based on concerns expressed by our Board of Directors over the lack of funding for the development of new water supplies, and the large amount of funding for land acquisitions and the consequential impact on local property tax revenues.

While CSAC is not prepared at this time to express a specific position on a future water bond, we can indicate what elements are important to our members with respect to the bond's composition. Consistent with existing CSAC policy direction, past actions on prior year water bonds and feedback from our members we believe that it is imperative that a 2014 Water Bond include the following elements:

- Continuous appropriation of funding for surface and groundwater storage projects.
- Funding for groundwater clean-up and groundwater management planning.
- Funding for watershed management activities, including forest management and fuel treatment projects that reduce wildfire risks and promote watershed health.
- Funding and assistance to help disadvantaged and small communities build and upgrade wastewater treatment systems and finance urgent actions to provide safe drinking water.
- Funding for projects needed to maintain the character and vitality of communities within the Delta.

- Funding for local resources development projects, including Integrated Regional Water Management programs, and local flood protection improvements.
- Protections for area of origin and other water rights to ensure that these existing rights are not diminished, impaired, or otherwise affected by the provisions of the bond.

We believe that all of the above elements are essential to the successful passage of a water bond. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact Karen Keene at 916-327-7500, ext. 511, or [kkeene@counties.org](mailto:kkeene@counties.org)

Sincerely,



Matt Cate  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor of California  
The Honorable Lois Wolk, California State Senate  
The Honorable Ben Hueso, California State Senate  
The Honorable Fran Pavley, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Henry Perea, California State Assembly