



January 10, 2014

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The Honorable Lois Wolk  
Member of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 42 (Wolk) -- Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality, and Flood Protection Act of 2014  
As Amended September 11, 2013 – COMMENTS  
Set for Hearing January 14, 2014 – Senate Natural Resources and Water  
Committee**

Dear Senator Wolk:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), I want to express our appreciation for your efforts to move forward with a modified water bond. While we are not yet prepared to take a position we can indicate what elements are important to us with respect to the bond's composition.

CSAC recognizes the complexities of water use and distribution throughout the state and has reiterated its position on this issue over the years expressing 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.

Many of the elements we would like to see in a bond are addressed in SB 42, such as funding for:

- Safe drinking water and wastewater treatment;
- Private well and septic systems;
- Projects to assist in preserving the economically viable and sustainable agriculture and other economic activities in the Delta;
- Water quality and watershed protection projects, including those aimed at preventing and remediating mercury contamination from legacy mines, and fuel treatment and post-fire projects;
- Implementation of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan;
- Development of local maps and technical information for Sacramento-San Joaquin cities and counties necessary to make flood risk findings required by law;
- Stormwater management; and,
- Surface and groundwater storage projects.

We also support provisions of SB 42 that direct the Delta Conservancy to coordinate, cooperate, and consult with the city or county in which a grant is proposed to be expended or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired. In addition, we support provisions that require

grantees to demonstrate how local economic impacts will be mitigated, and assurances regarding water rights and areas of origin.

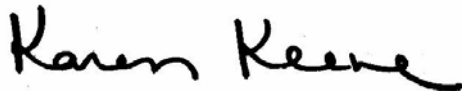
. In addition, we offer the following comments and recommendations:

- Last year, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released a report titled, *California's Flood Future: Recommendations for Managing California's Flood Risk*, which spotlights the potential for catastrophic flooding in California. The draft report identifies the immediate need for more than \$50 billion to complete flood management improvements and projects. We bring this to your attention to demonstrate the "statewide" need for additional investment in California's flood management system. SB 42 currently targets flood control funding for the Central Valley. We recommend that SB 42 be amended to provide funding for other areas of the state that also have flood management needs.
- The proposed technical assistance and financial support for disadvantaged communities should be extended to rural communities;
- Amend the proposed match of 'not less than 50% of project costs' to 'not less than 25% of project costs', consistent with Proposition 84's match requirements, throughout the bill; and,
- The addition of language in Chapter 6 that specifies that the funds allocated to the California Water Commission for the public benefits associated with water storage projects are to be "continuously appropriated".

Lastly, we request that the process utilized for awarding bond funds **not** be overly complicated and instead allow for flexibility and creativity by the applicants.

Again, while we have not taken a formal position on SB 42, we appreciate your consideration of these comments. 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,



Karen Keene  
Senior Legislative Representative

cc: Members and Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee  
Senate Republican Caucus