February 22, 2016

Assembly Member Susan Talamantes Eggman
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1713 (Eggman): Peripheral Canal - **OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Eggman:

On behalf of the public agencies and business organizations noted below, we regret to inform you of our **opposition** to your bill, AB 1713. We strongly believe this bill would subvert the historic agreement and progress of the 2009 Delta legislation to achieve the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. These are goals that can best be achieved through the current collaborative process using sound science and public policy principles, and we believe would not be advanced through a divisive debate or political campaign that would be associated with a statewide ballot initiative.

2016 will be a historic water year for California. Decisions that are made or not made this year will shape California water management for years to come and directly impact our ability to secure a more reliable water supply for our people, farms, businesses, environmental needs and quality of life. In light of the approaching changeover in the federal administration, it is imperative that decisions are made this fall to move forward with California WaterFix, the Delta solution proposed by the Brown Administration. Failure to act now threatens the Delta ecosystem and the sustainability of the current Delta way of life, as well as statewide supply reliability and economic activity.

AB 1713 is a ballot box approach to solving problems in the Delta. Your bill creates a double standard for those that are willing to make critical improvements to the backbone water infrastructure that runs our statewide economy. We do seek voters' direction when general obligation bonds are at stake but in this case, California taxpayers are not being asked to fund the project. The project beneficiaries - - water users who rely on the State Water Project (SWP) and federal Central Valley Project (CVP) for water supplies - - will be asked to fund the project.

State and federal agencies have been working for ten years to move a solution forward to address the environmental deterioration in the Delta and the associated pumping restrictions imposed on the SWP and CVP. This progress must continue in order to protect the Delta's lands and communities, maintain agriculture, encourage recreation and tourism, and sustain a vital Delta economy. This science-based effort led by state and federal water and wildlife agencies has been one of the most exhaustive and rigorous public processes for any infrastructure project in the nation. Nearly a quarter billion dollars has been invested by the SWP and CVP public agencies for the planning process alone to ensure all issues and concerns have been thoroughly analyzed for a solution that works for both the economy and the environment.

The Delta is the hub of our statewide water infrastructure system. If we ignore it, new surface and groundwater storage simply can't work. If we don't fix the system, we cannot connect willing sellers of water with willing buyers. If we don't address the problems in the Delta, plans to store imported water in wet years for dry years won't work. If we don't fix it, this important estuary will continue to decline. The system only works if we fix the Delta.

In 2009 the Legislature made a key decision to separate science from politics and have state and federal water and wildlife agencies, in collaboration with the science community and stakeholders, determine how best to design or operate new Delta conveyance improvements. The direction provided by the Legislature back then is as important and relevant today and should guide the process now. What we need in the months ahead is to make key decisions so that we can continue on the path that the Legislature established back in 2009.

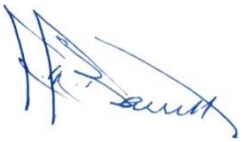
The undersigned are committed to meeting California's water management challenges in a manner consistent with achieving the co-equal goals established by the Legislature.

For all of these reasons, we must oppose AB 1713 and view your bill as a dangerous precedent for major infrastructure investments that are critical to supporting the state's economy.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Hansen, P.E., General Manager/Chief Engineer
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



Jim Barrett, General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

Susan B. Mulligan, General Manager
Calleguas Municipal Water District

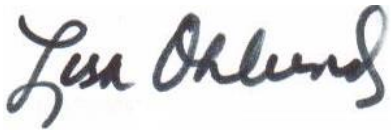
Robert Reeb, Executive Director
Valley Ag Water Coalition

Curtis Creel, Interim General Manager
Kern County Water Agency

Jeff R. Pape, General Manager
Temescal Valley Water District

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
Mesa Water District

Ray Stokes, Executive Director
Central Coast Water Authority



Lisa Ohlund, General Manager
East Orange County Water District

Matt Stone, General Manager
Castaic Lake Water Agency

Jeffrey Armstrong, General Manager
Rancho California Water District

Marc Marcantonio, General Manager
Yorba Linda Water District

Robert Hunter, General Manager
Municipal Water District of Orange County

David Pedersen, General Manager
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

John D. Vega, General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

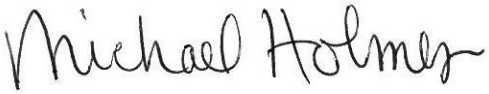
Paul Cook, General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District

Douglas Headrick, General Manager
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

Martin E. Zvirbulis, General Manager
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Nina Jazmadarian, General Manager
Foothill Municipal Water District

Thomas W. Birmingham, General Manager
Westlands Water District



Michael Holmes, General Manager
Walnut Valley Water District

Richard W. Atwater, Executive Director
Southern California Water Committee

David D. Lopez, General Manager
Rubidoux Community Services District

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San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

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Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency

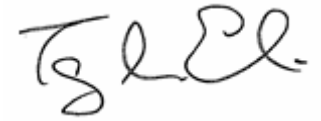
Jeffrey W. Davis, General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Kirby Brill, General Manager
Mojave Water Agency

Jill Duerig, General Manager
Alameda County Zone 7 Water Agency

Ron Davis, General Manager
Burbank Water and Power

John V. Rossi, General Manager
Western Municipal Water District



Terry Erlewine, General Manager
State Water Contractors, Inc.

Mark S. Krause, General Manager
Desert Water Agency

Paul Jones, II, General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

Frank Martinez, Board President
Long Beach Water Commission

Daniel R. Ferons, General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District

List of Signatories

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cc: Assembly Member Catharine Baker
Assembly Member Susan Bonilla
Assembly Member Ken Cooley
Assembly Member Jim Cooper
Assembly Member Jim Frazier
Assembly Member Kevin McCarthy
Assembly Member Kristin Olsen
Assembly Member Marc Levine, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Diane Colborn, Chief Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Robert Spiegel, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus