February 26, 2018

California Water Commission
Mr. Armando Quintero, Chair
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Quintero and Commission Members:

We are writing to follow up on our letter dated January 30, 2018, in connection with the California Water Commission staff consideration of applications by local and regional agencies for state Proposition 1 Water Bond funding under the Water Supply Investment Program (WSIP), as it relates to establishment of public benefit ratios of each application.

We understand the application process for Proposition 1 investment monies has been challenging and unique for both the Commission and project stakeholders. However, we also recognize that all parties are significantly invested in the process and the projects to which they are seeking funding. The recent interaction between the Commission and project proponents to clarify issues and questions has been helpful, especially since so many are of a highly technical nature. This is the way we expected the applications to be handled.

Moving forward, it would be in everyone’s best interest to continue such collaborative efforts. We suggest additional meeting opportunities be provided following the conclusion of the current appeals process, prior to any decision by the Water Commission regarding public benefits ratios. By such an approach, all Californians will be better served by those of us in state government.

Only in this way can you effectively understand and implement the public’s directive – decided by a two-thirds majority in the November 2014 general election – that it is in the public’s interest for the state to help finance new surface water storage facilities. There has
been an astronomical amount of time, money, and energy invested and those involved are dedicated to seeing these projects through.

We urge the Commission and your staff to continue a collaborative approach to the WISP review process as you move into the next phase. In order to turn these project ideas into reality, and to meet California’s future water needs, we must continue a productive dialogue.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Frank Bigelow
5th Assembly District

Assemblyman Vince Fong
34th Assembly District

Assemblyman Heath Flora
12th Assembly District

Assemblyman Adam Gray
21st Assembly District

Assemblyman Jim Patterson
23rd Assembly District

Assemblyman Kevin Kiley
6th Assembly District

Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula
31st Assembly District

Assemblyman Rudy Salas
32nd Assembly District
Assemblywoman Anna Caballero
30th Assembly District

Assemblyman Jim Cooper
9th Assembly District

Assemblyman James Gallagher
3rd Assembly District

Assemblyman Ken Cooley
8th Assembly District

Senator Anthony Cannella
12th Senate District

Senator Tom Berryhill
8th Senate District

Assemblyman Brian Dahle
1st Assembly District

Assemblyman Devon Mathis
26th Assembly District

Assemblyman Dante Acosta
38th Assembly District

Assemblywoman Susan Eggman
13th Assembly District

Senator Jean Fuller
16th Senate District

Senator Andy Vidak
14th Senate District

Senator Jim Nielsen
4th Senate District