



May 25, 2016

The Honorable Lois Wolk
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1317 (Wolk) - Oppose

Spencer Short, Chair
Jim Peifer, Vice Chair

On behalf of the Regional Water Authority (RWA) I am writing to express our opposition to SB 1317 relating to issuance of permits for groundwater extraction facilities.

Members

California American Water
Carmichael Water District
Citrus Heights Water District
Del Paso Manor Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Elk Grove Water District
Fair Oaks Water District
Folsom, City of
Golden State Water Company
Lincoln, City of
Orange Vale Water Company
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Roseville, City of
Rio Linda / Elverta Community Water District
Sacramento, City of
Sacramento County Water Agency
Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Juan Water District
West Sacramento, City of
Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency
Yuba City, City of

RWA is a joint powers authority that represents 22 water suppliers and affiliated agencies in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter and Yolo Counties. These suppliers provide reliable water supplies to over 2,000,000 people and the businesses that serve the Sacramento metropolitan area.

After thoughtful consideration and consultation with stakeholders, the California State Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014. The groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) required of SGMA are now being formed for development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) that must be in-place for high and medium priority groundwater basins by 2020 and 2022, depending on whether they are critically overdrafted.

Development of GSPs will be accomplished by local agencies working together to assess their groundwater basins and determine the sustainable practices necessary to prevent "undesirable results". SB 1317 would preempt this process before GSPs could be put in place by requiring cities and counties to issue groundwater extraction permits, beginning July 1, 2017, for the development of groundwater extraction facilities in order to prevent new facilities from creating or contributing to an undesirable result. Because GSPs are still a work in progress there will be cases where there will not be enough information available to effectively determine the impact of new groundwater extraction facilities. In cases where there is the necessary information available, local agencies already have the authority to issue permits or conditions as appropriate.

For these reasons, RWA requests that the Legislature defer to the implementation schedule of SGMA and the locally created GSAs.

Sincerely,


John Woodling
Executive Director

Associates

El Dorado County Water Agency
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency