



*To advance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Northern California
by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality.*

August 20, 2014

Ms. Felicia Marcus, Chair
Members of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Future Water Supply Planning – Sacramento Valley

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

The Northern California Water Association (NCWA) appreciates your efforts to help California and its water suppliers during this challenging year. The administration should be congratulated for the manner in which it has methodically approached the drought this year, including: 1) the Central Valley Project (CVP)/State Water Project (SWP) Drought Operations Plan, 2) the related Temporary Urgency Change Permit (TUCP) and 3) following the priority system for water rights, including issuing curtailment notices and orders for post-1914 water rights. These operations and institutional approaches have been instrumental in providing water this year for cities and rural communities, farms, fish and birds in the Sacramento Valley based on available water supplies.

There have been many lessons learned that will be valuable as we plan for the future. The water leaders in the Sacramento Valley have been meeting with various conservation organizations to explore opportunities for water to support bird habitat this Fall and Winter, which we look forward to discussing with SWRCB staff. We are also planning for 2015 operations and we appreciated the inclusion of paragraph 22 in State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Resolution 2014-0031 to immediately begin working on approaches to next year:

“To assure that the State Water Board is prepared for another dry year, it will engage with stakeholders in various watersheds over the next six months to refine data and gather input on how to most effectively implement and enforce the water rights priority system in future dry years. The primary objective is to improve the State Water Board’s and the water users’ confidence in the technical tools and analysis that will be used for making

determinations on water availability relative to water rights priority. The Executive Director and staff will provide a report with recommendations to the Board by January 31, 2015. As part of this process, State Water Board staff and stakeholders will consider: 1) the State Water Board's January 1978 'Dry Year Program' and its recommendations for enforcing the water rights priority system; 2) the 2014 curtailment and complaint process; 3) the quality of the data in the water rights database for post-1914 and pre-1914 appropriate water rights and riparian water rights (including as compared to the reported demand data in the 1978 Dry Year Program Report, statewide planning models and other available information); and 4) opportunities to expand and improve data and database capabilities to assist with the implementation of the water rights priority system in future dry years."

The water resources managers in the Sacramento Valley, working with consultants and counsel, are ready to roll up our sleeves immediately and work with you and your staff over the next six months to look at these issues and prepare for next year. We have appreciated the discussions among your staff and our technical experts and we will continue to be available and provide assistance in coordinating these meetings for the Sacramento Valley.

Thank you for your attention to this important process.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Guy", written in a cursive style.

David Guy

cc: Tom Howard
Caren Trgovcich
Michael Lauffer