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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY • ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Marc Levine  
Chairman, Assembly Parks & Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **AB 1242 (Gray) California Tahoe Conservancy – Support**

Dear Chairman Levine,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc", is written over the printed name "Chairman Levine".

On behalf of the Merced County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to inform you of the Board's support for AB 1242 (Gray) which would provide for mitigation measures in the event the State Water Resources Control Board proposes a new water quality control plan.

Businesses and residents within Merced County have increasingly struggled over the past four years as the regional drought persists. The County has taken steps to alleviate the crisis locally by implementing water conservation measures, performing public outreach and adopting a local groundwater ordinance that prohibits the unsustainable extraction and conveyance of groundwater outside of County basins. This work is being done in part to address local crisis in a proactive manner, but also to transition the County to the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

However, when the Water Board proposes to divert significant volumes of surface flows out of Merced's local tributaries, this not only decimates surface water deliveries to domestic and agricultural water users, it also eliminates the opportunity for groundwater recharge – a critical component of achieving groundwater sustainability, as specified in the SGMA legislation.

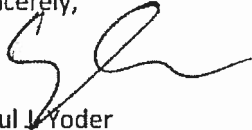
The Merced County Board of Supervisors is pleased that AB 1242 would ensure that the State Water Board properly considers and mitigates the impacts of any new water quality control plan and alleviates significant adverse impacts. If adverse impacts cannot be sufficiently mitigated, the adoption of that plan would be prohibited.

This legislation would be a step in the right direction for California as Merced County continues to manage their way through this unprecedented drought. Locally, Merced's agencies need a plethora of tools to combat these dry conditions that have not only threatened their local economy but have also posed a hazard to the health and safety of its residents. Surface water flows from local waterways is an essential tool for increasing groundwater and surface water allocations.

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For the reasons stated, the Merced County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support AB 1242 and respectfully requests your aye vote when this bill is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul W. Yoder', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul W. Yoder

Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Adam Gray  
Honorable Members, Assembly Parks & Wildlife Committee  
The Merced County Board of Supervisors