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August 2, 2013

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Chairman, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
State Capitol – Room 2136
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Comments on Proposed Principles for Developing a Water Bond

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

Thank you for providing the Background paper and Draft Principles for Developing a Water Bond (Principles) for public review and comment. We welcome and applaud your effort to make this process transparent and inclusive, so that we will all ultimately be in a position to educate our ratepayers and customers why they should support a water bond.

California Groundwater Coalition (CGC) was formed at the urging of California State and local officials who believed that increased efforts were needed to educate and inform policy makers and the public about California groundwater resources (including your Legislative Director, Alf Brandt). CGC members include public and private groundwater management entities located throughout California and consist of experts with technical, legal and professional groundwater and related expertise. Collectively, our members represent and serve nearly half of the State's population.

CGC works closely and in partnership with the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA). We support and endorse the comment letter that GRA has submitted to you on the 2014 water bond. We would also like to add the following additional comments.

First, the 2009 Delta/Water Legislation and water bond signaled the importance of groundwater to the State water supply by including, among other provisions, \$1 billion in funding for recycling projects that enhance local management efforts and groundwater cleanup. This funding should not be considered an "earmark," but rather, an investment in local water supply development that will permit demonstrable reduction in the amount of imported water supply needed to replenish our groundwater basins. Effective, expanded local water supply development and groundwater management offer the best opportunity to reduce demand on the Delta.

In your consideration of reducing the total amount of the water bond, we urge you to recognize the importance of groundwater as a water supply, storage option and opportunity for conjunctive management of water from all sources. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the right balance and priorities are established in a 2014 water bond.

Very truly yours,

Ken Manning, President
California Groundwater Coalition