



October 13, 2015

Joseph Byrne, Chair
California Water Commission
Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent via electronic email to cwc@water.ca.gov

Re: Agenda Item 7, Final Basin Boundary Regulations - Support

Dear Chair Byrne:

Please accept these comments on behalf of the above-listed groups, members of the NGO Groundwater Collaborative, on the Department’s final draft of their Basin Boundary Regulations. Our organizations are pleased to support the proposal before you for approval at the October 21 Commission meeting.

At the September Commission hearing on the draft regulations, representatives of our groups expressed our concerns to the Commissioners regarding the lack of public process in the draft. We very much appreciated your supportive comments.

In the final regulations before you for approval, staff has made significant improvements to ensure that interested members of the public, as well as tribal representatives, will be provided with notice and information about boundary change proposals. In addition, the data requirements for those who challenge a proposed basin boundary change have been adjusted to make it easier to submit relevant data.

We appreciate the efforts of staff to address our concerns, as well as the time they took to meet with us to explain their changes and the reasons for them. Thanks to their efforts and your intervention, we are able to fully support these regulations, which we all hope will be used sparingly.

Sincerely,

Sara Aminzadeh, Executive Director, California Coastkeeper Alliance, sara@coastkeeper.org

Ana Lucia Garcia Briones, Tom Graff Diversity Fellow, Environmental Defense Fund, agarciabriones@edf.org

Jennifer Clary, Water Program Manager, Clean Water Fund, jclary@cleanwater.org

Kristin Dobbin, Regional Water Management Coordinator, Community Water Center, Kristin.dobbin@communitywatercenter.org

Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director, Tuolumne River Trust, peter@tuolumne.org

Susan Harvey, North County Watch, ifsusan@tcsn.net

Kyle Jones, Policy Advocate, Sierra Club California, kyle.jones@sierraclub.org

Sandi Matsumoto, Associate Director, Integrated Water Management, The Nature Conservancy, smatsumoto@tnc.org

Noe Paramo, Legislative Advocate, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, nparamo@crlaf.org

Carol Perkins, Water Policy Advocate, Butte Environmental Council, water@becnet.org

Phoebe Seaton, Executive Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, pseaton@leadershipcounsel.org

Juliet Christian-Smith, California Climate Scientist, Union of Concerned Scientists, jchristiansmith@ucsusa.org