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ADOPTING NORTH STATE WATER ALLIANCE WATER POLICY PRINCIPLES

RESOLUTION NO. 14-02

Preamble

We, the undersigned, support the NSWA, a growing coalition of cities, counties, water providers, business, agriculture and community groups in Northern California, to promote responsible statewide water solutions that protect the economy, environment and quality of life for the north state and for all Californians; and

Whereas, the Sacramento Valley and adjacent Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada (the North State) is a unique place linked by its water resources; and

Whereas, the North State is committed to balancing economic, environmental and social sustainability for the entire State; and

Whereas, reliable and sufficient supplies of water are critical to a vibrant economy, a healthy environment, and the State’s overall quality of life; and

Whereas, the North State understands and recognizes the importance of regional coordination and collaboration in developing implementable solutions to address existing and future water resources challenges and opportunities; and

Whereas, changing hydrology and sea level caused by climate change, coupled with population growth, forest management practices, and increasingly stringent and rigid regulatory requirements impinge on current water supplies to meet California’s needs; and

Whereas, the currently proposed solutions for the Delta pose serious risks for the water supply reliability of the North State; and

Whereas, the California drought of 2012-2014 underscores the water supply and water management challenges we face and the urgency for action to address these challenges; and

(See Reverse Side)

Whereas, in order to protect our region's interests, the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA), in partnership with other key regional partners, seeks to promote regional cooperation on water issues, and to be part of a collaborative and comprehensive plan to meet all of California's water needs.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that in partnership with other key regional partners, MCWRA supports actions based on the following principles of the NSWA:

Principles

- Water rights and area-of-origin protections must be recognized and preserved through water supply assurances to guarantee reliable supplies for all beneficial water uses and environmental needs.
- The North State will continue to aggressively pursue water conservation and efficiency measures that promote our regional self-reliance and water supply reliability.
- We will continue to invest in water supply development, water recycling and reuse, increased water storage capacity, and other water management projects and programs that are cost effective and improve our regional self-sufficiency, and that serve to benefit other regions of the State.
- State and federal actions must respect and not impinge on or preempt the authority and responsibilities of cities, counties, and other local agencies to take actions in the interests of the jurisdiction and its citizens.
- The North State will continue to work with state and federal governments to develop a comprehensive operational plan for statewide water supply reliability, including investing in regional water supply reliability and self-reliance. This operational plan must also demonstrate how the state's water system will meet future water demand while adapting to the effects of climate change. This plan should address adaptive management changes in the current rigid regulatory requirements.
- Stakeholders in the North State must be fully involved in all aspects of the development of a Delta solution and other state and federal water policies and operations that affect the region.
- We support a Delta solution that is: part of a comprehensive statewide solution to address California's long-term water supply challenges; is based on sound science to ensure it is effective and implemented in an equitable manner; requires the beneficiaries of any actions associated with a Delta solution to fully fund the costs of such actions; avoids or fully mitigates negative economic, environmental, or societal impacts to areas in our region; and, provides a meaningful role in governance for representatives of the North State.
- In summary, we support a statewide plan for water reliability that supports the economic, environmental, and social needs of all of California. Such a plan must support the diverse rural and urban, agricultural, environmental, recreational, power generation, and flood protection needs of the North State.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the MOUNTAIN COUNTIES WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION on the 13th day of May 2014.