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# Assembly California Legislature



**KRISTIN OLSEN**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT

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WEBSITE: [www.assembly.ca.gov/Olsen](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Olsen)

December 10, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Governor Jerry Brown  
The State Capitol  
Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Obama and Governor Brown:

The recent announcement by the California Department of Water Resources to cut water allocations for California State Water Project contractors to 5 percent for the current water could have been avoided if we had more storage and other alternative water supplies. The lack of stored water in dry years will continue to force communities to rely on local groundwater resources (causing depletion in several areas of California), fallow thousands of acres of productive farmland, raise food costs, increase already expensive agriculture and urban water rates, and result in the loss of countless jobs in our state.

Federal, state and local governments must work together to stop kicking the can down the road. California can no longer wait - action must be taken to increase our water storage above and below the Delta. Any alternatives that will allow us to save water in wet years must be on the table, and any improvements that will increase the conservation, recycling, and desalination of water must be considered to increase our water supply.

I urge your administrations to immediately take action to improve California's water supply in 2014, while also respecting California's long-standing principles of water right priorities and area-of-origin protections. I also call on your administrations to work with all stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive plans to address water supply, reliability, and affordability for 2014 and into the future.

A successful water plan must – at a minimum - include additional storage, protection of Delta Farmers and families and the assured protection of water right priorities and area-of-origin protections. You must ensure that any unanticipated water supplies be put to productive use for California's families, businesses and farms, not lost to the Pacific Ocean. Failure to increase water supplies in California will jeopardize America's breadbasket and our state's trillion-dollar economy.

Government should never harm one region to help another region in the state. There are solutions that can increase our water system and improve the Delta. Water in California is not a zero-sum game; but we must find a solution that benefits all 38 million Californians. The time to act is now, and I'm a willing partner to find a solution that benefits all. When California succeeds, the rest of the nation succeeds, too.

Your timely responses are critical to avoiding an economic disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin" followed by a stylized flourish.

Kristin Olsen  
Assemblymember, 12th District