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Assembly California Legislature



KRISTIN OLSEN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWELFTH DISTRICT

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July 1, 2014

Felicia Marcus, Chairwoman
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

RE: Senior Water Rights Protection

Dear Chairwoman Marcus,

As you and the Board meet today to discuss further actions to address the needs of all Californians during this terrible drought, I would like to reiterate the importance of preserving senior water rights. While I sincerely appreciate the challenges you are facing at this time, please remember that any infringement of these rights would be devastating to the agricultural economy of our state – and the world.

During recent meetings to discuss further actions, you made clear to me and other members of the Legislature the Board's intent to preserve these rights wherever possible, and I thank you for your continued efforts in doing so.

While I recognize the Legislature's role in obtaining solutions to this drought and, inevitably, future droughts through water recycling, storage, and desalination efforts, I implore you to recognize that until such solutions are finalized, history will continue to repeat itself.

In the meantime, I understand that agreements to share limited water resources have been made among water rights holders, and I encourage the Board to recognize and adopt those agreements as an alternative to implementing emergency enforcement regulations.

I look forward to our continued collaboration to improve this year's water shortage in such a way that benefits all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Olsen".

Kristin Olsen
Assemblymember, 12th District