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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 ON
RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION
ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING
TRANSPORTATION

January 16, 2014

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

Our state is struggling through yet another year of historically dry weather. Record-low precipitation in previous months has worsened the state's condition, draining reservoirs and forcing farmers to abandon thousands of acres of fields. Cities such as Folsom, Roseville, and most recently Sacramento have already enacted water-saving measures of 20% or more.

The numbers are dismal. 2013 was the driest calendar year in the recorded history of California, with records going back to 160 years. The first snowpack reading in the Sierra Nevada this year found a snowpack of just 20 percent of what is normal. Lake Oroville is at 36 percent capacity, just half of what is normal for this time of year, and Folsom Lake is at 18 percent capacity, almost two thirds less than the historical average. According the the Department of Water Resources, Northern California's snow-water equivalents are at just 1 inch of water, only 11 percent of what it is usually during this time of year.

This water crisis is critical to millions of Californians, especially to homeowners in the suburbs and foothills, in our rural communities, struggling businesses, and our state's vital farming industry. Our economy is reliant on an adequate and healthy water supply, and our constituents depend on clean, available water. As Representatives of the North State we urge you to issue a drought declaration for this year. Additionally we ask that you work with us in the legislature to find long-term solutions to ensure proper allocation and usage of water throughout the state.

We are all committed to statewide water solutions that protect the economy, environment, and quality of life in the North State. We look forward to working with you and your office as we strive to solve this water crisis together.

Sincerely,

Dan Logue
Assemblyman, 3rd Assembly District

Beth Gaines
Assemblymember, 6th Assembly District

Ted Gaines
Senator, 1st Senate District

Jim Nielsen
Senator, 4th Assembly District