



April 2, 2019

Assembly Member Jim Frazier  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 3091  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1194 (Frazier) – Delta Stewardship Council: **OPPOSE**  
**Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee – April 9, 2019**

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

On behalf of the signatories noted below, we regret to inform you of our opposition to your bill, AB 1194. Your bill fails to recognize the importance of a statewide approach to advancing progress in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as encompassed in a comprehensive package of legislation that passed in 2009. That historic package advanced the statewide importance of the Delta for its environmental and water supply values while recognizing the protection of the Delta itself as an evolving place. We view AB 1194 as a complete reversal of the Legislature's intent when it established the governance of the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) back in 2009 and an attempt to frustrate finding fair and balanced solutions for the Delta going forward.

AB 1194 seeks to increase the membership of the Delta Stewardship Council to thirteen members, with a majority representing in-Delta interests. It is worth noting that stakeholders from the Delta region largely opposed the creation of the Council back in 2009. AB 1194 seeks to undo a statewide approach to Delta policy by putting one region's agenda above all others. The 2009 legislation apportioned the appointments to the Council among the Delta Protection Commission, the California Senate, the California Assembly and the Governor to reflect the importance of all these bodies in shaping Delta policies.

Additionally, when it adopted the Delta Plan back in 2013, the Council recognized that inappropriate development proposals within the fragile Delta by in-Delta interests could pose a threat to protecting the Delta as a place. These same interests would dominate the Council, as proposed in AB 1194, which cannot possibly be expected to serve an important checks and balances role. With additional representation on the Council by in-Delta interests, we question whether the Council can produce a balanced approach to developing a strategy to apportion financial responsibility for maintaining the Delta's 1,100 miles of levees.

The Delta is the largest estuary in the western hemisphere and the location of the largest water delivery systems in the nation. Comprehensive and balanced Delta planning and oversight cannot be accomplished by one region seeking to drown out the voices of all others. AB 1194 represents a giant step backwards in a statewide approach to resolving and balancing statewide interests. For all of the above reasons, we must oppose AB 1194 and will urge members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee to vote NO on your bill.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kightlinger  
*General Manager*  
**Metropolitan Water  
District of Southern  
California**

Mark S. Krause  
*General Manager*  
**Desert Water Agency**

Robert Reeb  
*Executive Director*  
**Valley Ag Water Coalition**

Susan Mulligan, P.E.  
*General Manager*  
**Calleguas Municipal  
Water District**

Curtis Creel  
*General Manager*  
**Kern County Water Agency**

Matt Stone  
*General Manager*  
**Santa Clarita Valley  
Water Agency**

Douglas Headrick  
*General Manager*  
**San Bernardino Valley  
Municipal Water District**

Tom McCarthy  
*General Manager*  
**Mojave Water Agency**

Robert J. Hunter  
*General Manager*  
**Municipal Water District  
of Orange County**

Dale K. Melville  
*Manager-Engineer*  
**Dudley Ridge Water  
District**

Tom Coleman  
*General Manager*  
**Rowland Water District**

Paul Jones, II  
*General Manager*  
**Eastern Municipal Water  
District**

Erik Hitchman  
*General Manager/Chief  
Engineer*  
**Walnut Valley Water  
District**

Robert Shaver  
*General Manager*  
**Alameda County Water  
District**

Ray Stokes  
*Executive Director*  
**Central Coast Water  
Authority**

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E.,  
*General Manager*  
**Mesa Water District**

David W. Pedersen, P.E.  
*General Manager*  
**Las Virgenes Municipal  
Water District**

Jorge Somoano  
*General Manager*  
**Burbank Water & Power**

Brian A. Dickinson  
*General Manager*  
**Water Department  
City of Compton**

Matthew Litchfield  
*General Manager*  
**Three Valleys Municipal  
Water District**

Marc Marcantonio  
*General Manager*  
**Yorba Linda Water District**

Kirby Brill  
*Interim General Manager*  
**Inland Empire Utilities  
Agency**

Norma Camacho  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
**Santa Clara Valley Water  
District**

Jim Barrett  
*General Manager*  
**Coachella Valley Water  
District**

Craig Miller  
*General Manager*  
**Western Municipal Water  
District**

Mark Gilkey  
*General Manager*  
**Tulare Lake Basin Water  
Storage District**

cc: Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Keith Cialino, Senior Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee  
Calvin Rusch, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

Jessica Pearson, Executive Director, Delta Stewardship Council