





**AB 1580 (Levine)
Major Infrastructure Construction Projects
OPPOSE**

August 22, 2019

Senator Anthony Portantino
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1580 (Levine): Major Infrastructure Construction Projects – **OPPOSE**
Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the signatories below, we regret to inform you of our opposition to AB 1580 by Assembly Member Marc Levine. We view AB 1580 as duplicative and an unfunded new requirement on state agencies and departments seeking to advance infrastructure projects to prepare California for the future. AB 1580 will hinder critical infrastructure projects and add unnecessary costs.

AB 1580 requires a state agency undertaking a publicly-funded major infrastructure construction project that is estimated to cost \$1 billion or more, excluding transportation infrastructure construction projects, to form an oversight committee to act as the authority for critical decisions regarding the project, and to establish and implement a comprehensive risk management plan.

AB 1580 would apply to numerous publicly-funded projects including universities, prisons, water projects, and other state facilities. There is overwhelming evidence that California needs to invest in its future, and AB 1580 runs counter to that goal.

As written, it is uncertain what projects AB 1580 would apply to. As drafted, the bill is ambiguous in several regards. First, it is unclear what is meant by “publicly funded.” Second, the bill does not define or otherwise describe what “critical decisions” the committee will answer. Finally, it is unclear what is meant by “other agencies involved in the project.”

To the extent the bill is aimed at new Delta conveyance, it is unnecessary. Any funds expended to construct new Delta conveyance will be provided by the Public Water Agencies receiving the benefits. Additionally, construction will be undertaken at DWR’s direction by a public agency, known as the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA). The DCA is a Brown Act body that will provide risk management oversight, and the beneficiaries, who are members on the DCA, have the most incentive to manage risks prudently. AB 1580 provides no place on the oversight committee for those that are paying or benefiting from the project.

For all of the above reasons, we urge members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to hold AB 1580 on suspense. If you have any questions or wish additional information regarding our collective position, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy Viatella at The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California by email at kviatella@mwdh2o.com or by phone at (916) 650-2614.

Sincerely,

Jose Mejia
Director
**California State Council
of Laborers**

Cesar Diaz
Legislative and Political Director
**State Building & Construction
Trades Council**

Tim Cremins
Political Director
**California-Nevada Conference
of Operating Engineers**

Jennifer Pierre
General Manager
State Water Contractors, Inc.

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

Curtis Creel
General Manager
Kern County Water Agency

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

Thomas D. McCarthy
General Manager
Mojave Water Agency

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

Dennis D. LaMoreaux
General Manager
Palmdale Water District

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

Darin Kasamoto
General Manager
**San Gabriel Valley Municipal
Water District**

Thomas Love
General Manager
**Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District**

Daniel R. Ferons
General Manager
Santa Margarita Water District

Charles Wilson
Executive Director & CEO
**Southern California Water
Coalition**

Paul D. Jones II, P.E.
General Manager
**Eastern Municipal Water
District**

Matthew Litchfield, P.E.,
General Manager
**Three Valleys Municipal Water
District**

Anthony Goff
General Manager
**Calleguas Municipal
Water District**

Craig Miller
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

Gail Delihant
*Director, California Government
Affairs*
Western Growers

Ian Prichard
Water Resources Manager
Camrosa Water District

Mark S. Krause
General Manager
Desert Water Agency

Robert Reeb
Executive Director
Valley Ag Water Coalition

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee
Assembly Member Marc Levine
Debra Cooper, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Kirk Feely, Fiscal Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus