



April 29, 2011

The Honorable Henry T. Perea
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 983
Position: Support

Dear Mr. Perea:

The Kings River Water Association (KRWA) and the Kings River Conservation District (KRC D) are in favor of AB 983, an act to amend Section 116760.40 *Sections 116760.20, 116760.40, 116760.70, 116761.24, and 116761.50* of the Health and Safety Code, relating to public health.

KRWA and KRC D are regional agencies that oversee the operation of the Kings River in the San Joaquin Valley of California. KRWA is an association comprised of the 28 public and private agencies with rights or entitlements to water from the Kings River. The organization manages those water entitlements and deliveries, and is engaged in various environmental enhancement and water quality-related projects. KRC D is a public agency responsible for flood control, power, on-farm water management, environmental programs and groundwater management. KRWA and KRC D are actively involved in water quality protection in the Kings River watershed, both directly and through participation in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition and the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority.

The California Department of Public Health loans to qualified communities up to 80 percent of the cost of safe drinking water infrastructure projects. Unfortunately, this would require communities to pay the other 20 percent leaving the most disadvantaged and poor communities in our region unable to pay for the cost and therefore ineligible for projects. We support your bill as it provides disadvantaged communities the appropriate loan funding for long-term safe drinking water projects.

Please contact us or our government relations representatives Jackson R. Gualco or Kendra Daijogo at 916/441-1392 if you have any questions or comments regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,

David Orth, General Manager
Kings River Conservation District

Steve Haugen, Watermaster
Kings River Water Association

The Honorable Henry T. Perea
April 29, 2011
Page 2

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cc: Honorable Chair and Members
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
Mr. Jay Dickinson
Mr. Chris Holtz
The Gualco Group, Inc.