

March 28, 2018

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

Re: AB 1876 (Frazier) – Delta Stewardship Council: **OPPOSE**
As Amended March 14, 2018
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee – April 24, 2018

Dear Assembly Member Frazier:

On behalf of the signatories noted below, we regret to inform you of our opposition to your bill, AB 1876. 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 1876 as a hostile takeover of the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) established back in 2009 and an attempt to frustrate finding fair and balanced solutions in the Delta going forward.

AB 1876 seeks to abolish the Delta Stewardship Council and proposes to transfer its duties on July 1, 2020, to the Delta Protection Commission (Commission), a body that is dominated by in-Delta interests. It is worth noting that representatives on the Commission largely opposed the creation of the Council back in 2009. AB 1876 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. AB 1876 proposes to dominate the Council with in-Delta appointments, and would eventually strip future Legislatures and Governors of their roles in appointing members to the Council by eliminating the Council itself. AB 1876 would eventually delegate all the Council's important powers to the Delta Protection Commission.

Additionally, in creation of 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 dominate the Delta Protection Commission, which cannot possibly be expected to serve this important checks and balance. Nor can the Commission be expected to 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 eliminate the voices of all others. AB 1876 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 1876 and will urge members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee to vote NO on your bill.

Sincerely,



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



Erin Guerrero
VP of Legislative Affairs
**California Building
Industry Association**



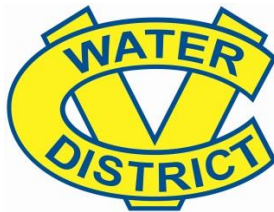
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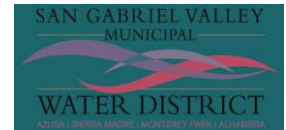
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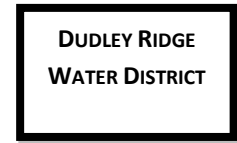
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cc: Members of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
 Ryan Ojakian, Principal Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
 Calvin Rusch, Policy Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

Jessica Pearson, Executive Director, Delta Stewardship Council