

May 21, 2019

****ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT****

AB 217 (E. GARCIA)
OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED
PROPOSED STATEWIDE WATER TAX

The coalition listed below of over 128 public water agencies, water associations, cities, and business organizations **urges the Assembly to REJECT AB 217 – a proposed statewide water tax.**

AB 217 would require public water systems to send a water tax to the State Water Resources Control Board based on a system's number of connections. California households and businesses that purchase water from a public water agency would be paying for this state tax. Following are examples of concerns with this approach:

- AB 217 proposes a ***tax on water – a resource that is essential to life.***
 - The proposed “system charge” based on the public water system's number of connections would be a tax under Article XIII A of the California Constitution.
- AB 217 would set the ***precedent*** for a statewide water tax.
 - For more than a decade, there have been various legislative or Administration proposals that have proposed to tax water for a wide range of purposes. These proposals have been consistently rejected.
 - There are state agencies and other entities with documented interest in using a water tax to fund various programs. AB 217 would be the first in the line.
- The human right to water in State law is to both safe and ***affordable water. Taxing water would work against keeping water affordable.***
- The proposed tax in AB 217 would be ***regressive*** – with the lowest-income customers paying the same amount as high-income customers.
- The proposed ***regional distribution split (20 percent) is unnecessary - and has been rejected in the past.***

The amendment that would remove our opposition would be to remove the proposed water tax.

On May 15, the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 **rejected** the budget trailer bill language that proposed a water tax. The Subcommittee voted for a General Fund appropriation that would be continuously appropriated. The safe drinking water problem can be solved without a water tax.

We urge your NO vote on AB 217

ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSED UNLESS AMENDED (OR OPPOSED) TO AB 217 (E. Garcia)

Amador Water Agency
Antelope Valley East Kern
Water Agency
Bella Vista Water District
Building Owners and
Managers Association of
California
Calaveras County Water
District
CalDesal
California Business
Properties Association
California Municipal Utilities
Association
California Special Districts
Association
Calleguas Municipal Water
District
Carmichael Water District
Citrus Heights Water District
City of Corona
City of Fairfield
City of Fresno
City of Lakewood
City of Newport Beach
City of Oceanside
City of Riverside
City of Roseville
City of Santa Rosa
City of Shasta Lake
City of Torrance
Coastside County Water
District
Contra Costa Water District
Crestline – Lake Arrowhead
Water Agency
Cucamonga Valley Water
District
Culver City Chamber of
Commerce
Desert Water Agency
Dublin San Ramon Services
District

East Orange County Water
District
East Valley Water District
Eastern Municipal Water
District
El Dorado County Joint
Chamber Commission
El Dorado Irrigation District
El Toro Water District
Elk Grove Chamber of
Commerce
Elk Grove Water District
Elsinore Valley Municipal
Water District
Fallbrook Public Utility
District
Folsom Chamber of
Commerce
Fontana Chamber of
Commerce
Fremont Chamber of
Commerce
Georgetown Divide Public
Utilities District
Glendora Chamber of
Commerce
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation
District
Greater Riverside Chambers
of Commerce
Hawthorne Chamber of
Commerce
Helix Water District
Hidden Valley Lake
Community Services
District
Humboldt Bay Municipal
Water District
Humboldt Community
Services District
Idyllwild Water District
Indian Wells Valley Water
District

International Council of
Shopping Centers
Jarupa Community Services
District
Kern County Water Agency
Kinneloa Irrigation District
Lake Hemet Municipal Water
District
Lake Tahoe South Shore
Chamber of Commerce
Las Virgenes Municipal
Water District
League of California Cities
Long Beach Water
Department
Los Angeles County Business
Federation
Malaga County Water
District
Mammoth Community
Water District
Mariana Ranchos County
Water District
McKinleyville Community
Services District
Mesa Water District
Mid-Peninsula Water District
Mojave Water Agency
Monte Vista Water District
National Association of
Industrial and Office
Properties – California
Chapters
National Federation of
Independent Business
North Marin Water District
North Tahoe Public Utility
District
Northern California Water
Association
Oakdale Irrigation District
Olivenhain Municipal Water
District

We urge your NO vote on AB 217

Orange County Water District	San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce	Tahoe City Public Utility District
Orchard Dale Water District	San Dimas Chamber of Commerce	Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Otay Water District	San Gabriel County Water District	Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership	Tuolumne Utilities District
Palm Ranch Irrigation District	San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce	Twaine Harte Community Services District
Palmdale Water District	San Juan Water District	United Chamber Advocacy Network
Placer County Water Agency	Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency	Valley Center Municipal Water District
Rainbow Municipal Water District	Santa Margarita Water District	Valley County Water District
Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce	Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, ID No. 1	Vista Irrigation District
Regional Water Authority	Scotts Valley Water District	Walnut Valley Water District
Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District	South Tahoe Public Utility District	West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Rio Alto Water District	Southern California Water Coalition	Western Canal Water District
Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce	Stockton East Water District	Western Municipal Water District
Rowland Water District	Sunnyslope County Water District	Westlands Water District
Sacramento Suburban Water District		Yorba Linda Water District
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District		Yuba Water Agency
San Diego County Water Authority		Zone 7 Water Agency

If you have questions, please contact Cindy Tuck, Deputy Executive Director for Government Relations at the Association of California Water Agencies at (916) 441-4545 or cindy@acwa.com.

cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
 Mr. Carlos Gonzalez, Chief of Staff, Office of Assembly Member E. Garcia
 Mr. Josh Tooker, Chief Consultant, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
 Mr. Gregory Melkonian, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

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