

AMADOR WATER AGENCY

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
AMADOR WATER AGENCY
HAS BEEN CALLED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR

November 19, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Amador Water Agency

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. SUBJECT

A. Discussion and direction regarding ACWA's support for the Delta Legislation

3. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, then please contact Cris Thompson at (209) 223-3018 or (209) 257-5281 (fax). Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least two-full business days before the start of the meeting.

Association of California Water Agencies
Board of Directors
Re: ACWA's Support for the Delta Legislative Package

Dear Pres. Peterson and Members of the ACWA Board of Directors:

We the undersigned represent numerous long-standing members of the Association of California Water Agencies. We are writing to express our extreme disappointment with the action taken by the ACWA Board late in the evening on Sunday, November 1, 2009, to support the Delta legislative package.

During this Board meeting, there was a discussion that: (1) it was not clear what was included in the legislative package that ACWA staff was recommending be approved, because the specific amendments that were to be included in the Delta legislative package were not known; (2) many ACWA members, including municipal and agricultural agencies in several ACWA regions, continued to have significant concerns about the impacts of the legislation on upstream water supplies and water rights, and many of them opposed the legislation; (3) the Delta legislative package was inconsistent with ACWA's Board-approved Delta principles; and (4) supporting the legislation would violate the Board-approved policy that ACWA does not take a position on legislation on which its members disagree. Despite these serious issues, the ACWA Board voted 18-11 to support the Delta legislation.

We believe that ACWA's support decision significantly impaired the ability of some of its members to secure the very same amendments that were needed to protect our water supply reliability. Many of the ACWA member agencies that are signing this letter have decided to withhold payment of their 2010 ACWA dues, and many are evaluating whether to renew their ACWA membership.

We understand and appreciate the significance of this Delta package. We too wanted to be able to support it, and many of us worked hard to obtain amendments that would have allowed us to support it. We understand and respect that individual ACWA members may take different positions on legislation. ACWA, however, cannot and must not take a position on legislation that benefits some members and harms other members.

We would like to hear how you intend to address this problem in a meaningful manner, and what actions you intend to take to ensure the interests of all ACWA member agencies will be represented in a fair manner that does no harm to the legitimate rights of its individual members. We would appreciate time at the next ACWA Board meeting to discuss this issue in an open forum. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,