

April 30, 2025

Honorable Rhodesia Ransom  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6340  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**DIRECTORS**

**Laura Hidas**  
President

Alameda County Water  
District

**Jacob Westra**  
Vice President

Tulare Lake Basin Water  
Storage District

**Chris Lee**  
Secretary-Treasurer

Solano County Water  
Agency

**Robert Cheng**  
Coachella Valley Water  
District

**Brad Coffey**  
Metropolitan Water District  
of Southern California

**Ray Stokes**  
Central Coast Water  
Authority

**Matthew Stone**  
Santa Clarita Valley Water  
Agency

**Peter Thompson, Jr.**  
Antelope Valley-East Kern  
Water Agency

**Craig Wallace**  
Kern County Water Agency

**General Manager**  
Jennifer Pierre

**SUBJECT: AB 274 (Ransom) – SUPPORT AND AMEND**

Dear Assemblymember Ransom:

On behalf of the State Water Contractors (SWC)<sup>1</sup>, I am pleased to inform you that we support your AB 274, as amended on March 26, which would require the State Lands Commission to create an inventory of all abandoned and derelict commercial and recreational vessels on or in waters within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including commercially-navigable waters. **We also encourage you to consider amendments to AB 274 that we believe would strengthen this program by providing foundation and framework for taking the next steps to prioritize and fund the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels that may contribute to water quality degradation and environmental hazards within the Delta.**

The SWC is an organization representing 27 of the 29 public water entities that hold contracts with the California Department of Water Resources for the delivery of State Water Project water. Collectively, the SWC members provide a portion of the water supply delivered to approximately 27 million Californians, roughly two-thirds of the state's population, and to more than 750,000 acres of irrigated agriculture. Water supply delivered to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, and Southern California from the State Water Project is diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

As you know, abandoned and derelict vessels that are no longer properly maintained and monitored can pose a threat to Californians and the environment by blocking navigational channels, damaging ecosystems, and diminishing the recreational value of the surrounding area. Additionally, they may leak fuels, lubricants, and sewage, and studies have demonstrated that they are one of the stressors to the Delta and its species.

<sup>1</sup> Alameda County Flood Control District Zone 7, Alameda County Water District, Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency, Casitas Municipal Water District, Central Coast Water Authority, City of Yuba City, Coachella Valley Water District, Crestline – Lake Arrowhead Water Agency, Desert Water Agency, Dudley Ridge Water District, Empire West Side Irrigation District, Kern County Water Agency, Kings County, Littlerock Creek Irrigation District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Mojave Water Agency, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Oak Flat Water District, Palmdale Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, San Geronio Pass Water Agency, San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Solano County Water Agency, and Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District.

Honorable Rhodesia Ransom

April 30, 2025

Page 2

The SWC is supportive of your efforts to address source water protection, **so we encourage you to also consider strengthening amendments to AB 274** as it moves through the legislative process this year, to provide greater structure around the abandoned and derelict vessel program by taking the next steps beyond inventory of vessels to also provide for the prioritization and funding of the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels that may contribute to water quality degradation and environmental hazards within the Delta.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at [jpierre@swc.org](mailto:jpierre@swc.org) or at (707) 280-9673, or SWC's legislative advocate, Glenn Farrel, at [glenn@gfadvocacy.com](mailto:glenn@gfadvocacy.com) or (916) 216-1747, if you have any questions regarding the SWC's position on AB 274.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Pierre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "P".

Jennifer Pierre  
General Manager