



March 22, 2019

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
Senator Henry I. Stern, Chair
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814
senate.natural.resources@senate.ca.gov

RE: SB 307 (Roth): Enhances Protections to California's Deserts Underground Groundwater Basins - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Stern:

I am writing to express the opposition of the Southern California Water Coalition to SB 307 (Roth). Our members support state and local efforts to expand water conservation and develop sustainable new water sources, both of which are threatened by this bill.

We oppose SB 307 because it seeks to create a new certification process for water conveyed in California's water transportation systems, something that is unprecedented and unnecessary, given the protections already in place through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and state law governing water transfers. The bill sets a dangerous precedent and poses a potential threat to any infrastructure project in the state.

This precedent would make uncertain the finality of CEQA reviews, something that would impact California water projects of all kinds, including local water supply reliability projects, projects proposed under drought response planning, affordable housing projects, and transportation projects. Should SB 307 become law, opponents of these project would see it as a useful precedent, so a project's proponents would never know whether or when their project has received definitive, dependable approval.





For these reasons, we urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Wilson", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Charles Wilson
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Richard Roth

