



May 6, 2019

Senate Standing Committee on Appropriations
Senator Anthony J. Portantino, Chair
Senator Patricia C. Bates, Vice Chair
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Senators Portantino and Bates:

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 and projects proposed under drought response planning. Should SB 307 become law, opponents of these projects 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 "Charles Wilson", is centered on a light beige rectangular background.

Charles Wilson
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Richard Roth

