

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION

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Anthony Saracino
Chair

March 28, 2012

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Vice Chair

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair

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Member

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

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Member

Joe Del Bosque
Member

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison

Kimberley Delfino
Member

Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Luther Hintz
Member

Sue Sims
Executive Officer

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Hutchison:

The California Water Commission respectfully requests your support for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) climate and weather programs in the FY 2013 appropriations bill that are important for water supply and flood management in California.

Even during this era of constrained resources, we believe it is important to continue investments in research, observations, monitoring, and modeling that can help states like California manage water supply and flood control programs, assist in adaptation to weather and climate risks, and reduce future costs from natural disasters.

Specifically, we urge your support for the hydrometeorological testbed (HMT) program within the Office of Atmospheric Research's (OAR's) Weather and Air Chemistry Research Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes program. Working in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources and the California Energy Commission, the HMT-West program has improved the ability to monitor and forecast extreme storms that both provide much of California's annual water supply and cause major floods. California plans to work with NOAA on the further implementation and refinement of this program, which is providing important research benefits throughout the western states. The HMT program is one of California's highest priorities in the OAR budget and the Commission

supports a \$7.7 million increase in the FY 2013 President's Budget Request to restore funding to the original level proposed for this program in FY 2012.

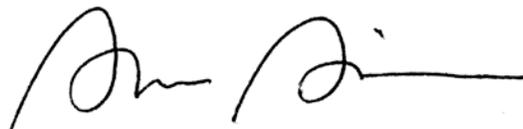
Secondly, we urge you to support the President's Budget Request in the FY 2013 appropriations bill for the NOAA Office of Atmospheric Research (OAR) Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program. California water managers use information generated through three of the program's

Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments centers to better understand water supply variability for state and regional planning. Also funded within this line item is the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) program, which is just beginning a regional drought pilot program in California to improve quantification of drought impacts.

Lastly, we urge your support for continuation of NOAA's enacted FY 2012 funding for the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service's Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), and would prioritize funding for the RCCs themselves over that of the regional climate service directors within that same line item. The RCCs have had a long history of providing climate and weather data, and the Western RCC has historically partnered with California's State Climatologist on snowpack and water supply forecasting projects in the Sierra Nevada. Similarly, we urge your support to continue enacted FY 2012 funding for the National Weather Service Operations, Research, and Facilities' Cooperative Observer Network. With NOAA's recent suspension of installing new weather stations in its flagship U.S. Climate Reference Network, it becomes even more important to keep the co-op's aging weather stations operational. Maintaining a high density of operational stations is important in California, where our variable topography causes large changes in climate over short distances.

Thank you for your consideration of these important programs and their role in effective water management and planning for California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Sims", written in a cursive style.

Susan Sims
Executive Officer
California Water Commission

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
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cc: The Honorable Diane Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mark W. Cowin, Director
Kasey Schimke, Deputy Director