



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CalMutuals President Jim Byerrum Praises Water Bond Signed By Governor Brown: “...a water bond that is for once, relevant and helpful to California's small water systems”

August 14, 2014, Fullerton, California – Jim Byerrum, President and Chairman of the Board of the California Association of Mutual Water Companies is issuing the following statement about the \$7.5 billion Water Bond signed by Governor Jerry Brown for placement in the November 2014 ballot after it was approved by the state legislature:

“We would like to congratulate and thank Governor Jerry Brown, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and Senate President Pro-Tem Daryl Steinberg and members of the California State Legislature for a water bond that is for once, relevant and helpful to California's small water systems.

Millions of Californians are served by not for profit mutual water companies and other types of small community water systems that were not eligible for significant portions of past bonds. This one is different because it is helpful in ways that can also help alleviate the state's drought condition.

For example, people who live in disadvantaged communities are not water wasters. Most of the water losses in those communities take place underneath streets where old water pipelines are in need of replacement.

The bond signed by the Governor, if approved by the voters, can conserve water by helping small systems replace old infrastructure. Most meaningful is eligibility for funding that can help small systems comply with tough new California water quality regulations. While the funding isn't enough to fully address the burdens imposed by water quality standards for hexavalent chromium, arsenic, nitrates and other contaminants that small and poor communities can't afford to treat, this bond and this precedent represent great progress,” stated Byerrum.”

The California Association of Mutual Water Companies was founded in 2013 to give voice to over 500 mutual water companies that provide water to approximately 1.2 million Californians, on legislation and regulations that affect them. As not for profit corporations, mutual water companies vary in size serving a few families in remote areas of the state to entire cities providing drinking water and recycled water in key areas of the state.

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