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Contact: Kathryn Phillips, (916) 557-1100 x 102 (desk), (916) 893-8494 (mobile)

Sierra Club California Praises Governor's State Water Board Appointments

SACRAMENTO—Governor Jerry Brown announced appointment today of two new members of the State Water Resources Control Board to fill vacant seats on the five-member body.

Felicia Marcus, western director of the Natural Resources Defense Council, will fill the seat designated for an attorney. Steven Moore, a civil and sanitary engineer, will fill the seat designated for an engineer.

“We're glad that Governor Brown filled these seats as the water board moves to complete important work on water quality flow standards for the Delta, expanding the use of recycled water, and protecting wetlands.” said Jim Metropulos, senior advocate for Sierra Club California. “California needs a fully appointed water board to protect our water quality.”

The State Water Resources Control Board is a regulatory body responsible for overseeing water allocations to various entities and water quality. Its mission is to “preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.” Its five-member board has designated seats for a professional engineer, a civil engineer, a water quality expert, an attorney/water rights expert, and a member of the public. The members serve in full-time salaried positions for four-year terms.

“California's water policy has a raft of stakeholders with different views. Board members need to be able to deal fairly with all of those stakeholders,” said Kathryn Phillips, director of Sierra Club California. “I've known Felicia since she was a young attorney in Los Angeles working to protect the Santa Monica Bay. She demonstrated a gift, then, for finding solutions and bringing disparate sides to agreement. I know she'll be able to bring that talent to work to help the board meet its mission.”

“Steve Moore also has an excellent reputation for strong technical knowledge, high ethics and great fairness,” Phillips said. “We look forward to working with them both.”

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Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the Sierra Club's 13 chapters and more than 170,000 members and activists in California.