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Legislation to Create New Water District in Santa Clarita Valley Passes First Committee

March 28, 2017 (Santa Clarita, Calif) -- Maria Gutzeit and Bob DiPrimio, presidents of Newhall County Water District and Castaic Lake Water Agency respectively, issued the following statement on today's passage of SB 634 (Wilk) – the Santa Clarita Valley Water District Act – out of the California Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee:

“Unified water management in the Santa Clarita Valley will result in lower costs, stronger local water reliability, better watershed planning, and a more customer-focused approach to water governance. SB 634 (Wilk) is the pathway to achieve these goals and we’re pleased that the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee passed the bill at today’s hearing.”

“The committee’s support sent the message that modernized, unified water governance is the right approach for the Santa Clarita Valley and the local watershed. But it’s just the first step of the legislative process and there’s still work left to do. We now look forward to working with Senator Wilk and the California Legislature on making this an even stronger proposal for the region.”

The Santa Clarita Valley Water District Act (SB 634, Wilk) is the product of two years of negotiations and public outreach led by CLWA and NCWD to unify water governance in the region. It would create a new district out of the existing service areas of the two agencies. A comprehensive economics and efficiencies study found that the new district would generate \$14 million of savings in its first 10 years, create a new, more accessible governance structure, enhance environmental and watershed protections, and lead to stronger local water reliability, including the development of recycled water. More information can be found at www.YourSCVWater.com.

