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**Dear Editor in chief,**

**May 15, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript titled “Identifying regime transitions for water governance at a basin scale” We appreciate the constructive feedback provided by the reviewers and believe that our revised manuscript more effectively addresses their concerns.

I’m sorry it took us so long to go back, but as you can see, we’ve added a lot of content and graphics to the new version in an effort to respond to all the concerns of reviewers and editors. We also took the time to try to contact the team that authored the data. After learning that the data in the text could not be updated to the latest year for a short time, we supplement analysis using other data sources in an effort to enhance the robustness of the results. In response to the reviewers’ feedback, we also restructured the introduction and discussion sections to provide a more supportive and solid content of the results.

We believe that these revisions have significantly improved the quality and value of our manuscript, and we hope that you will find it suitable for publication in *Water Resources Research*. We are confident that our study makes a valuable contribution to the understanding of water governance in China and beyond.

The revised manuscript includes the main body of text with 4423 words and 4 figures; the supporting information with 4 sections has 9 supporting figures and 1 supporting tables. Furthermore, we declare no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thanks for your time. We appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely,

**Shuai Wang** (On behalf of the author team)

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