

WATER REUSE

CALIFORNIA



Monterey One Water
Providing Cooperative Water Solutions



SAN ELIJO

JOINT POWERS
AUTHORITY



Los Angeles
Department of
Water & Power



Santa Margarita
Water District



May 6, 2020

Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Rm. 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3256 (Garcia): Request for \$750 million - \$1 billion in Climate Resilience Bond Stand-Alone Water Recycling Funding

Dear Chair Friedman,

WateReuse California (WRCA) and the undersigned agencies strongly urge inclusion of \$750 million to \$1 billion in grants and low interest loans for water recycling as a stand-alone program to be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in AB 3256 (E. Garcia), or any bond/stimulus measure that the Assembly acts upon. California has a long list of planned and shovel ready water recycling projects that will help drought proof the state while providing immediate economic stimulus and job creation.

There is currently a waiting list of water recycling projects at the SWRCB totaling \$3 billion, and a recent WRCA survey found that more than \$10 billion in planned reuse projects are in various stages of planning and will need funding. These projects will help stimulate the California economy while creating enough water for four million households by 2035.

Providing funding for water recycling is consistent with the Administration's Draft Water Resilience Portfolio recommendations, which correctly identified that "recycled water is a sustainable, nearly drought-proof supply when used efficiently, and the total volume of water California recycles today could triple in the next decade." To meet state goals of reusing 2.5 million acre-feet of water in the next decade, funding is needed.

We are very supportive of the current water recycling program administered by the SWRCB. For over 20 years, the SWRCB has successfully administered the program, which is a combination of grants AND loans. The loan program helps create an ongoing funding source through repayment. The SWRCB was able to administer \$650 million from Prop 1 within one year of legislative appropriation. The program works, leverages the funding with a combination of grants and loans, and can get the funding out the door quickly.

Based on the demonstrated value and need for recycled water, we respectfully request inclusion of \$750 million to \$1 billion in a stand-alone program for recycled water to continue to be administered by the SWRCB. As mentioned above, there is a waiting list of recycled water projects, many shovel-ready, that can put Californians to work. We strongly urge the inclusion of recycled water funding as a tool for economic stimulus.

Please don't hesitate to contact WateReuse California Managing Director, Jennifer West (jwest@watereuse.org), if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

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Carpinteria Valley Water District

Daniel McIntyre, PE
General Manager
Dublin San Ramon Service District

Paul D. Jones II, P.E.
General Manager
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Greg Thomas
General Manager
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Steve Wagner, P.E.
General Manager
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Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E.
General Manager
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Paul Cook
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Orange County Water District

Jose Martinez
General Manager
Otay Water District

Allen Carlisle
CEO/General Manager
Padre Dame Municipal Water District

Adrian Fine
Mayor
City of Palo Alto

Todd Corbin
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Craig Miller
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

cc: Assemblymember Heath Flora, Vice Chair Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Michael Jarred, Senior Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia