

California Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



March 13, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Groundwater Remediation Funding

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued leadership on the development of a comprehensive water bond that addresses California's most critical water needs. We understand the difficulty you must have in weighing various priorities throughout the state and finding a balance amongst the competing needs.

We have reviewed the most recent versions of all bond related measures introduced this legislative session and remain concerned that none of the potential bonds adequately address the state's groundwater remediation and sustainability needs. Unlike SB X7 2 (Cogdill, 2009) which is slated for the ballot this November, none of the current water bond bills contain a separate dedicated chapter for cleaning up groundwater that serves as a drinking water source and falls far short of the \$1 billion available in the current bond. By forcing groundwater cleanup projects to compete in much broader funding pots, such as with above ground or groundwater storage, it significantly diminishes the likelihood of funding availability.


Restoring and protecting Southern California's local groundwater is of critical importance to us. As imported supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), the Colorado River, and the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains face shortage conditions and continuing environmental challenges, creating greater regional self-reliance becomes that much more important. Key to that self-reliance is a healthy and sustainable groundwater basin. In the City of Los Angeles alone, local groundwater provides approximately 11 percent of the City's total water supply and has provided up to 30 percent of total supply in drought years.

However, historical contamination has increasingly limited the availability of groundwater from the San Fernando Basin and threatens the future use of the basin as a whole, within the next five to ten years, if the contamination is not cleaned up. This is why the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor have made this one of its priorities for the water bond.

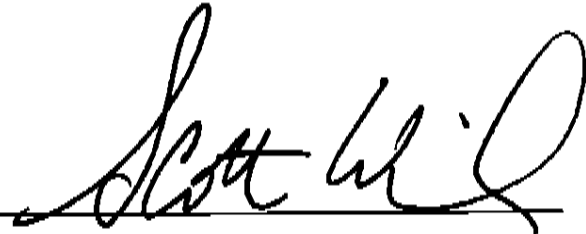
The San Fernando groundwater basin is the cornerstone of the City of Los Angeles' future local supply development program. Plans to increase local supplies through the use of recycled water and stormwater capture are all dependent on cleaning up the groundwater basin. Without a healthy basin, the remaining local supply reliability projects will not be feasible. The needs in the San Fernando Valley basin alone approach \$900 million. While we don't envision the bond covering all of these costs, the significant need in this region warrants additional dedicated resources in the bond.

Groundwater clean-up funding will be a critical component of water agencies' efforts to address historical and legacy groundwater contamination, while providing a safe and sustainable drinking water supply. For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request, any potential water bond to include a separate dedicated chapter for groundwater clean-up and adequate funding to address crucial groundwater sustainability projects. We stand ready to work with you on addressing this critical need.

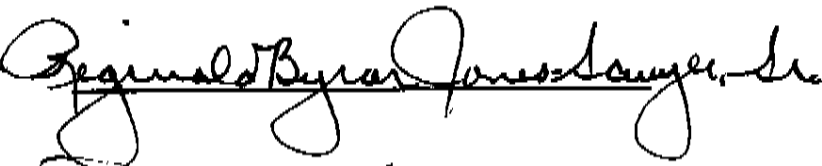
Sincerely,



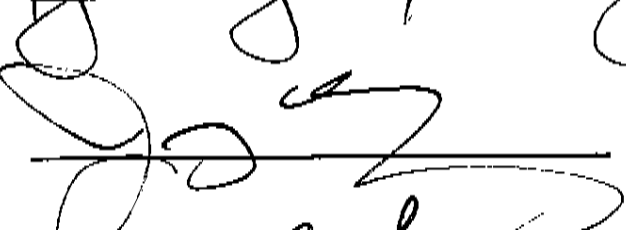
Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

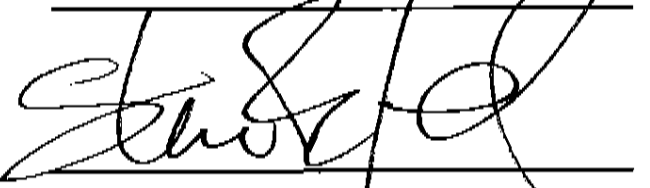




















Anthony Rendón

CC: John A. Pérez, Speaker of the State Assembly
Toni Atkins, Assembly Majority Floor Leader

Signatures listed:

Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra

Assembly Member Matt Dababneh

Assembly Member Steven Bradford

Assembly Member Richard Bloom

Assembly Member Scott Wilk

Assembly Member Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez

Senator Carol Liu

Assembly Member Isadore, Hall III

Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi