



February 25, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1331 --- SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rendon:

I am writing on behalf of WaterReuse California in support of AB 1331, the Clean and Safe Drinking Water Act of 2014.

As we deal with the most severe drought in a generation, AB 1331 recognizes the value of water recycling as a near term action to provide drought relief and a long term plan to capture the 3.5 million acre-feet of recyclable water discharged to the ocean each year. In response to the Governor's drought declaration our organization surveyed agencies statewide and identified 44 projects in need of state funding assistance that are permitted and "shovel ready." Upon voter approval, at least 220,000 acre feet of new water can be flowing in 2-3 years.

The Legislature's consideration of current year funding for drought relief is a welcome first step but your bill takes state support to the next level. Your leadership is very much appreciated. By setting up a competitive program with separate funding, AB 1331 recognizes the value of recycling and will restart a valuable legacy of targeted funding in bonds placed on the ballot by the Legislature in 1978, 1984, 1988, 1996 and 2000.

We are suggesting several minor amendments that will ensure robust implementation similar to the existing program administered by the State Water Resources Control Board; define eligible projects; maintain competitive, geographic allocation and provide adequate grants and loans. Water recycling should also remain eligible for regional funding but the need is so great and the benefits so large, it is critical to create a separate, competitive funding stream for recycling.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Smith".

David W. Smith, PhD
Managing Director

Recycling Water to Meet the World's Needs

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AB 1331 As Amended in the Senate January 7, 2014

CHAPTER 7. Climate Change Preparedness for Regional Water Security

79746.

Of the funds authorized by Section 79740, the sum of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature from the fund, for grants and loans for water recycling and advanced treatment technology projects, including all of the following:

(a) Water recycling projects. including but not limited to treatment, storage, conveyance and distribution facilities for potable and non-potable recycling projects.

(b) Contaminant and salt removal projects, including, but not limited to, groundwater and seawater desalination.

(c) Dedicated distribution infrastructure to serve for recycled water and residential, agricultural and industrial end-user retrofit projects to allow use of recycled water.

(d) Pilot projects for new salt and contaminant removal technology.

(e) Groundwater recharge infrastructure related to recycled water.

(f) Technical assistance and grant writing assistance for disadvantaged communities.

(g) For projects funded pursuant to this section, at least a 50 percent local cost share shall be required. That cost share may be suspended or reduced for disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas.

(h) Projects funded pursuant to this section shall be selected on a competitive basis, considering all of the following criteria:

(1) Water supply reliability improvement.

(2) Water quality and ecosystem benefits related to decreased reliance on diversions from the Delta or in-stream flows.

(3) Public health benefits from improved drinking water quality.

(4) Cost effectiveness

(5) Energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission impacts.

(6) Reasonable geographic allocation to eligible projects throughout the state that contribute to attainment of the statewide recycled water goal as established in Water Code Section 13577.

(i) For the purposes of this section, *eligible projects shall implement* a plan or strategy by one or more ~~regional~~ water agencies *or integrated regional water management groups* to incorporate water recycling into the region's water supplies ~~shall satisfy the requirements for an integrated regional water management plan, consistent with Part 2.2 (commencing with Section 10530) of Division 6.~~

(j) For purposes of this section, competitive programs shall be implemented consistent with water recycling programs administered pursuant to Water Code Section 79140 and 79141.

(k) Upon appropriation by the legislature, 50 percent of the monies available pursuant to 79746 shall be allocated for grants and 50 percent shall be allocated for a low-interest loan program.