



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 2, 2015

Assemblymember Adam Gray
California State Capital
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 1242 (Gray)

Dear Assemblymember Gray:

This letter is to inform you that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors fully supports your Assembly Bill 1242 legislation as written.

As you are well aware, Stanislaus County has been diligently working on groundwater management issues in our region, in particular as it relates to compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee (WAC), consisting of a broad cross-section of urban, agricultural, industrial, and private landowner interests, has been deeply engaged in this process.

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors agrees that the only means by which sustainable groundwater management can be achieved in our region is through the wise and proper use of surface water supplies from the foothill storage reservoirs on the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced rivers. The two simply go hand-in-glove...the one cannot exist without the other. The WAC has already adopted a strong support position regarding AB 647 (Eggman) that would recognize groundwater recharge as a beneficial use under State Law.

For the past two years, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) has been considering a proposal to develop new, increased flow requirements on the Tuolumne, Merced, and Stanislaus rivers. The proposed plan would require an additional 350,000 acre feet of water annually to be diverted from the rivers to flow out of our region. These increased flows would no longer be made available for local reasonable and beneficial use, which would particularly impact aquifer recharge and achieving and maintaining sustainable groundwater management.

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Your legislation, AB 1242, would require the Water Board, when adopting or approving a water quality control plan, to consider impacts on groundwater basins and prohibit the Board from adopting such plans without providing mitigation measures that would reduce the significant adverse impacts to our local economy. This is sound and well-contemplated water policy which we fully support.

On behalf of my County Board of Supervisor colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to share our strong support for your AB 1242 legislation.

Cordially,



Terrance Withrow, Chairman
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

cc: Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
Stan Risen, Stanislaus County, Chief Executive Officer
Adam Capper
Peterson Consulting
File