



April 13, 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 Los Banos City Council fully supports your Assembly Bill 1242 legislation as written.

The Los Banos City Council 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.

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.

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 the Los Banos City Council, thank you for the opportunity to share our strong support for your AB 1242 legislation.

Cordially,

Michael Villalta, Mayor of Los Banos  
For the Los Banos City Council