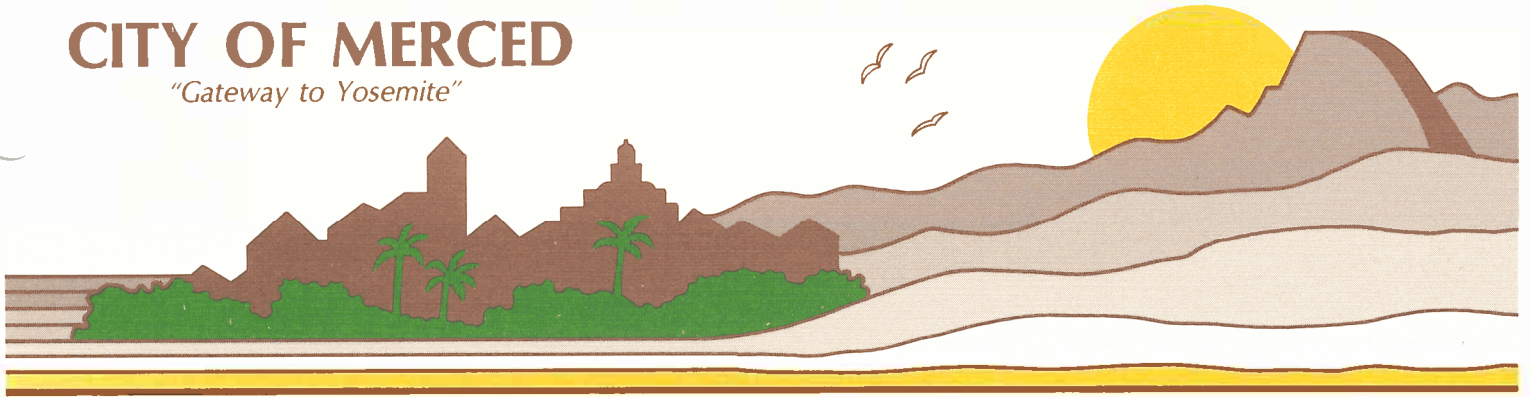


CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



Office of the Mayor

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April 6, 2015

Honorable Assembly Member Adam Gray
State Capitol, P. O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0021

RE: AB 1242 Water quality: Impacts on groundwater basins: Mitigation measures.
NOTICE OF SUPPORT

Honorable Assembly Member Adam Gray:

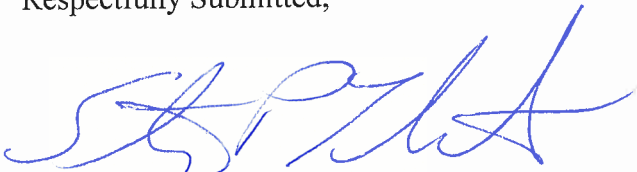
The City of Merced is extremely concerned about the State Water Resources Control Board's plan that could undermine regional groundwater sustainability efforts. We believe Assembly Bill 1242 would ensure that the Board provides sufficient mitigation of impacts to new water quality control plans.

Last year, California adopted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act to grant local communities the authority to establish regional groundwater sustainability plans. As communities develop those measures, the State Water Resources Control Board now has the ability to undermine local efforts to mitigate overdraft and manage groundwater.

The State Water Resources Control Board plans to divert over 350,000 acre-feet of water from irrigation each year during months when water is needed most for agricultural crops and processing. As a result, the staggering increase in the unimpaired flows from vital water resources would devastate the economies and water basins of California's Central Valley. Our farming community is already ravaged by the effects of the prolonged drought, taking more water from our agriculture would drive some farmers to bankruptcy.

On behalf of the City of Merced we support AB 1242, which would simultaneously restore local government's ability to develop groundwater sustainability plans while requiring the State Water Resources Control Board to consider the adverse impacts of their efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stanley P. Thurston

Mayor