



May 17, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President pro Tempore  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Senate Budget Plan on Drought, Safe Drinking Water, Water Supply Reliability, and  
Ratepayer Assistance - **SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom, President pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we strongly urge the Legislature to include the *Senate Budget Plan on Drought, Safe Drinking Water, Water Supply Reliability, and Ratepayer Assistance* in the final budget. This much-needed funding package would use one-time funds to provide over \$2.4 billion to bolster projects and programs addressing drought resiliency and includes \$1 billion in funding to help Californians pay their unpaid water, wastewater and electric bills. The package would mitigate the impacts of the drought and help struggling households and the state as whole recover from the pandemic's economic and social impacts.

As California enters another drought, it is imperative that the state take action to address the impacts, both the immediate needs and projects that can help build drought resiliency for this and future droughts. The Senate's proposal includes funding for immediate community assistance, emergency drought water-use efficiency, sustainable groundwater management, resilient water infrastructure projects, recycled water, stormwater, protections for fish and wildlife, water quality, water data and forecast improvement. Additionally, it will help address the staggering amount of COVID-19-related past due water, wastewater, and electric bills. These mounting arrearages are negatively impacting households across the state, and they are continuing to grow.

The Senate's Budget Plan provides a sustainable path forward for the state's water resources and relief for the customers of community water systems, wastewater treatment works and publicly owned electric utilities. We appreciate the Senate's leadership in advancing this proposal and strongly urge that it be included in the final budget agreement.

We are also encouraged that Governor Newsom recognizes that drought resiliency and utility debt assistance are keys to California's recovery. The Governor recently proposed significant investment in these areas, and we applaud those efforts — especially the additional funding for land subsidence, infrastructure, and \$2 billion in water and electric bill assistance. We think much of the Governor's plan is promising, and it could complement and even bolster the Senate's proposal. If you would like more information or to discuss this further, please contact Danielle Blacet-Hyden with CMUA at 916-847-8444 or [dblacet@cmua.org](mailto:dblacet@cmua.org).

Sincerely,

California Municipal Utilities Association  
California Special Districts Association  
Association of California Water Agencies

California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
California Water Association  
Southern California Public Power Authority

Southern California Water Coalition	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Turlock Irrigation District	Modesto Irrigation District
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	City of Roseville
San Diego County Water Authority	City of Burbank Water and Power
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	City of Riverside Public Utilities
Long Beach Water Department	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Municipal Water District of Orange County	Valley Center Municipal Water District
Mesa Water District	Indian Wells Valley Water District
City of Pasadena Water and Power	Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District
Western Municipal Water District	Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District
Rancho Water	San Juan Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District	Foothill Municipal Water District
Truckee Donner Public Utility District	Tuolumne Utilities District
City of Colton	Walnut Valley Water District
East Valley Water District	Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District
Eastern Municipal Water District	Semitropic Water District
Camrosa Water District	San Gabriel County Water District
City of Sacramento Department of Utilities	Zone 7 Water Agency
Imperial Irrigation District	Cucamonga Valley Water District
City of Redding Electric Utility	Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District
City of Corona Department of Water and Power	Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
Santa Margarita Water District	
City of Banning Electric Utility	

cc: The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Subcommittee on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation  
Honorable Members of the Senate and Assembly  
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance