

MONTEREY COUNTY

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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March 12, 2019

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #2
Room 4085 – State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3
Room 2003 – State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Trailer Bill: Safe and Affordable Drinking Water - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Wieckowski and Assemblymember Bloom,


On behalf of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, I write to offer our strong support for the budget trailer bill which would establish the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and all money would be appropriated to the State Water Board to provide a source of funding to secure access to safe drinking water for all Californians. The funding mechanisms would include: 1) agricultural fees in the context of nitrate contamination in groundwater; and 2) a State tax collected by local water agencies on drinking water.

The County of Monterey is aware of multiple water systems in the Salinas Valley serving communities currently out of compliance with drinking water standards, some of which have been unable to provide safe drinking water for multiple years. Drinking water contaminants are dangerous and can cause a variety of both short and long-term health effects, with children and the elderly at greatest risk.

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund will create a multi-disciplinary technical assistance program at the State Water Resources Control Board that would focus entirely on the needs of small disadvantaged communities. Revenue for the program would be collected from agriculture and public water users across the State. The funding would be used to assist well users with exceedances of primary drinking water standards where the cost of treatment or new sources would otherwise make the rates for water service unaffordable and for costs for which there are no other currently existing sources of funding available.

The County of Monterey supports passage of this budget trailer bill to ensure safe drinking water for all Californians. Please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Jennifer Capitolo of Nossaman LLP at jcapitolo@nossaman.com or 916-930-7706, if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc Senator Bill Monning
Senator Anna Caballero
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3
Susan Chan, Consultant, Assembly Budget
Joanne Roy, Consultant, Senate Budget
California State Association of Counties