

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 217 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water for All Act. - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your bill, AB 217 which will provide urgently needed sustainable, permanent funding for safe drinking water to address California's statewide drinking water crisis and finally guarantee that all California children, families and communities can have access to safe and affordable drinking water.

In 2012, California became the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water. The state declared, "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." In 2018, the County of Monterey followed and became the first County in the nation to recognize the human right to safe and affordable drinking water through an adopted resolution that requires County departments to consider this right when implementing policies and regulations pertinent to the use of water.

However, since then, too little progress has been made to deliver safe water to vulnerable urban and rural communities across California -- with many California families facing dangerous exposure to toxic water as a result.

AB 217 addresses unique needs of rural communities like the County of Monterey by, for example, providing funding for low-income domestic well owners and State Small water systems impacted by contaminated water that for too long have been left without any meaningful help. Additionally, AB 217 provides for a flexible funding program that not only will address California's current drinking water crisis but will also be adaptable to respond to future stressors like climate change and sea water intrusion, both of which are important issues in the County of Monterey.

We are pleased to support AB 217 and thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy advisors, Jennifer Capitolo or Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

John M. Phillips
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Monning
Senator Anna Caballero
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Assemblymember Robert Rivas
California State Association of Counties

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