



# County of Monterey

## Board of Supervisors

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February 10, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Benjamin Allen  
Chair, Senate Budget Sub 2  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett  
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub 4  
1021 O Street, Room 4710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Water Plan Budget Request – SB 72 (Caballero)**

Dear Honorable Chairs:

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write in support of a budget allocation for SB 72 (Caballero). Monterey County takes a proactive approach to managing its water resources and addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

SB 72 (Caballero), which has been introduced in the 2025-2026 legislative session, would modernize the California Water Plan to reflect California's new climate reality and establish long-term water supply targets that will ensure sufficient, high quality for all of California's needs. Major revisions to the Water Plan have not been made for at least 20 years. During those same twenty years, extreme weather resulting from climate change has profoundly impacted the water supply in the state. SB 72 is a logical and timely first step in securing California's water future amidst increasingly devastating climate change events.

We support Senator Caballero's request that the 2025-26 Budget include \$6.8 million in ongoing funds for 5 years and \$3.4 million ongoing for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to update and modernize the California Water Plan and develop long-term targets for the state's future water supply, in support of SB 72.

Without clearly defined water supply targets and strategic planning to achieve them, the state will continue to experience devastating water shortages regionally. Adequate funding for DWR to update and modernize the California Water Plan to set water supply targets will help us avoid water scarcity and ensure a drought-proof future.

For the above reasons, County of Monterey requests that the 2025-26 Budget include funds to support SB 72. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

**Chris M. Lopez, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors



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cc: The Honorable Senator Anna Caballero (Author)  
The Honorable John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)