



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Rubio:

Subject: Support for SB230 State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern

The San Gabriel Valley Water Association (the "Association") is submitting this letter in support of SB230 which will create transparency and assist our member agencies in maintaining regulatory compliance. The Association is a voluntary organization representing cities, investor-owned utilities, water districts, and mutual water companies in the San Gabriel Valley. Together, we provide water to two-million of the state's residents.

SB230 is a bill that requires the state to assemble a Science Advisory Panel as part of the Constituents of Emerging Concern Program, and establish a financial assistance pathway for systems that will be strained by testing and treating requirements. One of the largest challenges for many SGVWA member agencies and water suppliers statewide is keeping up with new contaminant testing and remediation regulations. The bill would remove some uncertainty from the process with the panel researching and driving regulatory updates and the State Water Resources Control Board's enhanced ability to offer financial assistance. SB230 would ensure the continuance of safe drinking water by taking action on issues prioritized by a dedicated team, while simultaneously allowing a more manageable process for water systems, especially those with limited technical, managerial and financial resources.

In addition to potential organizational and financial impacts, water suppliers and other stakeholders would benefit greatly from the public transparency provisions in the bill that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to maintain a website related to the program with relevant research, reports, and data available to the public. These entities are very interested in understanding which requirements for ensuring safe drinking water will impact their water systems, and regularly attend meetings of the SWRCB focused on these issues. Meetings such as these are helpful resources that allow system operators to prepare themselves for the future, so a website with timely information on the panel's work on new contaminant solutions would be a major asset for helping maintain water system health and function statewide.

System operators want to make sure that their water is as safe as possible, but taking the appropriate steps to ensure that it remains that way can be difficult without assistance. SB230's passage would empower water systems of all types to succeed in responding to upcoming regulatory changes relating to water quality and contaminants while reducing inequity among systems and strengthening the water industry's ability to respond to new challenges in a timely and informed manner.

Sincerely yours,

Greg Galindo
San Gabriel Valley Water Association
President