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SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WATER ASSOCIATION

April 26, 2021

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The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
 Chair, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks & Wildlife
 State Capitol, Room 4140
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1434 (Friedman) – Indoor Residential Water Use Standards - OPPOSE

Dear Chair Garcia:

On behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Water Association, I am writing to respectfully Oppose AB 1434, which would arbitrarily change the indoor water use standards established by AB 1668 (Friedman, 2018). The San Gabriel Water Association's 60 members provide drinking water to 2 million residents in 31 cities through special districts, municipal utilities, investor-owned utilities, and not-for-profit mutual water companies.

AB1434 proposes to incrementally lower the indoor water use standard starting in January 1, 2023 to reach a standard of 40 gallons per capita daily (GPCD) starting in 2030. Further the bill removes the requirement for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), to submit a report (DWR Report) on the result of its indoor water use studies and make recommendations regarding the existing standards.

AB 1668 and SB 606 (Hertzberg, 2018) were a package of bills that implemented new water use efficiency standards, of which one part is the indoor water use standard this bill proposes to change. The provisions in these two bills were closely negotiated by stakeholders in the water community as well as members of the Legislature and environmental community. An important component of those negotiations was the requirement for DWR to conduct studies to identify a standard for indoor residential water use that reflects best practices.

The DWR Report was due January 1, 2021 but has not yet been made public. It is anticipated, based on the existing statutory requirements, that any forthcoming report or set of recommendations would be in draft form, because it is required by law to be finalized in collaboration with and input from stakeholders. Stakeholders have not yet seen any draft study results or recommendations from DWR or the State Water Board.

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia

April 26, 2021

Page 2

The San Gabriel Valley Water Association supports evidence-based decision making, and this bill does not rely on evidence because the DWR Report has not yet been finalized or released to the public. This bill is premature and nullifies the agreements that were made when AB 1668 and SB 606 were passed and signed into law. Changes to the indoor water use standards should not even be considered prior to the final DWR Report being released. The new indoor use standards in this bill are not based on robust findings and an analysis of the benefits and impacts of how the changing standard will impact water and wastewater management, including potable water use, wastewater, recycling and reuse systems, infrastructure, operations, and supplies.

For these reasons, the San Gabriel Valley Water Association has serious concerns about this bill and respectfully requests your "No" vote.

Sincerely,



Greg Galindo

President

San Gabriel Valley Water Association

cc: The Honorable Laura Friedman