



June 28, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
 Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
 1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
 Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 1218 (Newman): Emergency Water Supplies - Support**

Dear Chair Wicks:

We, the undersigned coalition of statewide associations, cities, water suppliers, business organizations, and regional stakeholders, are writing to express our support for SB 1218

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(Newman), which would enact a state policy to encourage greater investment in and development of emergency water supplies across the state.

California has always had a climate that cycles between periods of large amounts of precipitation and times of drought. With climate change, however, we are experiencing greater weather whiplash. As the state sees more rainfall and less snow, earlier snowmelt, more intense rain events, aridification, and increasingly more frequent droughts, the state should support every responsible tool to enhance water resilience.

While adherence to feasible water use efficiency standards will continue to play an important role in the face of climate change, water resilience for the future will also require California to maximize various innovative approaches to ensure sufficient water for the state's ecosystem, urban, and agriculture needs in times of shortage.

The development of emergency water supplies— a water supply that has been developed by a water supplier to enhance its water supply reliability during times of drought or unplanned service or supply disruption, and is a supply in addition to the baseline water supplies that the agency draws upon during non-shortage times to meet water demands within its service area— is one tool that can aid the state in mitigating the impacts of more frequent droughts. Unfortunately, few water suppliers have made the investment in emergency supplies because the state has not formally recognized them.

SB 1218 seeks to remedy this by enacting a policy in the Water Code that recognizes emergency water supplies, encourages their development, and supports their use during times of drought or unplanned service or supply disruption. Importantly, SB 1218, as amended, clarifies that there will be no fiscal impact and the state will not be obligated to provide funding for the development of emergency water supplies. Water suppliers will be responsible for planning and investing in emergency water supplies, in so doing independently requiring them to allocate their own funding for the development of emergency water supplies.

Our coalition believes that such a policy will encourage greater investment in and development of emergency supplies— making communities more resilient, better able to withstand drought and flood, and more prepared to provide safe and reliable water supplies to residents, business, and the environment.

For these reasons, we strongly support SB 1218 and urge you and your colleagues to vote “Aye” on this important measure. Please feel free to contact Christine Compton with the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) at (949) 453-5338 or IRWD's Sacramento advocate Alfredo Arredondo at (805) 598-9350 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kris Murray  
Executive Director  
Association of California Cities – Orange  
County (ACC-OC)

Julia Bishop Hall  
Legislative Relations Manager  
Association of California Water Agencies

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Danielle Blacet  
Deputy Executive Director  
California Municipal Utilities Association

Greg Thomas  
General Manager  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Aaron Avery  
Director of State Legislative Affairs  
California Special Districts Association

Dave Coffaro  
Interim CEO  
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce

Samuel K. Kim, P.E.  
Public Works Deputy Director  
City of Garden Grove

Shivaji Deshmukh , P.E.  
General Manager  
Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Mark Vukojevic  
Utilities Director  
City of Newport Beach Utilities Department

Paul A. Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Bruce Houdesheldt  
Mayor  
City of Roseville

Keith Van Der Maaten  
General Manager  
Laguna Beach County Water District

Katie Valenzuela  
Councilmember, District 4, Chair, Law and  
Legislation Committee  
City of Sacramento

Jeremy Wolf  
Legislative Program Manager  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

John Bosler, P.E.  
General Manager  
Cucamonga Valley Water District

Harvey De La Torre  
General Manager  
Municipal Water District of Orange County

David Youngblood, P.E.  
General Manager  
East Orange County Water District

Ivy Brittain  
Legislative Affairs Director  
Northern California Water Association

Joe Mouawad, P.E.  
General Manager  
Eastern Municipal Water District

Kim Thorner  
General Manager  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Dennis P. Cafferty, P.E.  
General Manager  
El Toro Water District

Jeff Ball  
CEO  
Orange County Business Council

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Jason Martin  
Interim General Manager  
Rancho Water

Charley Wilson  
Executive Director  
Southern California Water Coalition

James Peifer  
Executive Director  
Regional Water Authority

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Trent Taylor  
Water Resources Manager  
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Fernando Paludi  
General Manager  
Trabuco Canyon Water District

Robert Grantham  
General Manager  
Santa Margarita Water District

Michelle Reimers  
General Manager  
Turlock Irrigation District

Rick Shintaku  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District

Bart Broome  
Assistant Officer for State Government  
Relations  
Valley Water

Victoria Hernandez  
Executive Director  
South Orange County Economic Coalition

Craig Miller  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

cc: The Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Josh Newman, California State Senate, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
Nikita Koraddi, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
Brent Finkel, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus