



April 5, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 366 – The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets

Dear Senator Caballero,

The South Orange County Economic Coalition, the leading voice of business in our region, is pleased to voice its support for Senate Bill 366 and its efforts related to the California Water Plan and long-term water supply targets.

The scarcity of water in California threatens not only its agricultural industries, but also the economic health of entire regions of the state. This is felt far beyond just south Orange County. As you are well aware, antiquated state policies are to blame for much of this current water crisis. Despite the fact that nearly 40 million people now call California home, our system of reservoirs and aqueducts was designed for a population much smaller. Our water systems are now in desperate need of investment and improved infrastructure.

While the state has experienced historic levels of rainfall this year, it's an exception to a much larger trend—California is experiencing the driest period it's had in over a millennium. The first four months of 2022 were the driest on record in the state's history. The statewide precipitation of 3.25 inches during that time equated to only about one-fifth of its already-low seasonal average. Since rainfall tends to be scarce, we need to develop smarter and more abundant systems for collecting and keeping the rain that does fall.

We believe that this bill represents a step in the right direction towards making more water available for more Californians.

SB-366 will modernize the California Water Plan statutes, including the establishment of long-term water supply targets that the state can work to achieve along with local and regional water agencies, wastewater service providers, and other stakeholders.

Thank you for authoring this critical piece of legislation. We look forward to seeing it implemented. Please contact me at victoria@economiccoalition.com with any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Victoria Hernandez
Executive Director
South Orange County Economic Coalition

