



April 7, 2026

The Honorable Diane Papan
Chair, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2739: The California Water Affordability and Stabilization Act of 2026 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Papan:

We, the undersigned coalition of statewide associations, cities, water suppliers, business organizations, and regional stakeholders are writing to express our support for AB 2739 (Soria), which would establish the California Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act of 2026.

Water affordability and system stability are increasingly interconnected challenges across California. Rising costs associated with infrastructure modernization, climate resilience, regulatory compliance, and energy continue to place pressure on water systems and the communities they serve, particularly for households living at or near poverty.

The California Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act proposes a lasting solution by addressing affordability at the household, system, and community levels. The Act advances a sustainable funding solution to support a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)

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program for water while also supporting strategic investments that stabilize water systems and help reduce cost pressures before they are passed on to ratepayers.

The Act's proposed funding structure provides predictable, long-term resources without placing new burdens on local governments or water ratepayers. This approach strengthens water planning, and enhances statewide resilience while preserving local decision-making. Further, we support the commitment of the sponsors of the Act to create a viable, sustainable funding source that **does not include any new taxes or fees**.

The California Water Affordability and System Stabilization Act represents an important step forward in advancing the Human Right to Water by supporting vulnerable households and strengthening the public water systems that serve communities across the state.

For the reasons stated above, we strongly support AB 2739, and urge you and your colleagues to vote "Aye" on this important measure. Please feel free to contact Danielle Coats with Rancho Water at (951) 526-6961 or Christine Compton with the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) at (949) 453-5338 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kris Murray
Executive Director
Association of California Cities Orange
County

Soren Nelson
Senior Policy Advocate
Association of California Water Agencies

Kristopher M. Anderson
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

Jennifer Capitolo
Executive Director
California Water Association

Honorable Bryan Osorio (as an individual)
Delano City Council
City of Delano

Honorable Gregorio Gomez
(as an individual)
Farmersville City Council
City of Farmersville

Honorable Joe Soria (as an individual)
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Lindsay

Honorable Krisa Bernasconi
Mayor
City of Roseville

Honorable Caitly Maple
Council Member, District 5
Chair, Law & Legislation Committee
City of Sacramento

Honorable Jose Sigala (as an individual)
Tulare City Council
City of Tulare

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South Coast Water District

Craig D. Miller, P.E.
General Manager
Western Municipal Water District

cc: The Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
The Honorable Esmeralda Soria, California Assembly, 27th District
Pablo Garza, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
Brent Finkel, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus