



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Josh Newman  
 State Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
 1021 O Street, Suite 6520  
 Sacramento, CA 9581

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

Dear Senator Newman:

We, the undersigned coalition of statewide associations, cities, water suppliers, business organizations, and regional stakeholders, are writing to express our support for SB 1218 (Newman) and to thank you for authoring this important measure, which would enact a state policy to encourage and incentivize greater investment in and development of emergency water supplies across the state.

The Honorable Josh Newman  
State Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
March 13, 2024  
Page 2

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 shortage 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 shortage. Our coalition believes that such a policy will encourage and incentivize 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,

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

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

Mark Vukojevic  
Utilities Director  
City of Newport Beach Utilities Department

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

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

Greg Thomas  
General Manager  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

The Honorable Josh Newman  
State Senator, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
March 13, 2024  
Page 3

Dave Coffaro  
Interim CEO  
Greater Irvine Chamber of Commerce

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

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

Don Bunts  
Interim General Manager  
Santa Margarita Water District

Paul A. Cook  
General Manager  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Rick Shintaku  
General Manager  
South Coast Water District

Keith Van Der Maaten  
General Manager  
Laguna Beach County Water District

Victoria Hernandez  
Executive Director  
South Orange County Economic Coalition

Jeremy Wolf  
Legislative Program Manager  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Charley Wilson  
Executive Director  
Southern California Water Coalition

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

Matthew Litchfield  
General Manager  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District

Ivy Brittain  
Legislative Affairs Director  
Northern California Water Association

Fernando Paludi  
General Manager  
Trabuco Canyon Water District

Kim Thorner  
General Manager  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Michelle Reimers  
General Manager  
Turlock Irrigation District

Jeff Ball  
CEO  
Orange County Business Council

Craig Miller  
General Manager  
Western Municipal Water District

Robert S. Grantham  
General Manager  
Rancho Water