



The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4085
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 27, 2017

RE: AB 574 (Quirk) – SUPPORT, As amended June 20, 2017

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

On behalf of WateReuse California (WRCA) we ask your support for AB 574, which will help California safely maximize its water supplies through the development of regulations for potable reuse water.

First, AB 574 clarifies confusing definitions for potable reuse (highly purified recycled water used for drinking water purposes). As recently amended, these terms generally reflect the recommendations from the recent State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) report to the Legislature (“Investigation on the Feasibility of Developing Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse”).

The bill also sets a deadline in statute of 2022 for the development of regulations for “raw water augmentation”, a subcategory of Direct Potable Reuse. More time is allowed if needed research is not complete. Importantly, the recent amendments also state that before regulations are developed an expert panel must first make a finding that the regulations can be developed in a manner protective of public health based on research. This is similar to the structure of SB 918 (2010-Pavley) that set a deadline in statute for the Water Board to develop surface water augmentation regulations, but required an expert panel to first make a finding that the regulations could be safely developed based on research.

We believe the issuance of the DPR legislative report, and the report’s conclusion that it is feasible to safely develop Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) statewide regulations, are major milestones toward the development of a new drought-proof water supply for California communities. Potable reuse, including DPR and its subcategories, has the potential to provide an additional 1.1 MAF of potable water supplies per year, enough to serve more than 8 million Californians or one-fifth of the state’ population by 2020, according to a 2014 report by the WateReuse Research Foundation (now Water Environment & Reuse Foundation).

For these reasons we ask for your support for AB 574 (Quirk) as amended. Please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 496-1470 if you have questions or concerns about the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer West
Managing Director