



April 18, 2018

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5046  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

RE: **SUPPORT SB 1489 (Stern)** – California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018, as amended on April 3, 2018

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of WaterReuse California (WRCA), I write to express strong support SB 1489 (Stern), which will ensure that future bond funds for water recycling programs will be available to agencies seeking to augment drinking water supplies.

On March 6, 2018, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted regulations authorizing reservoir water augmentation. These new regulations correctly recognize recycled water used for reservoir augmentation as a valuable resource to meet California's future drinking water needs.

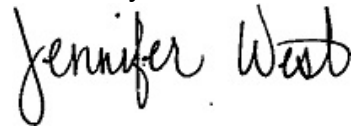
SB 5 (de Leon, 2017), now Proposition 68, was approved by the Legislature and Governor last year before the reservoir water augmentation regulations were approved by the SWRCB. The legislation not only included significant funding for recycled water projects, but also language from Proposition 13 (2000) which prohibited any of the funds to be used on projects that discharged recycled water into surface reservoirs used for drinking water. We are concerned that the language from Prop 13 could unintentionally be read to restrict Prop 68 funds as well.

SB 1489 seeks to clarify in new statute that Proposition 68, and future bonds funds for water recycling may be used to augment surface water storage used for drinking water supplies.

With respect to timing, the California Constitution requires bill must be enacted prior to the voters considering Proposition 68 on June 5 for it to be applicable to the newly proposed funding for water recycling. As a result, SB 1489 is proposed as an urgency bill.

We encourage your support of SB 1489 as this is a very important issue for WaterReuse California. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue. Please feel free to call me at (916) 669-8401 if you have questions regarding our position.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer West  
Managing Director

cc: Senator Jeff Stone, Vice Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Dennis O'Connor, Prin. Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Rep. Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Senator Henry Stern