



May 18, 2021

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
State Capitol Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room, 2026
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Water Resilience Drought Funding Package -- \$750 Million Recycled Water

Dear Pro Tem Atkins, Speaker Rendon, Chair Skinner and Chair Ting,

WaterReuse California (WRCA), strongly urges the inclusion of \$750 million for water recycling grants to be administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) into the Water Resilience Drought Funding Package included in the FY 2021/2022 state budget. **It is critical that California make a major investment in water recycling to mitigate the impacts of drought and create climate resilient sustainable water supplies.**

There are ample shovel ready projects and longer-term recycled water projects that could be completed in 2026 to warrant this level of investment. For example,

- Over \$7 billion in projects are on the SWRCB funding program list (As identified in the SWRCB [Intended Use Plan](#))
- Over \$13 billion in planned projects throughout California. (WRCA survey or projects)

The Administration's Water Resilience Portfolio highlights the importance of recycled water, noting that "recycled water is a sustainable, nearly drought-proof supply when used efficiently, and the total volume of water California recycles today could triple in the next decade." Very recently, draft regulations for Direct Potable Reuse were released, which will likely be adopted in 2023. With a regulatory framework in place, and needed funding, many planned reuse projects can move forward and greatly enhance the water supply of the state.

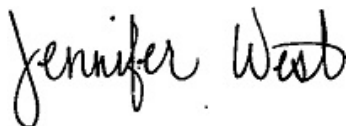
With a significant statewide investment, planned recycled water projects are expected to transform our state's water supply in the coming years. Benefits of just some of these projects include:

- 30% of the City of Los Angeles future water supply;

- 8 million gallons per day of potable reuse in Silicon Valley -- enough to supply 74,000 homes;
- 16 billion gallons per year of recycled water used for agricultural irrigation, enhancing groundwater and environmental preservation in the Sacramento region;
- 50% of the City of San Diego's water supply.

We respectfully request the inclusion of \$750 million for recycled water the Water Resilience Drought Funding Package. The waiting list of recycled water projects, many shovel-ready, that can put Californians to work and help shield Californians from the effect of drought and climate change is the perfect investment opportunity for a drought package. Thank you in advance for your consideration and please contact WateReuse California Managing Director, Jennifer West (jwest@watereuse.org) if you have any questions or need more information.

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 Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Sub 2
Senator Jim Nielsen, Senate Budget Committee Vice Chair
Assemblymember Vince Fong, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Sub 3
Members, Senate & Assembly Budget Committee
Kip Lipper, Chief Policy Advisor
Alf Brandt, Speaker's Policy Staff
Joanne Roy, Senate Budget Committee Consultant
Emilye Reeb, Senate Republican Budget Committee Consultant
Shy Forbes, Assembly Budget Committee Consultant
Kristin Kolpicke, Republican Budget Committee Consultant