



The Honorable Toni Atkins
Pro Tempore California State Senate

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly

August 13, 2021

Dear Pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon:

On behalf of the Senators and Assembly Members listed below, we respectfully request the inclusion of \$500 million in grant funds for recycled water as part of the Drought Package currently under consideration. Recycled water is a sustainable, local source of water that is nearly drought proof. With our state experiencing yet another serious drought and the impacts of climate change worsening, the time is now to make a major investment in recycled water.

We ask that these funds go towards an existing Water Board program -- the Water Recycling Funding Program -- that currently has a list of recycled water projects statewide totaling \$750 million and a longer-term waiting list of more than \$3 billion. The Water Board has proven it can expedite the delivery of these funds as the recycled water funding in Proposition 1 went out faster than almost all other water funding programs in the state.

Every region of the state has many planned large-scale water recycled projects in need of funding that can vastly stretch our traditional water supplies. These include projects for potable reuse, including groundwater recharge, reservoir augmentation and direct potable reuse (DPR). The Water Board is currently developing statewide regulations for DPR which will greatly expand the use of recycled water for drinking water purposes. Other planned projects include expanding agricultural reuse to protect the environment and limited groundwater supplies; industrial reuse; landscape irrigation and more.

While there are other worthy water supply projects that should be part of the Drought Package, we hope you will agree with us that recycled water deserves significant categorical funding to help enhance our limited water supplies statewide. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District

Henry Stern, 27th Senate District

Jose Medina, 61st Assembly District

Rosilic Ochoa Bogh, 23rd Senate District

Randy Voepel, 71st Assembly District

John Laird, 17th Senate District

Blanca E. Rubio

Blanca Rubio, 48th Assembly District

Ben Allen

Ben Allen, 26th Senate District

Brian Jones

Brian Jones, 38th Senate District