



April 18, 2022

E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
State Water Resource Control Board
1002 I street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: Commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

Subject: Comment Letter – Proposed Plan to Utilize the Allocation from the Budget Act of 2021 for the Groundwater Cleanup and Water Recycling Projects

Dear Chair Esquivel:

WaterReuse California (WRCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Plan to Utilize the Allocation from the Budget Act of 2021 for the Groundwater Cleanup and Recycled Water Projects prepared by the Division of Financial Assistance. WRCA and its member agencies are engaged in maximizing the safe, practical and beneficial use of recycled water statewide. Developing sustainable, locally controlled water supplies is especially important as our state faces another critical drought year.

For the last several years lack of funding has been one the number one issue slowing down recycled water projects in California. As the Water Board staff analysis states there is more than \$1.8 billion dollars in need for recycled water projects in the next three years. Our member surveys show that in a 5-to-8-year time frame that need is closer to \$7 billion dollars.

WRCA supports the staff proposal to split the funds evenly between recycled water and groundwater cleanup -- \$165 million in grants for each over the next three years.

But while we support this proposal it is clear that much more funding is needed for recycled water projects. We ask that the Water Board join us in requesting additional funding for recycled water as part of the Governor's Drought Package. In fact, the Governor's recent Drought Executive Order called for funding proposals from the Water Board to increase recycled water, among other options to mitigate drought impacts. We also ask that any new funds be clearly delineated between recycled water and groundwater cleanup.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles LaSalle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Charles LaSalle