



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1567: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024 -- SUPPORT IF AMENDED- Request \$1.5 Billion for Recycled Water and Revise Language

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

On behalf of WateReuse California, which represents most of the agencies that recycle water in California, we **request the inclusion of \$1.5 billion in grant funds for recycled water** as part of AB 1567. Recycled water is a sustainable, local source of water that is drought resistant. Despite California's very wet winter, the state needs to prepare for the next drought, which is sure to come. With the impacts of climate change worsening, the time is now to make a major investment in recycled water.

The Governor's Water Supply Strategy calls for 800,000 acre-feet to be recycled by 2030 and 1.8 million acre-feet of water to be recycled by 2040, and we cannot do that without significant state investment. The Strategy notes that it would require approximately \$10 billion to achieve the 2030 goal and \$27 billion to achieve the 2040 goal of recycling an additional 1.8 million acre-feet of water.

Every region of the state has planned large-scale water recycling projects in need of funding that can vastly stretch our traditional water supplies and prepare our state for the worsening impacts of climate change. These include projects for potable reuse, including groundwater recharge, reservoir augmentation and direct potable reuse (DPR). The State Water Resources Control Board (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.

We hope you will agree with us that funding for **recycled water deserves to be at the forefront of the state's drought and climate change response with a \$1.5 billion state investment**. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jennifer West
Managing Director
WateReuse California