



June 5, 2023

Re: Newsom Administration Infrastructure Package: Build California's Clean Future, Faster

Position: SUPPORT

To the Honorable Members of the California State Legislature,

On behalf of the Mojave Water Agency I am writing to express strong support for the Newsom Administration's proposed infrastructure package to accelerate critical clean infrastructure projects that meet state social, climate, and economic goals. These proposals maintain the integrity of appropriate environmental review, government transparency, and community engagement.

Extreme events caused by climate change, including heatwaves, wildfires, flooding, and drought, pose unprecedented challenges to the State's infrastructure. Tackling this climate crisis and advancing the State's equity goals necessitate urgent action and deployment of clean projects to meet our world-leading climate goals, build a clean and resilient electric grid, strengthen California's water resiliency, and modernize the State's clean transportation infrastructure.

The Mojave Water Agency serves a 4,900 square-mile service area in the Mojave Desert. Our population now exceeds 500,000 and is largely comprised of disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities. As a member of the State Water Contractors, we import water to augment our local groundwater supply to serve those most in need. The Agency invests in groundwater infrastructure in key areas of our region; however, projects have been delayed due to the cumbersome regulatory processes. The passage of this infrastructure package will enable our Agency to move forward to construct recharge basins in the communities that need assistance.

California has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to leverage federal funding to invest in California's clean infrastructure, grow the state's economy, and create thousands of good-paying jobs. Yet major infrastructure projects are too often bogged down in overly onerous regulatory processes and a siloed approach to permitting approvals, which increases overall costs and delays critical projects. In order to streamline permitting and build infrastructure responsibly and expeditiously, the Administration is proposing thoughtful, common sense reform measures to streamline regulatory and review processes so projects can be planned, permitted, and built faster while protecting the environment. Importantly, these proposals provide unique streamlining benefits under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to advance climate-friendly projects without reducing the environmental and government transparency benefits of the environmental review process.



For these reasons, the Mojave Water Agency is in strong support of the Administration's infrastructure package to build California's clean future, faster.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Sincerely,
Adnan Anabtawi, General Manager

CC:

Asm Transportation Chair, Asm. Laura Friedman
Asm Water, Parks, Wildlife Chair, Asm. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
Asm Natural Resources Chair, Asm. Luz Rivas
Asm Judiciary Chair, Asm. Brian Maienschein
Sen. Natural Resources and Water Chair, Dave Min
Sen. Judiciary Chair, Tom Umberg
Sen. Transportation, Lena Gonzalez