



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1957

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June 7, 2023

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
Chair, Assembly Judiciary Committee
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Luz Rivas
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

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 Placer County 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 necessitates 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.

PCWA is a partner in the Sites Reservoir project, which is the kind of project necessary to tackle this crisis. Sites Reservoir will provide water supply benefits as well as reserve water for the environment. We are particularly interested in the effects Sites Reservoir will have in safeguarding Folsom Reservoir and ensuring cold water supply for the lower American River. PCWA is also a partner in RiverArc, a proposed water diversion on the Sacramento River to defray water diversions from the sensitive habitat of the lower American River. This project comes from our commitment to the Water Forum, which is to ensure co-equal objectives of water for the environment as well as our growing economy.

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. 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 assurances.

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

Sincerely,

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony L. Firenzi". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a long, horizontal stroke extending across the middle of the name.

Anthony L. Firenzi, PE
Director of Strategic Affairs

CC: Asm Transportation Chair, Asm. Laura Friedman