



June 5, 2023

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

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

RE: Newsom Administration Infrastructure Package – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymembers Rivas and Maienschein:

The Southern California Water Coalition is pleased to support the Newsom Administration's proposed infrastructure package of budget trailer bills to accelerate critical infrastructure projects in a manner that balances expediency and advancement of infrastructure with environmental responsibility and stewardship. The Administration's infrastructure package is scheduled to be considered during an informational hearing in your Committees on June 7, 2023.

The Southern California Water Coalition was created in 1983, in response to drought, to coordinate the activities of cities, counties, special districts, the business community, labor and agriculture interests in the stewardship and protection of Southern California's water supplies. Our members come from Kern, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego Counties representing nearly 29 million of our state's 40 million residents.

Climate change and a multitude of other factors are having a monumental impact on the state's water resources. Scientists say the drought that the western United States has been experiencing marks the region's driest 22-year stretch in more than 1,200 years. While this year has been marked by flooding and historic snowpack levels in California, it is clear that these types of wet years are not reliable, and we will need to adapt to hotter, drier conditions. Action is needed to ensure we are not managing for scarcity but rather working toward a future where there is enough water for all.

A major challenge with achieving water resilience is that our existing infrastructure is poorly-equipped to meet the climate adaptation needs of today. Additionally, bringing new infrastructure on-line to meet a rapidly changing climate needs to happen in the near-term, not along the traditional infrastructure timeline in California





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that can sometimes stretch over an entire decade from project concept to project completion. We don't have the luxury to drag-out infrastructure projects for years and years. It is critical that move infrastructure projects forward, but do it in a manner that involves appropriate environmental review, transparency of process, and community engagement.

We believe that the Governor's infrastructure proposals achieve that proper balance and will help move us on a path forward to responsibly capture, store, treat, deliver, recycle, and desalinate water in California to respond and adapt to our rapidly changing climate.

For these reasons, the Southern California Water Coalition supports the Newsom Administration's proposed infrastructure budget trailer bill package. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our perspectives on those proposals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Wilson".

Charles Wilson
Executive Director

cc: Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assemblymember Philip Ting, Chair – Assembly Budget Committee
Christine Aurre, Governor's Office

