



Sacramento Legislative Office

March 15, 2021

The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5052
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 351 (Caballero) Water Innovation Act of 2021 – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero:

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is pleased to support your bill, Senate Bill 351, that would create the Office of Water Innovation at the California Water Commission.

Climate change is increasingly challenging California's water resources, from warmer temperatures, to changes in precipitation, catastrophic wildfires and sea level rise. At the same time, water agencies are challenged by new and emerging water quality contaminants and the need to invest in upgrades and repairs to aging infrastructure. Innovative solutions are needed to address these challenges and ensure a reliable and safe water supply while restoring and protecting our state's natural resources.

An Office of Water Innovation at the California Water Commission would increase collaboration among state agencies on new and innovative approaches to water resource management and review and make recommendations for ensuring greater coordination of regulations that can impede innovation. The legislation would also create opportunities for stakeholders to engage in these efforts.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your bill and will respectfully request an Aye vote on SB 351 when it comes before the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn C. Viatella".

Kathryn C. Viatella
Executive Legislative Representative

Cc: Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Dennis O'Connor, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus