



Sacramento Legislative Office

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Richard Pan
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 369 (Pan): Flood control: Yolo Bypass Cache Slough Partnership Multi-Benefit Program – **SUPPORT**

Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee – March 16, 2021

Dear Senator Pan:

On behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I wish to express our support for SB 369 which will codify state support of the Yolo Bypass Partnership and its efforts to advance flood control and habitat restoration projects in the Yolo Bypass-Cache Slough region.

Metropolitan is a regional wholesaler that delivers water to 26 member agencies (including 14 cities, 11 municipal water districts, and one county water authority) which in turn, directly or through their sub-agencies, provide water to approximately 19 million people in southern California. We are also a member of the State Water Contractors whose members hold contracts with the California Department of Water Resources for the delivery of water from the State Water Project.

Metropolitan has been an active participant in ecosystem restoration efforts in the Yolo Bypass-Cache Slough along with the State Water Contractors to demonstrate how restoration and flood management can be integrated with state and federal water project operations to restore floodplains, protect agriculture and improve flood protection. Last year, Metropolitan testified at a congressional roundtable urging the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to support efforts to advance multi-benefit projects in the Yolo-Cache Slough Bypass. Senate Bill 369 follows on the enactment of the 2020 Water Resources Development Act that authorized a comprehensive study of the Yolo Bypass and its future role in regional flood control. Senate Bill 369 similarly requires the state develop a master plan for Yolo Bypass-Cache Slough that will identify projects to enhance floodplains to maximize the benefits for fish while supporting the existing agricultural economy and providing flood protection. These efforts will encourage state and federal agencies to coordinate regulatory compliance and funding for ongoing operations and maintenance of flood control and water systems.

For these reasons mentioned above, we support SB 369 and will urge members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee to vote “AYE” on the bill. Should you have questions about Metropolitan’s involvement in the Yolo-Cache Slough Bypass or our position on your bill, please contact me at kviatella@mwdh2o.com or (619) 517-5823.

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, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus