



September 16, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 442 (Mayes): Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975: exemption:
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: single master reclamation plan
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the public agencies and business organizations noted below, we respectfully request your signature on AB 442, which authorizes the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to prepare a single reclamation plan for compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) for its excavation and grading activities on Metropolitan-owned land. These materials are used to repair and maintain critical water infrastructure and transmission systems in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties.

SMARA regulations require each county to approve a reclamation plan for surface mining operations within its respective jurisdiction. The material resulting from earth-moving activities on Metropolitan owned land is used exclusively for the maintenance and repair of Metropolitan-owned infrastructure. For this reason, Assembly Member Mayes on behalf of Metropolitan introduced AB 442 to authorize Metropolitan to complete a single master reclamation plan for all its SMARA-regulated sites, comply with CEQA, and submit to required inspections by the State Mining and Geology Board. AB 442 will result in regulatory consistency and efficiency across the multiple counties where Metropolitan owns and operates its infrastructure.

The current version of AB 442 that is before you reflects language to clarify compliance requirements and fee requirements to ensure Metropolitan is responsible for the reasonable fees related to the cost of implementing the bill, which have been requested by the Department of Conservation to ensure they have the appropriate authority to manage and enforce SMARA. In addition to having bi-partisan support, this measure moved through the legislature without any opposition, including not a single “no” vote on file.

For these reasons, we hope you will favorably consider AB 442. If you have any questions or wish additional information on this measure, please contact Ms. Kathy Viatella at kviatella@mwdh2o.com or by phone at (619) 517-5823.

Sincerely,

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General Manager
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California

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General Manager
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Executive Director
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cc: Assembly Member Chad Mayes