



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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 Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I respectfully request your favorable consideration and signature on AB 442 (Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage), which authorizes Metropolitan to develop a single comprehensive reclamation plan required under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) for review and approval by the State Mining and Geology Board (Board).

SMARA provides for the regulation of surface mining operations and requires each county to approve a reclamation plan within its respective jurisdiction. Currently, Metropolitan's earth moving activities on our property and the materials obtained that are subject to SMARA are used solely for the repair and operations of our facilities to ensure adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to the 19 million residents in Southern California.

AB 442 will provide regulatory consistency through the Board for related activity conducted throughout our six-county service area comprising Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties. AB 442 incorporates language at the advice and direction of the Department of Conservation and the State Mining and Geology Board staff to ensure appropriate oversight and fee-collection for the Board's implementation of AB 442. As this measure moved through the legislative process, it received broad bipartisan support, which was evidenced by no opposition to the bill and not a single "no" vote.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your favorable review and consideration of AB 442. If you should have any questions or wish additional information on this measure, please contact me at AdelH@mwdh2o.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adel Hagekhalil".

Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

cc: Assembly Member Chad Mayes