



April 8, 2022

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1845 (Calderon): Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: alternative project delivery methods – **SUPPORT**

Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee – April 26, 2022

Dear Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan:

On behalf of the signatories noted below, we wish to express support for AB 1845 by Assembly Member Calderon and sponsored by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to authorize Metropolitan to use alternative project delivery methods for the design and construction of a select number of water infrastructure projects.

Metropolitan wholesales water to 26 member agencies that in turn supply water to 19 million Californians across Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Metropolitan and its member agencies share a promise to deliver reliable and high-quality water to Southern California's businesses and households. Today, that promise is challenged as parts of Metropolitan's service area have been impacted more significantly than others by historic dry conditions and State Water Project supply shortages.

Assembly Bill 1845 would help solve this problem by giving Metropolitan the ability to use Design Build, Progressive Design Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor delivery methods for a limited set of drought-response projects and a Regional Recycled Water Project. Currently, Metropolitan is limited to traditional design-bid-build model for the delivery of public works construction contracts. This model can be inefficient and inflexible for large, time-sensitive, and complex projects. New contracting methods, like those authorized in the bill, would accelerate project delivery and allow Metropolitan to advance these important projects in a more expeditious and efficient manner.

Metropolitan plans to undertake a select number of drought mitigation projects that will upgrade regional distribution infrastructure and allow up to 116,000 acre-feet of water from other sources to move into parts of the service areas dependent on shrinking State Water Project supplies. At the same time, a new Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP) in partnership with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts is planned that could produce up to 150 million gallons of treated wastewater a day, enough for 500,000 homes. A new local source of water on this scale would be transformative and help alleviate the demand for imported water from the Colorado River and State Water Project.

The efficient and timely delivery of these projects is critically important to Southern California's water agencies and our customers in order to keep our promise to provide reliable and high-quality water. Not only do these methods have the potential to lower overall design and construction costs and develop earlier cost certainty, which could save Southern California ratepayers money, they will help Southern California adapt sooner to future prolonged droughts exacerbated by climate change. For these reasons, we respectfully request your support of AB 1845. Please contact Metropolitan's Executive Legislative Representative Kathy Viatella at kviatella@mwdh2o.com or (916) 650-2614 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager

Metropolitan Water District of
Southern California (Sponsor)

Matthew Litchfield

General Manager

Three Valleys Municipal Water
District

Nina Jazmadarian

General Manager

Foothill Municipal Water District

Anthony Goff

General Manager

Calleguas Municipal Water District

Joe McDermott, PE

Director of Engineering and

External Affairs

Las Virgenes Municipal Water
District

Greg Thomas

General Manager

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water
District

Craig Miller

General Manager

Western Municipal Water District

Shivaji Deshmukh P.E.

General Manager

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Ken Rausch

Chief Executive Officer

El Monte/South El Monte Chamber
of Commerce

Ken Rausch

Chief Executive Officer

San Gabriel Valley Legislative
Coalition of Chambers

Steven A. Castro

Chief Executive Officer

Azusa Chamber of Commerce

Joe Cina

President/CEO

Glendora Chamber of Commerce

Mark Young

General Manager

Glendale Water & Power

Stuart Waldman

President & CEO

VICA

Paul C. Granillo

President & CEO

Inland Empire Economic
Partnership

Cesar E. Barrera, P.E.

Deputy Public Works Director/

Water Resources Manager

Public Works Agency
City of Santa Ana

Victor Berrellez

Chair
VICA

Jeffrey Kightlinger

Interim General Manager
Pasadena Water & Power

Robert C. Ferrante

Chief Engineer & General Manager
Los Angeles County Sanitation
Districts

Paul Little

*President and Chief Executive
Officer*
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

John Bosler

General Manager/CEO
Cucamonga Valley Water
District

Charles Wilson

Executive Director
Southern California Water
Coalition

Silvia Melendez, MPA

Chief Executive Officer
San Dimas Chamber of Commerce

Dawn Roth Lindell

General Manager
Burbank Water and Power

Nancy Lindholm

President & CEO
West Ventura Business Alliance

Craig Bilezerian

Director
City of Torrance Public Works

Tom Coleman

General Manager
Rowland Water District

Jessica Lall

President & CEO
Central City Association

Marsha Hansen

President & CEO
El Segundo Chamber of
Commerce

Tracy Hernandez

Founding CEO
BizFed

Kathy Van Etten

President/CEO
Simi Valley Chamber

Marian Jocz

Executive Director United
Chamber of Commerce of
the San Fernando Valley

Louise Lampara

Executive Director
CoLAB

Glenn Morris, ACE

President & CEO
Tri County Chamber of Alliance
San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara,
Ventura

Jennifer West

Managing Director
WateReuse

Danielle Blacet-Hyden

Deputy Executive Director
California Municipal Utilities
Association

Aaron Avery

Legislative Representative
California Special Districts
Association

Mary Leslie

President

Los Angeles Business Council

Todd Johnson

President/CEO

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce

James R. Bozajian

President

Los Angeles County Division, League
of California Cities

Matt Stauffer

Interim CEO

Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

cc: Assembly Member Lisa Calderon
Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee Members
Pablo Garza, Consultant, Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee
Calvin Rusch, Consultant Assembly Republican Caucus