





August 30, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 230 (Portantino): State Water Resources Control Board: Constituents of Emerging Concern Program – **REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the public agencies and business organizations noted below, we are writing to respectfully request your signature for SB 230, which requires the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to improve its knowledge of constituents of emerging concern in waters of the state and drinking water.

California has a well-established framework to set safe drinking water standards. However, that process takes time and considers chemicals one-by-one. A new and diverse group of synthetic and naturally occurring chemicals, as well as some microorganisms, called constituents of emerging concern (CECs) may overwhelm the current process. Scientists can now detect thousands of CECs in trace amounts in drinking water, with little understanding of their occurrence and true public health risk. Understandably, as public concern grows about the potential public health risks of CECs, state leaders have felt compelled to push for targeted legislative solutions to collect the necessary data and prioritize regulatory efforts.

Senate Bill 230 seeks to address this problem by requiring the State Water Board to improve its knowledge of CECs in drinking water by assessing the state of information and recommending areas for further study including, but not limited to, occurrence of CECs in drinking water sources and treated drinking water; their fate, transport and biodegradation; water treatment and laboratory analyses; and the potential effects on public health. With this program, the Deputy Director of the State Water Board could form and direct a Science Advisory Panel to help prioritize CEC actions. The program, if created, would (1) identify the highest priority CECs for action; (2) bridge information gaps and coordinate scientific research; (3) remove barriers and improve timeliness for action on CECs; (4) provide financial assistance as needed for any new CEC monitoring requirements for disadvantaged community drinking water systems serving fewer than 10,000 individuals, and (5) provide opportunities for public input. The

proposed legislation would be forward-looking and not interfere with any existing regulations or programs focused on CECs, including the process underway to regulate PFAS chemicals. If a Science Advisory Panel is established, a report on their work would be posted on the State Water Board's website three years after the panel is convened.

For these reasons, we hope you will favorably consider SB 230 and sign the bill into law. If you have questions or wish additional information on this measure, please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Blacet-Hyden with California Municipal Utilities Association at (916) 847-8444 or Kathy Viatella with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California at (916) 650-2614.

Sincerely,

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Deputy Executive Director
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(co-sponsor)

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cc: Senator Anthony Portantino