

March 22, 2017

Honorable Jordan Cunningham
Member of the California Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4102
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 554 (Cunningham) Desalination – Support

Dear Assembly Member Cunningham:

I am writing on behalf of <<<Agency Name>>>, to communicate our support for your AB 554. <<< Agency Name >>> is a <<< Describe Agency >>>

AB 554 would help advance desalination, both ocean water and brackish groundwater cleanup, in California as it establishes goals for future development of desalinated water for the State. The competing demands for traditional water resources have stretched our existing water resource option to the limit. Moreover, California's extreme multi-year drought has raised substantial concerns regarding the long-term dependability of traditional water supplies that are critical for the state's residents, economy and environment.

Local water managers throughout the state of California must be given the flexibility to consider several options to diversify their water supply portfolio in order to assure their customers of a safe, reliable water supply. Desalination, which is one of the options urban water agencies are required to consider in their Urban Water Management Plans, is an excellent option to help provide Californian's clean, safe and reliable drinking water.

With the passage of the State Water Resources Control Board's Ocean Plan Amendments in 2015 relating to ocean desalination intakes and outfalls returning brine to the ocean, California has again taken a leadership position in providing the most environmentally stringent rules. In the event a community opts to use Ocean Desalination for a local, reliable water supply option it is clear that such a plant will be the most environmentally sound in the world while complying science based rules and regulations.

A significant area for growth in desalination is inland where several water agencies are implementing brackish groundwater clean-up projects to add to their local, reliable drinking water supply options for their customers. Another advantage of brackish groundwater desalination is the fact it may assist many regions in meeting the requirements of their Salt and Nutrient Management Plans.

It should also be noted, that AB 554 is also consistent with Governor Brown's California Water Action that recognizes both ocean and brackish water desalination as an important option for a well-diversified water supply portfolio.

For these reasons, <<<Agency Name>>> strongly supports AB 554. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,