



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Dan Charlton

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
Assembly Member, District 48
1021 O Street, Suite 5140
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 334

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) serves approximately 300,000 residents in its 1,000 square-miles of service area ranging from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, mostly within the Coachella Valley area of Riverside County, including small areas within Imperial and San Diego counties. CVWD has invested heavily in groundwater recharge and other largescale projects to conserve California's most precious resource. CVWD is pleased to support your bill, AB 334, which would allow an independent contractor to perform more than one phase of a project for a public agency.

Current law prohibits an independent contractor that provides initial design services, as an example, to a public agency from bidding on a subsequent planning or construction contracts. The principal benefits of this prohibition are to avoid giving a competitive advantage to the first contractor, and providing independent oversight by subsequent contractors. But the costs of this policy outweigh the benefits, which can be achieved by other means. AB 334 prevents an initial contractor from gaining any competitive advantage by requiring that all contractors "have access to the same information, including all conceptual, preliminary, or initial plans or specifications" for the provisions of this bill to apply.

The problem in current law is that contractors, if they can only work on one phase of a project, will only bid on the most lucrative phase. This limits the ability of a public agency to attract bids for the initial phases of a project. AB 334 includes safeguards to retain the public benefits of current law while allowing public agencies to attract the best proposals at all phases of a project. For these reasons, CVWD urges support from your colleagues for AB 334.

Sincerely,

J. M. Barrett
General Manager