



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

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Senate District 14
1021 O Street, Ste. 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 366 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is pleased to support SB 366, which will implement a long-term plan for meeting California's future water supply needs. 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.

Large-scale water supply projects require decades to complete and the impacts of climate change are being felt in California earlier than anticipated. CVWD believes that SB 366 will bring a needed urgency to water supply planning in the hope that our infrastructure can keep up with California's increasingly extreme weather patterns.

SB 366 goes beyond the current approach to water supply planning by establishing specific targets to be met by certain dates, but most importantly it requires a financing plan for achieving these targets. The lack of an identified strategy to fund improvements to our state's water supply infrastructure is perhaps the most significant gap in California's progress toward meeting its future water needs. Competitive grant programs written to direct funds to the most popular water and conservation projects certainly have their place, and the Legislature has appropriated large sums of money for these purposes, but this is no substitute for long-term planning that directs funds to the most critical infrastructure needs that will take the longest time to build.

For these reasons, CVWD offers its support for the passage of SB 366.

Sincerely,

J. M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

cc: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee