



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

June 24, 2024

The Honorable Diane Papan, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1390 (Caballero) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Papan:

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. Our services include domestic water, wastewater collection and treatment, agricultural water, regional stormwater protection, recycled water, and groundwater replenishment of imported water. CVWD is one of the State Water Project's (SWP) original State Water Contractors, entering into a water supply contract with the Department of Water Resources in 1963.

CVWD writes in support of Senate Bill 1390 (SB 1390) as amended on June 17, 2024, which would clarify the parameters and framework within which diversions of flood flows for groundwater recharge, upstream of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), may occur within the existing water rights structure without harm to the SWP and entities that rely on the SWP for water supplies.

The SWP and south-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) water agencies currently have water rights to divert excess flows in the Delta watershed to satisfy the entitlements under SWP and CVP contracts. Diversion of water to groundwater storage, occurring upstream of the Delta and that would otherwise flow to the Delta, has the potential to negatively impact SWP and CVP water supplies if the diversion of water reduces inflow to the Delta and:

- requires SWP/CBP to make releases of stored water to meet Delta water quality standards.
- limits the amount of excess water available to export to SWP/CVP water contractors.

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We recognize the important statutory structure and policy objectives associated with SB 1390 - protection of local communities from flood events and providing opportunities for communities to capture wet weather flows into groundwater storage. However, there is a critical need to balance those policy interests within the context of California's water rights structure. SB 1390 currently ensures that any diversions to groundwater do not usurp the water rights priority system. Diversion of flood flows for groundwater recharge should not be a community's flood prevention plan as there are several best management practices that may be employed to prevent flooding impacts without harming downstream water users. Weather patterns in 2017, 2019 and 2023 have demonstrated there will be ample opportunities to store floodwater in the ground without impacts to other water rights holders.

CVWD appreciates the author's and sponsor's efforts to engage with stakeholder interests to develop statutory parameters and protections for the Delta within SB 1390 while balancing a variety of critical policy interests within the measure.

For these reasons, CVWD is pleased to support SB 1390.

Sincerely,



J. M. Barrett
General Manager

cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero
California State Senate