

# MONTEREY COUNTY



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March 13, 2023

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 7620  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

**Re: SB 23 (Caballero) Water supply and flood risk reduction projects: expedited permitting. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Caballero:

The County of Monterey is pleased to support your measure Senate Bill (SB) 23. This bill identifies opportunities to improve and streamline the regulatory permitting process, while preserving established environmental protections, so these critical infrastructure projects are built at the pace and scale needed to prepare for climate change.

In August 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled a set of actions for increasing and diversifying California's water supply. The "Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future" calls for a modernization of the state's water system through major investments in infrastructure to create new sources of water supply. The "Water Supply Strategy" identifies permitting delays as a problem that must be addressed and calls on the Legislature to streamline processes so projects can be planned, permitted, and built more quickly, while still protecting the environment.

SB 23 would streamline projects that utilize natural infrastructure, such as groundwater recharge to help achieve sustainable groundwater management. Regions of California, long dependent on imported water supplies, are making substantial investments in projects that will create new sources of supply. SB 23 will help accelerate recycled water, desalination, and stormwater capture projects so that these regions have access to a drought-proof sustainable supply of high-quality water.

Streamlining projects incentivizes investment in water projects. Infrastructure investments not only prepare California for a changing climate, they generate jobs and contribute to state and local economies through taxes and purchasing of products and services.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey strongly supports your measure SB 23. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the County of Monterey's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

Cc: The Honorable Members, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
Katharine Moore, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee  
Todd Moffiett, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
Hon. John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
Hon. Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Kris Anderson, Legislative Advocate, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA)  
Justin Garrett, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)