

# MONTEREY COUNTY

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## WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

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June 12, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 8120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1567 (E. Garcia) Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Prevention, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat mitigation, Clean Energy and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024 – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

On behalf of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, I write in support of your measure Assembly Bill (AB) 1567. This bill places a \$15.955 billion climate resilience general obligation bond before the voters on the March 5, 2024, Primary Election ballot for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs.

The impacts of climate change that California is already experiencing warrant significant investment in climate resilience and adaptation. The current State Budget deficit of at least \$22.5 billion and the related cuts to natural resource and climate spending are some of the many reasons why we need AB 1567. Funding cuts clearly demonstrate that California needs a climate bond and accompanying disciplined investment plan to address growing challenges in managing natural resources for the benefit of all Californians.

This bill seeks to make California more climate resilient by investing in various adaptation activities throughout the state, ranging from wildfire risk reduction, to drought preparation, to protection against sea-level rise. Specific to Monterey County, this bill includes \$30 million for river, creek, and associated tributary and waterway improvements within the Pajaro River Watershed, to enhance flood protection and public access and to promote water and habitat resilience.

Not only will this measure help create new jobs for Californians, it will create long-term green jobs that help the state reach its climate goals. We must invest in the infrastructure necessary to protect our communities, our environment, and our economy from an evolving climate crisis. It is for these reasons that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency supports AB 1567. 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  
Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Supervisors

Cc: Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, Members  
Katharine Moore, Chief Consultant Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable John Laird, 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)  
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)