



March 31st, 2021

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Portantino:

Subject: Support for SB230 (Portantino) State Water Resources Control Board - Constituents of Emerging Concern Program

The San Gabriel Valley Water Association (the “Association”) is submitting this letter in support of SB230 which will create transparency and assist drinking water suppliers in maintaining regulatory compliance. The San Gabriel Water Association’s 60 members provide drinking water to 2 million residents in 31 cities through special districts, municipal utilities, investor-owned utilities, and not for profit mutual water companies.

SB230 is a bill that requires the state to assemble an Science Advisory Panel as part of the proposed Constituents of Emerging Concern Program, and establish a financial assistance pathway for systems that will be strained by testing and treating requirements. One of the largest challenges for many SGVWA member agencies and water suppliers statewide is keeping up with new contaminant testing and related regulations. The bill would remove some uncertainty from the process with the panel researching and driving regulatory updates and the State Water Resources Control Board’s enhanced ability to offer financial assistance. SB230 would ensure the continuance of safe drinking water by taking action on issues prioritized by a dedicated team of scientists, while simultaneously allowing a more manageable process for water systems, especially those with limited technical, managerial and financial resources.

In addition to potential organizational and financial impacts, water suppliers and other stakeholders would benefit greatly from the public transparency provisions in the bill that would require the State Water Resources Control Board to maintain a website related to the program with relevant research, reports, and data available to the public.

System operators want to make sure that their water is as safe as possible, but taking the appropriate steps to ensure that it remains that way can be difficult without advance knowledge of new regulations as well as financial assistance for small water systems. SB230’s passage would empower water systems of all types to succeed in responding to upcoming regulatory changes relating to contaminants of emerging concern while reducing inequity among systems and strengthening the water industry’s ability to respond to new challenges in a timely and informed manner.

Sincerely yours,

Greg Galindo
San Gabriel Valley Water Association
President