



April 6, 2015

The Honorable Adam Gray
Member of the State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6012
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 1242
SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Gray:

The Merced County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support your AB 1242, which would provide for mitigation measures in the event the State Water Resources Control Board proposes a new water quality control plan.

As you well know, businesses and residents within Merced County have increasingly struggled over the past four years as the regional drought persists. Our County has taken steps to alleviate the crisis locally by implementing water conservation measures, performing public outreach and adopting a local groundwater ordinance that prohibits the unsustainable extraction and conveyance of groundwater outside of County basins.

This work is being done in part to address our local crisis in a proactive manner, but also to transition our County into the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014.

However, when the Water Board proposes to divert significant volumes of surface water flows out of our local tributaries, that not only decimates surface water deliveries to domestic and agricultural water users, it also eliminates the opportunity for groundwater recharge – a critical component of achieving groundwater sustainability, as specified in the SGMA legislation.

The Merced County Board of Supervisors is pleased that AB 1242 would ensure that the State Water Board properly considers and mitigates the impacts of any new water quality control plan and alleviates significant adverse impacts. If adverse impacts cannot be sufficiently mitigated, the adoption of that plan would be prohibited.

This legislation would be a step in the right direction for California as we continue to manage our way through this unprecedented drought. Locally, our agencies need a plethora of tools to combat these dry conditions that have not only threatened our economy, but have also posed a hazard to the health and safety

Board of Supervisors

John Pedrozo
Supervisor, District One

Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Jr.
Supervisor, District Two

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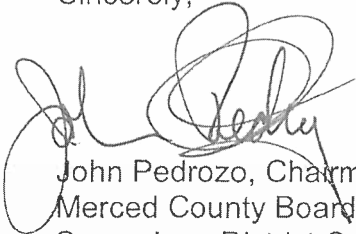
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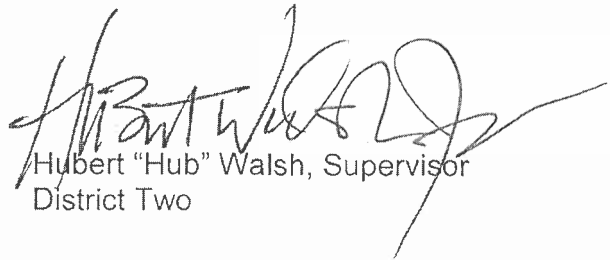
of our residents. Surface water flows from our local waterways is an essential tool for increasing groundwater recharge and surface water allocations.

The Merced County Board of Supervisors looks forward to joining you by supporting AB 1242.

Sincerely,



John Pedrozo, Chairman
Merced County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, District One



Hubert "Hub" Walsh, Supervisor
District Two



Daron McDaniel, Supervisor
District Three



Deidre F. Kelsey, Supervisor
District Four



Jerry O'Banion, Supervisor
District Five

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Congressman Jim Costa
Senator Anthony Cannella
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Frances Spivy-Weber, Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board
Dorene D'Amado, Member, State Water Resources Control Board
Tam M. Doduc, Member, State Water Resources Control Board
Steven Moore, Member, State Water Resources Control Board
Tom Howard, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Janelle Beland, Undersecretary, California Natural Resources Agency
Gordon Burns, Undersecretary, California Environmental Protection Agency