



**City of Patterson  
Office of the Mayor**

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April 10, 2015

Honorable Assembly Adam Gray  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

**Re: AB 1242: Water Quality Control Plans**

I am writing to you to express my support of your bill AB 1242. I understand that the State Water Resources Control Board is planning to issue an updated Substitute Environmental Document for the Bay-Delta Program in the near future. I share your concern the draft plan doesn't support efforts to secure groundwater sustainability, it is inequitable, and will substantially negatively impact the state's most economically disadvantaged region...our valley!

I completely agree with you that this past year, the State Water Resources Control Board has considered a proposal to develop new unimpaired flow requirements on the Tuolumne, Merced, and Stanislaus rivers. The proposed plan would require an additional 350,000 acre feet of water annually to be diverted from the rivers to flow out to San Francisco Bay Delta.

The negative impact is that if adopted, the Board's proposal will devastate the groundwater basins in the Valley by reducing surface water recharge opportunities and eliminating surface water deliveries to domestic and agricultural water users. The Board recognizes these impacts would have significant "but unavoidable" adverse impacts to the region.

It is my understanding that in 2014, the Legislature passed the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act which promised to empower local communities with the tools to achieve sustainable management goals. The adoption of the Board's proposal without mitigating measures would deny Central Valley basins one of the most important tools in that tool box: the ability to recharge the depleted groundwater table with surface flows.

I applaud your leadership to bring about a viable solution in the form of your bill AB 1242. This proactive approach would hold the Board accountable to consider and mitigate the adverse impact of any new water quality control plan. It would also require the Board to implement mitigation measures to reduce identified significant adverse impacts, and would prohibit the adoption of plans with adverse impacts that cannot be sufficiently mitigated.

Sincerely,

Luis I. Molina

Cc: Ken Irwin, City Manager