



February 19, 2021

SENT VIA: EMAIL

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
 State Capitol, Room 5046
 Sacramento, CA 95814

MEMBER AGENCIES

- City of Cloverdale
- City of Cotati
- City of Healdsburg
- City of Rohnert Park
- City of Santa Rosa
- City of Sebastopol
- City of Ukiah
- County of Mendocino
- County of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- Town of Windsor

The Honorable Ben Allen
 State Capitol, Room 5080
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Melissa Hurtado
 State Capitol, Room 3070
 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Henry Stern
 State Capitol, Room 5080
 Sacramento, CA 95814

ANDY RODGERS
 Executive Director

300 Seminary Avenue
 Ukiah, CA 95482
 (707) 508-3670

cleanwater@rrwatershed.org
www.rrwatershed.org

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for SB 45 (Portantino)

Dear Senators:

I write on behalf of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) to express our support of SB 45 (Portantino) the Wildfire Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2022. Climate related disasters have strained the capacity of local governments to manage existing environmental challenges and prepare for future ones. Through SB 45, we believe that California can begin to take steps towards making local communities more climate resilient by directly investing in programs that help withstand the impacts of climate change.

RRWA formed in 2003 and is a coalition of 11 cities, counties, and agencies within the 1,485 square mile Russian River watershed that work together for clean water, habitat restoration, and watershed enhancement.

The powerful effects of climate change have caused immeasurable damage to communities across the state. In the last few years alone, California has seen more natural disasters than ever before. Devastating wildfires, drought, sea-level rise, and flooding are among the many climate related disasters facing the state. These looming threats are only expected to increase in frequency and intensity.

In the past year alone, wildfire's broke nearly every record to date, burning over four million acres and impacting the health and safety of millions of Californians. The increasingly devastating scale of disasters such as this demonstrates a need for aggressive action. Greater financial

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support from the state is paramount to prepare local communities for the climate related threats that lie ahead.

Investing in climate-change preparedness within communities will allow local governments to implement preventative measures that promote resiliency and enhance their ability to mitigate the effects of climate change. These actions will not only protect livelihoods and vital natural resources, but also save the state billions of dollars in avoided damage costs from climate-impacted infrastructure and working lands.

For the reasons stated above, we would like to express our strong support for the array of activities that SB45 would fund. Delaying action will come at considerable cost to the communities throughout the state.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, flowing line that starts with a small loop and ends with a long, sweeping tail.

Andy Rodgers, RRWA Executive Director

cc: RRWA Board of Directors