



July 25, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Pro Tempore, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: 2022-23 State Budget Climate and Energy Package Request: Funding for Stormwater Capture and Stormwater Management

CASQA Coalition Drought Resilience Package Request

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins and Speaker Rendon, Chair Skinner and Chair Ting:

On behalf of the local governments, cities, counties, public utility associations and industrial groups signed on to this letter, we thank the Legislature and Administration for their ongoing commitment towards investments in drought infrastructure, particularly the \$19 million Climate and Energy Package still left to be allocated that will help our state adapt to the perils of climate change. While stormwater management is one of the most important ways we can protect our precious waterways while also increasing valuable water supplies, stormwater capture remains one of the most chronically underfunded infrastructure needs facing local governments today. For this reason, the California Stormwater Quality Association and our coalition respectfully **requests \$750 million for stormwater capture projects in the Drought Resilience Package to be negotiated in August.**

With changing precipitation patterns and declining snowpack, capturing stormwater in our urban communities simply must occur to adapt to climate change and long periods of drought. Our aging flood control systems were designed to capture and move water from urban landscapes as fast as possible. Meaning, even though we are experiencing extreme drought, **the majority of our rainwater simply washes out of our communities.** In May of this year, the Senate unveiled a \$7.5 Billion Water and Drought Package and specifically proposed \$1.5 billion for drought resilience including water recycling, stormwater capture and groundwater cleanup. Our coalition applauded the recognition that our state must prioritize policies and investments that are necessary to reshape our urban landscapes and respond to the weather and rainfall patterns to utilize and capture every last drop. Capturing water in our communities and protecting our water resources will provide substantial value — healthier, more livable, and more resilient communities. An investment in stormwater capture is also an investment in flood control, green infrastructure, street beautification, sanitation, water conservation, and groundwater recharge.

CRITICAL NEED

Unlike all other water resources, most stormwater programs in California lack dedicated funding. Almost all municipalities rely solely on their local general fund — the same source of funding for law enforcement, fire, paramedics, parks, street lighting and libraries. Even if local communities were to secure a dedicated local source of funding, local communities alone cannot provide the resources needed to reshape our urban landscapes. The State of California has a significant role to play, particularly in our underserved communities.

To comply with existing stormwater permit conditions, local governments are already facing funding gaps of hundreds of millions of dollars per year, with cumulative gaps over the next 20 years in the billions of dollars. Existing requirements for stormwater needs in the Los Angeles area alone will require \$20 billion over 20 years, averaging out to a \$1 billion need each year. The County of San Mateo has a need of \$700 million - \$1 Billion. At the city scale, the City of San Diego has identified a funding gap of \$467.8 million in FY 2022, with a cumulative funding gap of \$5.47 billion over FYs 2022-2041. The annual funding gap to achieve existing permit requirements is hundreds of millions of dollars, **per county.**

BUDGET REQUEST

It will require visionary thinking and long-term, substantial investment to replumb California and mitigate for the increasing environmental challenges we see due to climate change. It is therefore critical not only to recognize and value stormwater capture as vital to climate adaptation, but to provide the significant financial investments to make it a reality. **It is essential the 2022-23 State Budget Climate and Energy Package invests in stormwater capture infrastructure, one of the most important resources for California's future – both in terms of water resiliency and in terms of climate adaptation. Specifically, we believe securing \$750 million in stormwater funding is critical to protecting our waterways and increasing water supplies. Thank you for your consideration.**

CASQA Coalition Drought Resilience Package Request

Sincerely,

Karen Cowan, Executive Director, California Stormwater Quality Association¹
Supervisor Carmen Ramirez, County of Ventura
Chris Rogers, Mayor, City of Santa Rosa
Benjamin Cantu, Mayor, City of Manteca
Dean Uecker, Mayor, City of Ripon
Cyrus Abhar, City Manager, City of Rancho Cordova
Robert A. Johnson, City Manager, City of San Jacinto
Aaron Laurel, City Manager, City of West Sacramento
Jason Uhley, General Manager-Chief Engineer, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
Sean Charpentier, Executive Director, City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County
Jeff Mosher, General Manager, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
Danielle Blacet, Assistant Executive Director, California Municipal Utilities Association
Matt Young, Santa Barbara County Water Agency Manager
Jack Monger, Chief Executive Officer, Industrial Environmental Association of San Diego County
Andy Rodgers, Executive Director, the Russian River Watershed Association
Jeff Condit, Stormwater Program Manager, Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program
Karin Graves, Acting Program Manager, Contra Costa Clean Water Program
Rob Carson, Stormwater Program Administrator, Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program
Jennifer Harrington, Director of Environmental Services, Vallejo Flood & Wastewater District
Christopher Bolt, Director of Public Works & Utilities, City of Petaluma
Dale Goodman, Municipal Services Director, City of Turlock
Kuldeep Sharma, Director of Utilities, City of Tracy
Jeff Skinner, Stormwater Program Manager, Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

¹ CASQA is a nonprofit corporation that advances sustainable stormwater management protective of California water resources. With approximately 2,000 members, our membership is comprised of a diverse range of stormwater quality management organizations and individuals, including over 180 cities, 23 counties, special districts, federal agencies, state agencies, ports, universities and school districts, wastewater agencies, water suppliers, industries, and consulting firms throughout the state. Collectively, CASQA represents over 26 million people in California.