



The Water Bond Coalition of Northern and Coastal California

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California Assembly, 36th District
1021 O St., Ste. 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 1567 - Request for Increase of IRWM Funding to \$500 Million in AB 1567

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

We, the Water Bond Coalition, established in 2002, is an affiliation of more than 70 cities, counties, special districts and nonprofit organizations in California's northern, coastal and rural communities write to thank you for your continued leadership in authoring natural resources and climate general obligation bonds. As a Coalition, we are strong supporters of Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning. We appreciate and support IRWM's inclusion in Assembly Bill 1567 and respectfully request an increase to \$500 million, consistent with funding amounts allocated in Proposition 1.

IRWM is a valued and proven approach to water management that needs to be sustained. Investments in IRWM planning span nearly two decades and begin with the premise that integrated, multi-objective, collaborative approaches to resource management result in regionally appropriate solutions and decision-making. Statewide, water resource agencies face increasing challenges in funding critical infrastructure projects while balancing the need to protect species and create systems that are resilient to climate change and natural disasters. This is particularly true for disadvantaged communities, which often lack adequate financing mechanisms. In a time of funding constraints, this unique grant program promotes the inclusion of stakeholders throughout local communities to work together to identify resource priorities that integrate multiple objectives.

Coalition members believe local communities have the knowledge, skills and expertise to help the State realize its investments. The implementation of IRWM planning is working to ensure a future of reliable, sustainable water and watershed management throughout California, covering 87% of the state's geographic area and 99% of its population (CA DWR). The IRWM grant program is a creative way to maximize the state's return on its investment, with approximately \$1.4 billion in state grants matched by more than \$5.6 billion in local and regional investments to implement 1,500 projects in every part of California.

The IRWM program is an effective forum for local decision-making on climate, resources and water resiliency issues statewide, ***and it is for these reasons that we request the funding amount for IRWM be increased to \$500M.***

The Water Bond Coalition is grateful for your leadership and looks forward to working with you to ensure smart investments to keep our forests and watersheds healthy, provide clean, reliable and affordable water supplies, and protect communities from catastrophic natural disasters that are exacerbated by the effects of climate change.



Counties

- Contra Costa
- Humboldt
- Marin
- Monterey
- Santa Cruz
- Sonoma
- Trinity
- Ventura

Cities & Towns

- Cloverdale
- Cotati
- Healdsburg
- Oxnard*
- Rohnert Park
- Santa Rosa
- Sonoma
- Ukiah
- Watsonville

Water Agencies/ Sanitation Districts

- Castroville Community Services District
- Central Water District*
- Contra Costa Flood Control & Water Conservation District
- Davenport Sanitation District
- Freedom Sanitation District
- Goleta Sanitary District
- Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District
- Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
- Marin I Water
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- North Marin Water District
- Novato Sanitary District
- Occidental County Sanitation District

- Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
- Russian River County Sanitation District
- San Lorenzo Valley Water District*
- Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities
- San Mateo County Flood & Sea Level Rise Resiliency District
- Santa Ynez Valley Water Conservation and Improvement District No. 1*
- Scotts Valley Water District
- Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside
- Sonoma Water
- Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
- Soquel Creek Water District
- South Park County Sanitation District
- Valley of the Moon Water District
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1
- Ventura County Waterworks District No. 16
- Ventura County Waterworks District No. 19

Resource Conservation Districts

- Cachuma Resource Conservation District
- Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Marin Resource Conservation District*

- Mendocino Resource Conservation District
- Napa County Resource Conservation District
- San Mateo Resource Conservation District
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
- Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
- Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Tehama County Resource Conservation District
- Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
- Resource Conservation District of Ventura County

Nonprofits and Associations

- Bay Area Flood Protection Agencies Association
- Coastal Watershed Council
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation *
- Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group
- Heal the Ocean
- North Bay Water Reuse Authority
- North Bay Watershed Association
- North Coast Resource Partnership
- Regional Water Management Foundation
- Russian River Watershed Association
- Sonoma Ecology Center
- Ecology Action

*Pending approval of upcoming resolution