

# California State Senate

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April 4, 2022

Senator Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
1020 N Street, Room 502  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assembly Member Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
1021 O Street, Suite 8230  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Bob Wieckowski  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget, Sub3  
1021 O Street, Room 6530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblymember Richard Bloom  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget, Sub3  
1021 O Street, Suite 8310  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Water Resiliency Funding-\$300 Million over Five Years**

Dear Chairs Skinner, Ting, Wieckowski and Bloom

In January this year, I wrote a letter to the Governor thanking him for his investment in our water infrastructure, urging him to expand on that investment so that we can better prepare for future water resiliency.

I write to you today to request the same thing. I would like to thank you, and the rest of my colleagues for listening to the Valley and helping me ensure our state made an unprecedented investment in California's water infrastructure last year. That investment will go a long way towards helping bring water to those that need it most-- today and tomorrow. At the same time, I request that we continue to build on that investment.

As you know, we are facing another disastrous drought; one that could dramatically affect our ability to produce food at the levels we need to adequately feed the people of our state and nation, as well as ensure Californians have adequate access to clean drinking water. The rain we received earlier this year was a godsend, but it has barely rained since, and it is only a drop in the bucket compared to what we need. Over the last decade, California has had eight dry or below normal years and has had two wet years. Two years ago, California had one of its wettest winters on record, which came towards the end of one of the worst droughts in California history. Variable water availability and intensified climate change highlight the need to significantly increase our investments in water storage and water

conveyance. We need to store water in the years that we have it--for the years that we don't, so that we can provide adequate water to meet California's and its resident's needs. More importantly, we need to be able to move that water efficiently through our canals or it doesn't matter how much we have stored.

We need to do this for cities like Teviston, in my District, which went dry last summer, and was without water for nearly a month. Residents could not depend on their tap to cook dinner, take baths, or wash their hands. We need to do this for towns like Hornbrook, in Siskiyou County, which also went dry last summer. The Chairman of the town's water district and his wife were having to drive fifteen miles each way to Yreka to shower and wash their clothes. He was not alone. In a state where we have declared the right to water a human right, we must do better.

Access to water is vital to maintain public health, economic output and the unique ecosystems of the Central Valley and the State. We are at a turning point, and the time is now to take steps to invest in a resilient water future. While I will continue to fight for fully investing in our water future, and do ardently believe we should still fully fund a state share of the canal conveyance projects at \$785 million, I am thankful at the end of this budget year we will have provided these projects with \$200 million towards that share. However, if we are not going to fully fund these projects, I most also urgently request that, this year, we consider at least funding these projects at an additional \$300 million over the next five years. Doing so is essential to our future, but is even more essential to preserving the future for those that come after us. What we do today will determine the world we leave for my niece and for your children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please reach out to my Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Hess, at [Elizabeth.Hess@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Hess@sen.ca.gov) or at 916-651-4014.

Sincerely,



Melissa Hurtado  
Senator, District 14