



June 8, 2021

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Rosanna Carvacho Elliott
Clear Advocacy

The Honorable Henry Stern
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 754 (Mathis) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Stern:

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to respectfully oppose AB 754 (Mathis) which allows for an extension to the deadline for a medium- or high-priority groundwater basin to submit a groundwater sustainability plan.

CGC was formed at the urging of California state and local officials who believed that increased efforts were needed to educate and inform policy makers and the public about California groundwater resources. CGC members include public and private groundwater management entities located throughout California and consist of experts with technical, legal, and professional groundwater and related expertise.

CGC is a strong supporter of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and advocated for its passage. Many of California's groundwater basins were and continue to be in desperate need of sustainable management.

AB 754 stalls the enormous efforts that are occurring across the state to bring California's groundwater basins to the point of sustainability by allowing for the deadline for medium- or high-priority basins to submit a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) to be extended by 180 days.

Allowing for an extension of the deadline for management under a GSP will result in increased costs. CGC represents water agencies that have been working to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA), as required by SGMA, and know firsthand that pushing back the deadline for a GSP will result in additional dollars spent on meetings, process, and consulting fees. This deadline has been in place since January of 2015 and all GSAs have been working towards the existing deadlines for five years. Now is not the time to postpone or delay this necessary work.

Lastly, the State Water Resources Control Board can already grant a 180-day extension to a GSA. The drafters of SGMA considered the possibility that GSAs might need more time and included this extension in the Act. Therefore, if a GSA does need additional time to submit a GSP there is already an existing avenue to do so.

AB 754 is unnecessary and will lead to not just one 180-day extension but potentially up to two given the existing extension authorized in current law. The impact of this is the potential for a one-year delay in the submittal of GSP's for medium- or high-priority groundwater basins.

For these reasons, CGC must respectfully oppose AB 754 and requests your "NO" vote on this measure. If you have questions about CGC's position please contact our Legislative Advocate, Rosanna Carvacho Elliott at 916-812-6519 or rosanna@clearadvocacy.com.

Sincerely,



Ann DuBay
President, California Groundwater Coalition

cc: The Honorable Devon Mathis
Honorable Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee