



July 20, 2021

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Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Legislative Advocate

Rosanna Carvacho Elliott
Clear Advocacy

The Honorable Anthony J. Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 350 (Villapudua) – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to express our position of support if amended on AB 350 (Villapudua) with the requested amendments to expand the bill from just critically overdrafted groundwater basins to all groundwater basins in California.

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. Additionally, CGC is supportive of efforts to help landowners reach water use reduction goals that are required for a groundwater basin to be sustainably managed under SGMA. We appreciate the amendments taken on June 1 to remove the limitation of the grant program created by AB 350 to San Joaquin Valley. Unfortunately, the bill is still limited to only critically overdrafted basins when there is a need for these grants in all groundwater basins throughout California.

CGC respectfully requests that AB 350 be amended to expand the grant program to allow for landowners throughout the entire state, regardless of the state of the groundwater basin from which they pump, be eligible to apply for these grants.

For these reasons, CGC will support AB 350 if amended to remove the limitation to land overlying critically overdrafted basins. 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: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Carlos Villapudua