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**Rosanna Carvacho Elliott**  
Clear Advocacy

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May 25, 2021

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
Chair, Assembly Subcommittee 3  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Budget Plan on Drought, Safe Drinking Water, Water Supply Reliability, and Ratepayer Assistance and May Revise Proposals**

Dear Chairman Bloom:

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to express CGC's position on numerous items in the Senate Budget Plan on Drought, Safe Drinking Water, Water Supply Reliability, and Ratepayer Assistance and the Governor's May Revise.

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's 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.

**Funding Eligibility** – CGC respectfully requests that any funding that is made available be open to all groundwater basins and managers, not just limited to those managed by a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA). CGC members have been sustainably managing groundwater basins throughout California for decades including through adjudications or state statute. Therefore, to ensure that all groundwater basins can benefit from the numerous funding streams that will be made available, we respectfully request that the following eligibility language be included in the program statutory language:

*Funds may be used for projects and management actions identified in a groundwater sustainability plan, an alternative plan submitted and approved pursuant to Section 10733.6 of the Water Code, or a judgment in an adjudication issued pursuant to Section 850 of the Code of Civil Procedure or carried out pursuant to a judgment in an adjudication completed prior to the enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.*

**Increase PFAS/PFOA Funding to \$200 Million** – As you know, this is a very costly problem facing groundwater managers across California and there is an urgent need for funding to assist local agencies with PFAS and PFOA contamination. CGC requests that the funding allocation for PFAS/PFOA be increased to \$200 million. Additionally, we request that when crafting this grant

program, the eligibility criteria be different than other groundwater clean-up grants. Specifically, PFAS/PFOA plumes cannot be remediated like other contaminants which is an existing requirement to

receive grant funding for groundwater clean-up. PFAS/PFOA contamination must be dealt with through treatment when the water is pumped for consumption.

**Stream Gauges, Snowpack & Forecast Runoff** – CGC supports the proposals in the Senate’s Plan and the May Revise to fund water data and forecast improvement and respectfully requests that any final budget deal include funding for forecast runoff.

**May Revise – Support if Amended:**

- \$500 million for multi-benefit land repurposing – support if amended to ensure that funding is available to all groundwater basins without limitations to critically overdrafted basins or any regional limitations. All groundwater managers need access to funding to repurpose land to provide for the continued management of groundwater basins and the state should not punish groundwater managers for preventing their basin from becoming critically overdrafted.
- \$10 million for satellite data – support if amended to be statewide and include any area of the state that must monitor for subsidence.

**SGMA Implementation** – CGC supports the proposals in the Senate’s Plan and the May Revise to fund implementation of SGMA. Specifically, the following:

- Senate: \$300 million for competitive grants that support implementation of SGMA.
- May Revise: \$1.962 million for three positions at the SWRCB to review sustainability plans.
- May Revise: additional \$300 million for SGMA implementation.

**Senate’s Plan – Support** the following proposals:

- \$200 million for competitive grants for projects related to water reuse and water recycling.
- \$15 million to improve precipitation forecasting for use in forecast informed reservoir operations, groundwater recharge, and flood risk management, including, but not limited to atmospheric rivers research, mitigation, and climate forecasting.
- \$200 million for competitive grants for projects that provide multiple benefits, including water supply reliability, ecosystem benefits, system reliability benefits, groundwater management and enhancements.

**May Revise – Support** the following proposed allocations:

- \$150 million for groundwater cleanup and water recycling.
- \$10 million for forecast informed reservoir operations.
- \$150 million for urban water management grants to meet Urban Water Management Planning Act requirements.

Thank you for your attention to CGC’s requested amendments, outlined above. If you have questions about any of CGC’s positions please contact our Legislative Advocate, Rosanna Carvacho Elliott at 916-812-6519 or [rosanna@clearadvocacy.com](mailto:rosanna@clearadvocacy.com).

Sincerely,



Ann DuBay  
President, California Groundwater Coalition

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3