



Officers

Ann DuBay, President
Sonoma Water

Greg Woodside, Vice President
Orange County Water District

Randy Schollerman, Vice President
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority

Anthony C. Zampello, Sec.-Treas.
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster

Board Members

Tony Winkel
Mojave Water Agency

Angie Mancillas
Water Replenishment District of So. CA

Courtney Degener
Cadiz, Inc.

Arden Wallum
Mission Springs Water District

Sustaining Members

Cadiz, Inc.
Chino Basin Watermaster
Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Mission Springs Water District
Mojave Water Agency
Orange County Water District
Raymond Basin Management Board
San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority
Sonoma Water
Water Replenishment District of So CA

Institutional/Educational Membership

Groundwater Resources Assn of CA
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Legislative Advocate

Rosanna Carvacho
Clear Advocacy

August 9, 2022

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2201 (Bennett) – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Portantino,

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I respectfully write to express our opposition to AB 2201 (Bennett) which puts new responsibilities on groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) regarding well permits.

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. Unfortunately, AB 2201 will create issues for GSAs that are working to implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs).

Specifically, AB 2201 would place costly new responsibilities on GSAs and subject them to legal liability. Unfortunately, AB 2201 still requires a GSA to provide a written verification that a proposed well "would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program" and "would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal." The majority of GSAs, which are very new entities, are not in a position to be able to answer these questions. Additionally, placing this requirement on a GSA will put them at risk of litigation as water rights are very complex and a GSAs determination under AB 2201 may be viewed by landowners as a violation of their water rights.

Additionally, CGC believes that AB 2201 is coming too soon on the heels of the Governor's Executive Order. We need to see how and whether similar provisions of the Executive Order work prior to putting something in statute.

The Honorable Anthony Portantino

August 9, 2022

Page 3

For these reasons, CGC must respectfully oppose AB 2201 and ask for your “NO” vote on this measure. If you have questions about CGC’s position please contact our Legislative Advocate, Rosanna Carvacho Elliott at 916-479-7400 or rosanna@clearadvocacy.com.

Sincerely,



Ann DuBay

President, California Groundwater Coalition

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Steve Bennett