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Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

#### Legislative Advocate

**Rosanna Carvacho**  
Clear Advocacy

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March 30, 2022

The Honorable Henry Stern  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

#### RE: SB 1372 (Stern) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Stern,

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to express our support for SB 1372 (Stern) which clarifies that the approval of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) shall not be construed to be a determination, by DWR, of water rights.

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 was and continues to be a strong supporter of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which requires high- and medium-priority groundwater basins be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP), coordinated GSPs, or an approved alternative plan. Under SGMA, DWR has the role of evaluating the GSPs to determine if it confirms with the requirements of SGMA and is likely to achieve the sustainability goal for the covered groundwater basin.

SB 1372 clarifies the intent of the legislature that DWR's approval of a GSP should not be construed as a determination by or otherwise an opinion of DWR that the allocation of groundwater pumping rights in the GSP are consistent with groundwater rights law. Given the numerous GSPs that have and will continue to be approved by DWR this clarification is necessary to ensure that there is no infringement on water rights which is for the courts to determine, not DWR.

For these reasons, CGC is in support of SB 1372 and respectfully requests your "AYE" vote when this bill comes before you. If you have questions about CGC's position please contact our Legislative Advocate, Rosanna Carvacho Elliott at 916-479-7400 or [rosanna@clearadvocacy.com](mailto:rosanna@clearadvocacy.com).

The Honorable Henry Stern

March 30, 2022

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann DuBay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "DuBay" clearly legible.

Ann DuBay

President, California Groundwater Coalition

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Dennis O'Connor, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee