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Legislative Advocate

Rosanna Carvacho
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May 2, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 2
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Open and Transparent Water Data Funding - SUPPORT

Dear Chairs Skinner and Wieckowski:

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to express support for the Governor's budget proposal to provide funding to implement the Open and Transparent Water Data Act (AB 1755 of 2016).

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.

AB 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act passed in 2016, acknowledges the tremendous potential of California's water data. It requires the Department of Water Resources (DWR), in consultation with the State Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California Water Quality Monitoring Council (CWQMC), to create, operate, and maintain an integrated water data platform for open, accessible data.

The Governor's budget requests \$750,000 per year for three years, beginning fiscal year 2022-23, for the California Water Data Consortium (CWDC). The funding would be administered by DWR to support CWDC efforts to assist DWR in advancing open and transparent water data to address California's most pressing water management challenges. DWR also requests an additional \$1.1 million per year, beginning FY 2023-24 and ongoing, to address critical open water data needs and expectations, including DWR's necessary collaboration with the CWDC.

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CGC supports the Governor's budget proposal to fund the implementation of the Open and Transparent Water Data Act and respectfully requests that this proposal be adopted in the 2022-23 state budget.

Sincerely,



Ann DuBay
President, California Groundwater Coalition