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Groundwater Resources Assn of CA
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Legislative Advocate

Rosanna Carvacho
Clear Advocacy

June 1, 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: Budget Requests– May Revise Proposals, SGMA Implementation and PFAS Funding

Dear Chairs Skinner and Wieckowski:

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to express support for some of the Governor's May Revise Proposals, outlined below, and request additional funding for the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) monitoring and remediation.

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.

SGMA Implementation The Governor's January Budget included only \$30 million and the May Revise added \$26 million for a total of \$56 million for groundwater recharge grants to support the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). CGC supports the \$56 million and maintains the same request for a total of \$250 million for projects that support groundwater banking, conjunctive use, recharge, or other groundwater projects that improve water resilience. Groundwater recharge is of critical importance as we try to bring our groundwater basins back into a state of sustainability under SGMA.

Data from CGC members show that member agencies have had to spend around \$30 million on one groundwater recharge project alone. The Governor's proposed investment of \$56 million may only provide for two groundwater recharge projects, not nearly enough funding for a statewide allocation and \$250 million is a reasonable request for this important public resource.

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PFAS Remediation PFAS contamination in our soil and groundwater is a significant threat to our state's water supply. PFAS moves through groundwater basins and is a huge concern for CGC members as the presence of PFAS is taking wells offline across the state. Unfortunately, neither the Governor's January Budget or May Revise included any funding for PFAS monitoring or remediation. Therefore, CGC must continue to request \$500 million be included in the 2022-23 budget to provide grants to local agencies for water quality monitoring and remediation for PFAS.

May Revise Proposals CGC supports the following proposals in the Governor's May Revise:

- Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Improved Runoff Forecasting (\$10 million ongoing) and Snow Data (\$6.75 million ongoing).
- Water Recycling (\$100 million).
- State Revolving Funds (\$400 million) – This additional funding is important to be able to draw down federal matching funds, however, this should not be viewed as an alternative to providing state funds to assist local agencies who are dealing with PFAS contamination.
- Water Transfers Pilot Project (\$20 million) – This money must also be available for groundwater recharge.
- Judicial Council Training (\$1.2 million ongoing).

For these reasons, CGC respectfully requests that you include in the 2022-23 Budget Act a total of \$250 million for groundwater recharge grants, \$500 million for PFAS remediation and support for the Governor's May Revise Proposals outlined above. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Ann DuBay
President, California Groundwater Coalition