

COMPANY OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD

May [], 2022

The Honorable Chris R. Holden, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
[Address Line 1]
[Address Line 2]

Dear Chair Holden and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Subject: AB2041 Safe Drinking Water Compliance Affordability

I am writing on behalf of (NAME OF SUPPLIER) in support of AB 2041. (NAME OF SUPPLIER) represents (NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS) customers in (NAME OF COUNTY), California. Under AB2041, the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) of the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) would be required to devise a plan and determine funding to help small water systems and disadvantaged communities comply with new drinking water regulatory standards.

AB2041 would ensure that no community gets left behind in the quest for safe drinking water, when new standards are approved by the State Water Board. Currently, compliance is left to chance for small water systems and disadvantaged communities. With the Legislature’s creation of the State Water Board’s SAFER program, a foundation has been established to proactively cover this breach. AB2041 takes the existing process for establishing an MCL and the information already available from water suppliers to address the water systems that exceed a proposed MCL that could not otherwise afford to comply. AB2041 would simply add the requirement that the State Water Board use the mechanisms established in SB200 (Monning) to help these water systems with a compliance and financial plan within a reasonable time known as a “compliance period.”

SB200 that established the SAFER Program and subsequent legislation already empowers the State Water Board to acquire additional information from water systems at risk of failing to meet primary drinking water standards for the purposes of providing financial assistance, and/or ordering water system consolidations. The State Water Board is similarly authorized to combine funding sources, prioritize Federal funding support, and has recently recruited safe drinking water funding partners. The State Water Board also has the authority to assign a water system administrator to avert a water system from failing and to plan how to bring such systems into compliance with primary drinking water standards. AB2041 would simply require the State Water Board to proactively plan such measures consistent with provisions established in SB200 in the enactment of new drinking water standards, so that no community gets left behind in the quest for safe drinking water.

Arguments that AB2041 is not needed because of the establishment of the SAFER Program itself fail to recognize that SAFER is not currently required to anticipate how new drinking water standards will impact the number of water systems at risk of not meeting primary drinking water standards. For example, if the standard for Chromium 6 had not been invalidated in 2017, the number of water systems currently at risk of not complying with safe drinking water standards would be over 500, double the number that exists today without a Chromium 6 MCL. AB2041 would mean that the State Water Board would have to prioritize its funding, and encourage transparency about the resources required to ensure that all water systems have an equitable chance of complying with new drinking water standards, especially those that serve disadvantaged communities. This is an essential component of the Human

Right to Water under AB685 (Eng) enacted ten years ago that establishes the goal of safe and affordable drinking water for all residents of the state.

We respectfully request that you support AB2041.

Sincerely yours,

(NAME)
(President/GM/Other Company Leadership)
(NAME OF SUPPLIER)