



August 30, 2017

The Honorable Robert M. Hertzberg  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water  
State Capitol, Room 5046  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2059  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 606 (Skinner/Hertzberg)- OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

CHRIS COURSEY  
Mayor

Dear Senator Hertzberg and Senator Skinner,

JACK TIBBETTS  
Vice Mayor

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our "Oppose Unless Amended" position on SB 606.

JULIE COMBS  
ERNESTO OLIVARES  
CHRIS ROGERS  
JOHN SAWYER  
TOM SCHWEDHELM

The City of Santa Rosa is an urban retail water supplier servicing approximately 175,000 residents in Sonoma County. Santa Rosa has a long-standing commitment to drought preparation and water use efficiency, recognizing the vital role that long-term drought preparation and continued improvement in water use efficiency provide in maintaining a resilient water supply.

The City is a member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), which is the largest statewide coalition of public water agencies in the country, representing more than 430 agencies that collectively are responsible for 90% of the water delivered across California. Throughout this past year, the City of Santa Rosa has been engaged with ACWA and public water agencies throughout the state in the development of legislation to implement the Governor's "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life" framework and its objectives of establishing new water use targets for urban retail water suppliers and enhancing drought planning, preparation, and reporting requirements.

While SB 606 includes several provisions consistent with these objectives, there are problematic provisions of concern to public water agencies. The City of Santa Rosa urges you to address the issues identified below through the amendments ACWA provided to you:

- SB 606 would grant the State Water Resources Control Board the authority to adopt a variety of enforceable water use standards, including standards for outdoor residential use and commercial, industrial, and institutional water use. Giving state agencies unchecked authority to adopt these standards risks impacts to communities and businesses across

California, as only the Legislature can balance competing policy goals and priorities related to water use.

SB 606 should be amended to clearly define, in statute, any enforceable standards for efficient urban water use, including standards for outdoor residential water use and an adequate standard for indoor residential use as outlined below.

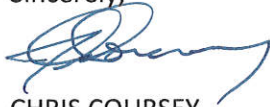
- SB 606 provides only a limited and temporary credit for potable reuse. This provision does not adequately protect and encourage investments in recycled water and potable reuse. SB 606 should be amended to encourage development of these new types of water supplies, including provisions which provide full credit for potable reuse and a sufficient allocation in any water budget for recycled water used for irrigation.
- SB 606 currently includes 55 gallons per capita per day (“GPCD”) standard for indoor residential use and reduction to 50 GPCD in 2025. Any standard for indoor residential use below 55 GPCD) would pose significant challenges for many communities, including those with older construction and disadvantaged communities that cannot afford to update fixtures and appliances. SB 606 should be amended to include a standard for indoor residential use of no less than 55 GPCD.
- SB 606 includes a one-time requirement for the Department of Water Resources to provide limited elements of the data needed for water suppliers to calculate the required annual water use objective. For urban water suppliers to be able to calculate the water use objective annually, as required by SB 606, suppliers will need regularly updated data. SB 606 should be amended to either remove the annual reporting requirement or ensure that water suppliers will be provided with the resources necessary to calculate accurate water use objectives.
- SB 606 grants state agencies the discretion to decide whether to adopt variances from standards. In a state as diverse as California, calculating retail-level water use efficiency targets using a “one-size fits all” methodology will be challenging for a wide variety of technical, economic and administrative reasons. SB 606 should be amended to require the establishment of variances and implementation processes that account for unique local conditions as well as technical, economic, and administrative feasibility.
- SB 606 grants state agencies expansive new enforcement powers, including the ability to require water suppliers to take punitive enforcement actions on their customers and the authority to deny state grant and loan funds for failure to meet an undefined standard of “compliance.” SB 606’s enforcement provisions should be amended to shift their emphasis away from providing new punitive enforcement authorities to state agencies and toward technical assistance and information-sharing, along with appropriate authorities to ensure that reporting, planning and other requirements are satisfied.

The operative provisions of existing law in this area—both the “20% by 2020” water use targets and the 2021 updates to urban water management plans—are still years from full implementation. As noted in a previous Committee analysis of this bill, “[w]hile it makes sense to begin working now on whatever comes next, it also makes sense to take the time to make sure the policy and language is appropriate and does what is intended.” If we cannot come to consensus this year, we urge you to make SB 606 a two-year bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with the Legislature to secure a sustainable and resilient water future that protects local authority and includes sensible approaches to improving water use efficiency and enhancing drought planning and preparation.

If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Burke, Deputy Director of Water and Engineering Resources at (707) 543-3359 or jburke@srcity.org.

Sincerely,



CHRIS COURSEY

Mayor, City of Santa Rosa

- c: The Honorable Laura Friedman, Member, California State Assembly
- The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chairman, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
- The Honorable Members, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
- The Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife
- The Honorable Nancy Skinner, Member, California State Senate
- The Honorable Members, Assembly Water Conservation Working Group
- The Honorable Assemblyman Mark Levine, 10<sup>th</sup> District
- The Honorable Assemblyman Jim Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> District
- The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire, 2<sup>nd</sup> District
- Mr. Dennis O'Connor, Principal Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
- Ms. Catherine Freeman, Chief Consultant, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife
- Mr. Ryan Ojakian, Senior Consultant, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife
- Mr. Michael Bedard, Chief of Staff, Office of Senator Robert Hertzberg

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