City of Santa Rosa

July 31, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
California State Senate, Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 470 (Alvarado-Gil) – Water: Urban Water Community Drought Relief program: Small Community Drought Relief program. Support - As Amended on July 12, 2023**

Dear Chair Portantino:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our support for Senate Bill (SB) 470, which would establish the Urban Water Community Drought Relief program and the Small Community Drought Relief program, both in the Department of Water Resources, to provide grants for drought relief.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

The threat of catastrophic wildfire in rural communities continues to grow and water infrastructure for fire suppression plays a key role in protecting these neighborhoods. For example, water utility infrastructure projects are necessary to improve fire hydrant coverage, upsize water distribution pipelines, and increase storage capacity. California's rural communities have been ground zero for large-scale environmental and economic devastation during the past decade due to wildfires. Aging infrastructure, combined with insufficient resources to prepare for adequate wildfire response, has left many communities at high risk for further fire activity.

Santa Rosa has three water pump stations (Pump Stations 10, 13 and 14) directly adjacent to the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) that need fire hardening retrofits to ensure water is available for firefighting and water supply reliability. In the event that Santa Rosa experiences another large-scale fire, such as the 2017 Tubbs Fire, these retrofits are necessary to ensure adequate water supply and flow are available for firefighting.

The City of Santa Rosa has experienced especially harsh consequences of these wildfires and SB 470 will help provide more funding for wildfire defense and protect communities with large rural areas, such as the region surrounding the City of Santa Rosa. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 470 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Alyssa Silhi with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 505-4978.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

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