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Authority
Sonoma County Water Agency
Water Replenishment District of So CA

Affiliate Members

CH2M Hill
Roscoe Moss Company

Institutional/Educational Partners

American Groundwater Trust
Association of Ground Water Agencies
Groundwater Resources Assn of CA

Legislative Advocates

Chris Frahm
Rosanna Carvacho
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

April 15, 2014

The Honorable Katcho Achadjian
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2189 (Garcia) – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Achadjian:

On behalf of the California Groundwater Coalition (CGC), I write to respectfully express our opposition to AB 2189 (Garcia) relating to water replenishment districts.

The California Groundwater Coalition (CGC) was formed at the urging of California State and local officials who believe that increased efforts are 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 2189 would require the replenishment assessment (RA) now imposed by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) to be based upon the proportion of the costs actually incurred by the operator of a groundwater well instead of the costs associated with replenishing and maintaining water quality in the groundwater basins. This bill would also prohibit the WRD Board of Directors from imposing a RA if there is a majority protest; meaning that there would be no groundwater assessment for that year.

Without a groundwater assessment the WRD will have zero revenue to replenish and effectively manage the Central and West Coast groundwater basins that provide 40% of the water to 4 million Southern California residents. CGC strongly supports sustainable groundwater management practices and if WRD is unable to replenish these basins they will be at risk of depletion and overdraft. With all the focus on the management of groundwater basins this year, taking away authorities from the agency that has, as its primary responsibility, the management of one of the largest groundwater basins in the Los Angeles region does not make sense.

The Honorable Katcho Achadjian

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We believe that AB 2189 will compromise WRD's ability to sustainably manage the groundwater basins that they are responsible for and therefore must respectfully oppose this bill. If you have any questions regarding our position on this measure, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Legislative Advocates Chris Frahm or Rosanna Carvacho at 916-594-9700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Manning', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Manning

President, California Groundwater Coalition

cc: Members, Assembly Local Government Committee
The Honorable Cristina Garcia