



CSDA

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Laura Friedman, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2246 (Mayes): Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975: exemption: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California - **SUPPORT**
Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

On behalf of the public agencies and business organizations noted below, we are pleased to express support for AB 2246, your bill to exempt Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) from certain provisions of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) for excavations and grading activities to obtain material for responding to emergencies and to repair and maintain water infrastructure and transmission systems in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties.

The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) is one of two major imported supplies that provides water to 19 million citizens served by Metropolitan's 26 member agencies. Metropolitan plans and invests in maintaining the CRA that extends 242 miles from the Colorado River across the desert to Lake Mathews, in Riverside County. When Metropolitan completed construction of the Aqueduct in 1941, it retained ownership of the land beneath and adjacent to the Aqueduct, including excess stone, gravel, and sand used to construct the project. Metropolitan uses those materials to restore CRA facilities from storm and flood damage, and make repairs to the CRA, adjacent roads, and related infrastructure.

In 2017, the county of San Bernardino notified Metropolitan that it needed to comply with SMARA for the use of materials obtained from land owned by Metropolitan for repair and maintenance activities. Riverside County followed suit. Metropolitan has begun the process of developing separate reclamation plans for both counties but has discovered that there are differing regulations and processes for compliance across counties. For this reason, Metropolitan is sponsoring AB 2246 to create an approach, so Metropolitan can complete a single master reclamation plan for all its SMARA-regulated sites, comply with CEQA, and submit required inspection reports to the Department of Conservation. This approach would make compliance with SMARA more efficient and generate cost savings for ratepayers.

For the aforementioned reasons, we urge your AYE vote on AB 2246 when the bill comes before the Assembly Natural Resources committee. If you have any questions or wish additional information on this measure, please contact Kathryn Viatella in Metropolitan's Sacramento Office (916) 650-2614.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kightlinger
General Manager
**Metropolitan Water
District of Southern
California**

Anthony Goff
General Manager
**Calleguas Municipal
Water District**

Matthew Litchfield
General Manager
**Three Valleys
Municipal Water
District**

Paul D. Jones II
General Manager
**Eastern Municipal
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Colin Diaz
Chair
**Westside Council of
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Craig Miller
General Manager
**Western Municipal
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Eileen Hupp
President/CEO
**Palos Verdes
Peninsula Chamber of
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John Bosler, P.E.
General Manager/CEO
**Cucamonga Valley
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*Legislative
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**California Special
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