



Sacramento Legislative Office

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1323 (Skinner): Carbon sequestration: state goals: natural and working lands: registry of projects. - **SUPPORT**
Senate Environmental Quality Committee

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, I am pleased to support your bill SB 1323 that would set carbon sequestration goals for natural and working lands and require the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to maintain a California Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency Project Registry.

Metropolitan Water District wholesales water to 26 member agencies in Southern California who serve 19 million residents. Metropolitan and our member agencies with agricultural land holdings could benefit from SB 1323 through additional grant funding opportunities. We have long-standing partnerships with agriculture in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River Basin to conserve water and restore species habitat.

Metropolitan owns and manages islands in the Delta to help meet the co-equal goals of a restored Delta and reliable water supply. We could list some of the projects on those islands to farm sustainably and manage peat soils to sequester carbon on the registry. SB 1323 would help us and other farmers implement healthy soils practices like cover crops or compost applications that not only sequester more carbon, but also improve the soil's ability to hold water. Healthy soils practices will help agriculture become more climate resilient.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support your bill. If you have questions about our position, please contact me at (916) 650-2614 or kviatella@mwdh2o.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn C. Viatella".

Kathryn C. Viatella
Executive Legislative Representative

cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Gabrielle Meindl, Chief Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Scott Seekatz, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus