



Sacramento Legislative Office

July 29, 2020

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 414 (Caballero): Small System Water Authority Act of 2019 –
Assembly Appropriations Committee - **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) is pleased to support SB 414—the Small System Water Authority Act of 2020, which authorizes the formation of new regional water authorities by consolidating small public water systems that struggle to comply with statewide drinking water standards.

Metropolitan recognizes that access to safe and reliable drinking water is a statewide concern, but especially challenging in economically-distressed communities where small systems lack the technical, managerial and financial expertise to comply with statewide standards. While, the California Legislature and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) have made significant strides to develop new tools and secure funding to address this challenge, we believe SB 414 provides another lasting solution that the SWRCB can use to consolidate small systems into a new regional authority and realize cost savings.

After a year-long discussion with stakeholders and the SWRCB, the proposed July 25 amendments reflect a process that more consistently aligns with the SWRCB's existing authority and practices, and enhances flexibility in achieving milestones that will provide for the safe reliable delivery of safe and reliable drinking water for all Californians.

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For these reasons, Metropolitan supports SB 414, and we respectfully request your “Aye” vote when this bill comes before your committee. If Metropolitan can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at kviatella@mwdh2o.com or by phone at (916) 650-2614.

Sincerely,



Kathy C. Viatella
Executive Legislative Representative

cc: Senator Anna Caballero
Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Jennifer Galehouse, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Kristin Kolpitke, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus