



*Sacramento Legislative Office*

May 6, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 669 (Caballero): Water Quality: Safe Drinking Water Fund – **SUPPORT**  
**Senate Appropriations Committee – May 13, 2019**

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), I wish to express support for Senator Caballero's SB 669, which will establish a Safe Drinking Water Trust funded with General Fund dollars during state budget surplus years that will help ensure community water systems in disadvantaged communities have safe drinking water.

Metropolitan recognizes there is a need to identify a sustainable funding source to assist those disadvantaged communities that do not have access to safe drinking water. This is a public health issue that the state must address. California has created capital funding through past bond measures to pay for new treatment systems. However, a funding gap exists for small, community water systems that cannot afford to cover annual operations and maintenance costs because these costs cannot be paid for with bond funds. A record budget surplus for the 2019-2020 fiscal year creates an opportunity to establish the Water Trust with General Fund dollars and use the net income from the Trust to create a durable funding source.

The problem of access to safe drinking water in disadvantaged communities is complex and will require a concerted effort by the state to bring small, failing systems in to compliance. Senate Bill 669 will provide the necessary resources using General Fund

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dollars to support future consolidations and technical assistance to help small failing system comply with safe drinking water standards.

For these reasons, Metropolitan supports SB 669 and respectfully requests the Senate Appropriations Committee to look favorably upon SB 669. If you have any questions or wish additional information concerning Metropolitan's position on the bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kviatella@mwdh2o.com](mailto:kviatella@mwdh2o.com) or by phone at (916) 650-2614.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Viatella", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathy Viatella  
Executive Legislative Representative

cc: Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
Senator Anna Caballero  
Mark McKenzie, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Chantelle Deny, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus