

August 21, 2025

President pro Tempore Mike McGuire
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jesse Gabriel
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Benjamin Allen
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Steve Bennett
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Funding for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund

Dear President pro Tempore McGuire, Speaker Rivas, Budget Chairs Wiener and Gabriel, and Subcommittee Chairs Allen and Bennett:

On behalf of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), I write to express our strong support for continued funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding (GGRF) for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (SADW Fund) and the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) program.

The GGRF provides an ongoing appropriation of five percent of annual GGRF revenues (up to \$130 million) for the SADW Fund, which was established by SB 200 (Monning, 2019). The SADW Fund provides critical funding flexibility for the State Water Board's efforts to bring safe drinking water to communities that currently lack access. The SADW Fund is vital to the state's efforts because it can be used to address funding gaps for capital and non-capital projects that otherwise cannot be funded.

The funding made available by the GGRF since 2019 has proven to be highly effective at restoring access to safe drinking water for under-resourced communities. As of 2025, over five years into the SAFER program, 321 failing water systems have returned to compliance with drinking water standards because of State Water Board assistance, directly and indirectly benefiting over 3 million people. Defunding the SADW Fund without an alternative funding source would stall the State Water Board's progress and

prevent hundreds of thousands of Californians from gaining access to safe drinking water.

This funding is a critical resource as California works to achieve the Human Right to Water, and we strongly support its continued inclusion in the GGRF allocations.

Sincerely,



Soren Nelson
Senior Policy Advocate
Association of California Water Agencies

CC: Kip Lipper, Office of Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire
Christopher Woods, Office of Senate Pro Tem Mike McGuire
Jason Sisney, Office of Speaker Robert Rivas
Keith Cialino, Office of Speaker Robert Rivas
Tina Andolina, Office of Senator Ben Allen
Samantha Omana, Office of Senator Monique Limón
Samuel Mahanes, Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies
Joanne Roy, State Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Shy Forbes, State Assembly Budget Committee