



June 1, 2026

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes
Chair, Senate Budget Sub 2
1021 O Street, Suite 7210
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Steve Bennett
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub 4
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: River Forecast and Snow Survey Resources Budget Change Proposal

Dear Honorable Chairs,

Thank you for your continued leadership in strengthening California's flood and drought resilience. We write in support of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) River Forecast and Snow Survey Resources Budget Change Proposal (BCP), which includes \$9.5 million in ongoing funding to mitigate federal funding impacts by ensuring real-time 24-hour weather, river, and reservoir inflow monitoring and forecasting capabilities across California, along with snow course measurements that are critical for state water supply forecasting. We thank Senate Budget Sub 2 and Assembly Budget Sub 4 for supporting this important item and respectfully request its inclusion in the final Budget Act.

Existing law requires DWR to issue real-time river and reservoir inflow forecasts and ensure statewide collection of manual snow course data - obligations it has historically carried out in partnership with federal agencies. However, in early 2025, federal staffing cuts at the National Weather Service significantly reduced the capacity to provide accurate and timely statewide river and reservoir inflow forecasts essential for public safety and effective water management. Additional cuts to the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service further diminished the collection and distribution of manual snow course data critical for runoff forecasting and protecting Californians from floods, droughts, and wildfires.

The last several winters have demonstrated the significant impact California's weather volatility has on flooding and water supply. In 2024, Los Angeles experienced one of its wettest multi-day periods on record, while Northern California witnessed peak wind gusts of 80–100 miles per hour. These storms downed hundreds of trees and left more than 1.4 million customers without power. That same year, San Diego experienced its fourth wettest single day since 1850, causing widespread flooding in some of the city's most disadvantaged neighborhoods. In December 2025, four atmospheric rivers delivered more than 15 inches of rain to parts of California and up to six feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada. In some regions, this represented more than 20 percent of average annual precipitation in just ten days. The extreme conditions caused widespread flooding, landslides, infrastructure damage, and four storm-related deaths.

This BCP will support the development of an independent river forecasting system tailored to California's specific needs, helping to mitigate the loss of federal data and resources while ensuring DWR can continue disseminating critical storm and hydrology forecasts. The proposal will help maintain the availability of real-time forecasting information necessary to protect life and property, guide water management decisions, and reduce flood risk statewide.

We thank you for your support and respectfully encourage the inclusion of DWR's River Forecast and Snow Survey Resources BCP in the final Budget Act.

Sincerely,



Grant Davis
General Manager
Sonoma Water



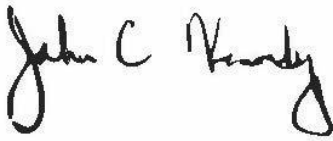
Julia Hall
State Legislative Director
Association of California Water Agencies



Brad Koehn
General Manager
Turlock Irrigation District



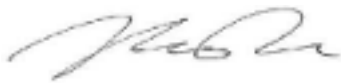
Dan Denham
General Manager
San Diego County Water Authority



John Kennedy
General Manager
Orange County Water District



Paul A. Cook
General Manager
Irvine Ranch Water District



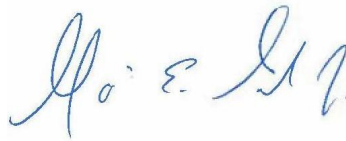
Willie Whittlesey
General Manager
Yuba Water Agency



Antonio Alfaro
Government Relations Advocate
Valley Water



Greg Thomas
General Manager
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District



Mauricio Guardado
General Manager
United Water Conservation District



Federico Barajas
Executive Director
San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority



Aaron A. Avery
Director of State Legislative Affairs
California Special Districts Association



Randy Schoellerman
President
California Groundwater Coalition



Kristopher Anderson
Policy Advocate
California Chamber of Commerce

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Jimi Netniss
General Manager
Modesto Irrigation District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Johnny Amaral".

Johnny Amaral
Chief Executive Officer
Chief for External Affairs
Friant Water Authority