



March 20, 2026

Assemblymember Lisa Calderon  
 California State Assembly  
 1021 O Street, Suite 4650  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 2215 (Calderon) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Calderon:

The above-identified organizations are pleased to support your AB 2215, as amended on March 16, which would extend the timeline for the full development of the State Water Project's (SWP) water rights permits to the year 2085, the same term as the existing, validated contracts between the State of California (Department of Water Resources [DWR]) and the public water agencies for the SWP water supply.

Extending the time for a water rights holder to develop its water rights is not uncommon. In fact, the SWP has been granted a time extension in 1990. However, in 2009, DWR, which owns, operates and holds the water rights for the SWP, filed a petition for a time extension with the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) approximately 15 years ago, but that application has never been processed. The delay is hindering DWR's ability to modernize the SWP and effectively plan for climate change.

The SWP is the nation's largest state-owned water and power generator and user-financed water system, and it plays a critical role in addressing climate change, helping California manage its water supply during extremes such as flood and drought. DWR has been diligently pursuing the development of its existing SWP water rights. Over several decades, DWR has constructed 36 water storage facilities, 21 pumping plants, five hydroelectric power plants, four pumping-generating plants, and approximately 700 miles of canals, tunnels, and pipelines. Operations and maintenance of these facilities costs over a billion dollars a year regardless of the amount of water delivered, and those costs are paid by the public water agencies who are under contract with DWR.

Without the full development of the SWP water rights, rates may increase for 27 million Californians, water supply reliability is less certain, and the SWP risks an investment that cannot be fully realized. Unfortunately, the full development of the SWP's water rights has been hindered by circumstances outside of DWR's control, making AB 2215 necessary. Giving DWR more time to develop its already approved water rights addresses water availability and affordability for the vast majority of the state and is clearly in the public's interest.

Importantly, your AB 2215 makes it clear that it would **not** approve any future project or change in SWP operations. The approval of the SWP time extension would not diminish the rights of members of the public to participate in future SWP permitting activities. Future permitting processes would continue to be required before SWP operations could be changed and/or infrastructure projects built. None of the actions that would allow DWR to develop its water rights are exempted from CEQA, NEPA, ESA, CESA or any other regulation protecting the environment, water quality, or water rights holders. AB 2215 also includes provisions specifically ensuring that the bill **shall not** be construed as an approval of any proposed modification of physical facilities of the SWP, including the Delta Conveyance Project.

Legislative approval of the SWP time extension is appropriate because even if the SWP time extension petition were moved forward by the Water Board, its administrative process would likely take years, cost the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in staff time, and water agencies significant time and money to just answer the question: was DWR diligent in pursuing the development of its full water right. The approval of the time extension has no negative environmental impacts, saves public funds, and does not diminish opportunities for public participation.

We strongly appreciate your leadership in advancing AB 2215 to address a critical statewide water policy issue. Collectively, we stand ready to provide the needed support to amplify AB 2215 and advance a meaningful policy objective.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pierre, General Manager  
**State Water Contractors**

Joe Cruz, Executive Director  
**California State Council of Laborers**

Dan Dunmoyer, President & CEO  
**California Building Industry  
Association**

Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager  
**The Metropolitan Water District of  
Southern California**

Michael Quigley, Executive Director  
**California Alliance for Jobs**

Kristopher M. Anderson, Policy Advocate  
**California Chamber of Commerce**

Alexandra Biering, Director, Policy  
Advocacy  
**California Farm Bureau Federation**

Vijay Das, Policy Director  
**New California Coalition**

Roberto C. Arnold, MBA, Chairman &  
Founder  
**California Multicultural Business  
Alliance**

Charles Wilson, Executive Director  
**Southern California Water Coalition**

Mike Ross, President  
**Southern California Leadership Council**

Caren Spilsbury, President  
**Gateway Chamber Alliance**

Matthew Litchfield, P.E., General Manager  
**Three Valley Municipal Water District**

Craig D. Miller, P.E., General Manager  
**Western Municipal Water District**

Ray A. Stokes, Executive Director  
**Central Coast Water Authority**

Joe Mouawad, P.E., General Manager  
**Eastern Municipal Water District**

Dave W. Pedersen, General Manager  
**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District**

Valerie Pryor, General Manager  
**Zone 7 Water Agency**

Lance Eckhart, General Manager  
**San Geronio Pass Water Agency**

Steven J. Elie, General Manager  
**Inland Empire Utilities Agency**

Peter Tateishi, Chief Executive Officer  
**Associated General Contractors of  
California**

Jazmine Advincula, Director of Public Policy  
**CalAsian Chamber of Commerce**

Charlie Nobles, Executive Director  
**Southern California Contractors  
Association**

Brooke Armour Spiegel, Executive Vice  
President  
**California Business Roundtable**

Heather Baez, Director of government Affairs  
**Municipal Water District of Orange  
County**

Luara Hidas, Director of Water Resources  
**Alameda County Water District**

Thomas Love, General Manager  
**Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water  
District**

Luis Portillo, President & CEO  
**San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership**

Amanda Walsh, VP of Government Affairs  
**Orange County Business Council**

Nina Jazmadarian, General Manager  
**Foothill Municipal Water District**

Chris Lee, General Manager  
**Solano County Water Agency**

Jennifer Spindler, General Manager  
**Crestline-Lake Arrowhead Water Agency**

David Reyes, General Manager  
**Pasadena Water and Power**

Matthew Stone, General Manager  
**Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency**

Gail Delihant, Sr. Director, CA Government  
Affairs  
**Western Growers Association**

Jacob Westra, General Manager  
**Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage  
District**

Esther Saenz, MBA, General Manager  
**Desert Water Agency**

Adan Anabtawi, General Manager  
**Mojave Water Agency**

Craig Bilezerian, Public Works Director  
**City of Torrance**

Caren Spilsbury, Executive Director  
**Norwalk Chamber of Commerce**

Carlos Singer, Chief Policy Officer  
**Los Angeles Area Chamber of  
Commerce**

Jeremy Harris, President/CEO  
**Long Beach Chamber of Commerce**

Jason Martin, General Manager  
**Rancho California Water District**

Jose Reynoso, General Manager  
**San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water  
District**

Brian Tisdale, Advocacy Committee  
Chair, Councilman, City of Lake  
Elsinore  
**Western Riverside Council of  
Governments**

Heather Dyer, General Manager  
**San Bernardino Valley MWD**

Christopher Silke, District Engineer  
**Napa County Flood Control and Water  
Conservation District**

Matthew Knudson, General Manager  
**Antelope Valley East Kern Water  
Agency**

Eric Averett, General Manager  
**Kern County Water Agency**

Jim Wunderman, Head of Public Affairs  
**California Forever**

Donna Duperron, President & CEO  
**Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce**

Monica Farias, President & CEO  
**Greater West Covina Business Association**

Mark Gilkey, Manager-Engineer  
**Dudley Ridge Water District**

Mike Lewis, Senior Vice President  
**Construction Industry Coalition on Water  
Quality (CICWQ)**

Robert Saucedo, Chairman  
**Groundswell for Water Justice**

Stuart Waldman, President  
**Valley Industry & Commerce Association**

Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Director of  
Regulatory and Economic Affairs  
**Milk Producers Council**

Janet Epstein, Office Administrator  
**Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce**

Cc: Assemblymember Diane Papan, Chair – Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee  
Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Vice-Chair – Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee  
Members, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee  
Pablo Garza, Consultant – Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee  
Keith Cialino, Office of Assembly Speaker

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 19, 2026

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2215**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Calderon**  
*(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Jeff Gonzalez)*  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Garcia, Irwin, Michelle Rodriguez,*  
*and Blanca Rubio)*  
*(Coauthors: Senators Archuleta and Ochoa Bogh)*

February 19, 2026

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An act to amend Section ~~10610~~ 1398 of the Water Code, relating to water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2215, as amended, Calderon. ~~Urban water management planning.~~  
*Water rights: permits: State Water Project.*

*The Department of Water Resources operates the State Water Resources Development System, commonly referred to as the State Water Project.*

*Existing law requires that construction work for a project that will put appropriated water to beneficial use be commenced, prosecuted with due diligence, and completed within the time period specified in the water right permit. Existing law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to extend the deadline specified in the permit to commence or complete construction work and to put appropriated water to beneficial use for good cause shown.*

*This bill would require that the time periods for the application of water to beneficial use and for the completion of construction work for specific water right permits held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of the State Water Project be December 31, 2085.*

Existing law, the Urban Water Management Planning Act, requires every public and private urban water supplier that directly or indirectly provides water for municipal purposes to prepare and adopt an urban water management plan.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to the provision of law naming that act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~-yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 1398 of the Water Code is amended to  
2 read:

3 1398. (a) (1) The period specified in the permit for beginning  
4 construction work, for completion of construction work, for  
5 application of the water to beneficial use, or any or all of these  
6 periods may, for good cause shown, be extended by the board.

7 ~~(b)~~

8 (2) After any hearing on a petition to extend the period or  
9 periods, the board may revoke the permit in accordance with  
10 Section 1410.

11 *(b) (1) The time periods for application of water to beneficial  
12 use and for the completion of construction work for water right  
13 permits numbered 16477, 16478, 16479, 16480, 16481, and 16482  
14 held by the Department of Water Resources for the operation of  
15 the State Water Project shall be December 31, 2085.*

16 *(2) This subdivision shall not be construed as an approval of  
17 any proposed modification of physical facilities of the State Water  
18 Project, including the Delta Conveyance Project.*

19 ~~SECTION 1. Section 10610 of the Water Code is amended to  
20 read:~~

21 ~~10610. This part shall be known, and may be cited, as the  
22 "Urban Water Management Planning Act."~~

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