



March 13, 2019

Senate Governance and Finance Committee
Senator Mike McGuire, Chair
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 414 (Caballero): Small System Water Authority Act of 2019 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator McGuire:

The Southern California Water Coalition is pleased to support *SB 414 - The Small System Water Authority Act of 2019*. SB 414 seeks to establish a new category of public water agency by way of merging formerly non-compliant drinking water systems in order to sustainably provide the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities necessary to ensure the consistent delivery of safe drinking water.

SCWC recognizes that water accessibility is truly a concern in a number of regions throughout the state. As of February 6, 2019, the State Water Resource Control Board has identified approximately 264 public water systems that are chronically serving contaminated water to customers and are in violation of primary state and federal drinking water standards. A great percentage of these failing systems are primarily located in economically distressed or rural counties. Systems that fail to provide access to clean, reliable, drinking water must be held accountable and have a plan to mitigate natural contaminants, and/or manmade contaminants, or fix their under-maintained water systems.

This bill authorizes the creation of a Small System Water Authority that will be authorized to absorb, improve, and competently operate currently non-compliant public water systems with either contiguous or non-contiguous boundaries. By establishing lasting changes to the governance structures of failing water systems, the state of California will take substantial steps toward achieving the goal of making safe, clean and reliable drinking water a reality for all Californians.





SCWC thanks you for your support in addressing water accessibility issues. If we could be of assistance to you in the future please contact me at cwilson@socalwater.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Wilson', is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Charles Wilson
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Anna Caballero

