

March 18, 2014

Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1292 (Hueso) – Support

Dear Senator Hueso:

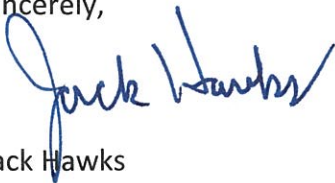
On behalf of the California Water Association (CWA), the statewide trade group representing 116 water utilities that are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission and that serve nearly 6 million Californians, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1292 (Hueso).

The California Safe Drinking Water Act currently requires the State Department of Public Health to oversee the state's drinking water programs in order to protect public health. The Department's duties include the adoption and enforcement of safe drinking water standards, and the conduct of research, studies, and demonstration programs related to providing a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

The Department also administers the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund ("SRF"), which is continuously appropriated to help finance grants and revolving fund loans for the design and construction of projects for public water systems. Currently, the maximum grant available from the SRF to a public water system is \$3 million. SB 1292 would increase the maximum amount of a construction grant award to \$5 million for water systems serving severely disadvantaged communities.

CWA extends its support for SB 1292, as this bill is needed to assist the most vulnerable communities in the State. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the phone numbers listed herein, or our Legislative Advocate, Jennifer Capitolo, at 916-442-8888, if you have any questions. Thank you for your leadership on this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Jack Hawks

Cc: Honorable Members of the Senate Environmental Quality Cte.
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Martha Guzman-Aceves, Office of the Governor

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