



March 3, 2025

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly, 73rd District
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 514 (Petrie-Norris): Emergency Water Supplies- Support

Dear Assemblymember Petrie-Norris:

We, the undersigned coalition of statewide associations, cities, water suppliers, business organizations, and regional stakeholders, are writing to express our support for AB 514 (Petrie-Norris) and to thank you for authoring this important measure, which would enact a state policy to encourage and incentivize greater investment in and development of emergency water supplies across the state.

California has always had a climate that cycles between periods of large amounts of precipitation and times of drought. With climate change, however, we are experiencing greater weather whiplash. As the state sees more rainfall and less snow, earlier snowmelt, more intense rain events, aridification, and increasingly more frequent droughts, the state should support every responsible tool to enhance water resilience.

While adherence to feasible water use efficiency standards will continue to play an important role in the face of climate change, water resilience for the future will also require California to maximize various innovative approaches to ensure sufficient water for the state's ecosystem, urban, and agriculture needs in times of shortage.

The development of emergency water supplies— a water supply that has been developed by a water supplier to enhance its water supply reliability during times of shortage and is a supply in addition to the baseline water supplies that the agency draws upon during non-shortage times to meet water demands within its service area— is one tool that can aid the state in mitigating the impacts of more frequent droughts. Unfortunately, few water suppliers have made the investment in emergency supplies because the state has not formally recognized them.

AB 514 seeks to remedy this by enacting a policy in the Water Code that recognizes emergency water supplies, encourages their development, and supports their use during times of shortage. Our coalition believes that such a policy will encourage and incentivize greater investment in and development of emergency supplies— making communities more resilient, better able to withstand drought and flood, and more prepared to provide safe and reliable water supplies to residents, business and the environment.



For these reasons, we strongly support AB 514 and urge you and your colleagues to vote “Aye” on this important measure. Please feel free to contact Christine Compton with the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) at (949) 453-5338 or IRWD’s Sacramento advocate Alfredo Arredondo at (805) 598-9350 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kris Murray
Executive Director, ACC-OC