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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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July 16, 2020

Senator Benjamin Allen  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2560 (Quirk) Water quality: notification and response levels:  
procedures – Support

Dear Chair Allen:

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes in support of AB 2560 which establishes a transparent process for the setting of Notification Levels (NL) and Response Levels (RL).

NLs and RLs are established as precautionary state advisories for drinking water contaminants before enforceable regulatory standards are established. When a contaminant is present above the RL, the State Water Board's (Board) Division of Drinking Water (DDW) recommends that the source be taken out of service or customers be notified they are being supplied with water exceeding the RL. For perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), the water system is required to either take the source offline, treat or blend the water, or notify the public within 30 days of its continued usage. Depending on the contaminant, such actions can have widespread and significant impacts, as public water systems take the state's RL recommendations very seriously.

Water systems, who adhere to state drinking water recommendations, are taken off guard when a NL or RL is created or changed and simply ask for notice to be able to implement them. Currently, there is no public process for setting an NL or RL, and the decision is made without consideration or input from members of the Board, and with little or no notice to the public drinking water systems who will get a recommendation to remove a source of water from service.

AB 2560 is a common-sense solution to this problem which simply requires public notification and transparency on the part of the State Water Board. Specifically, the bill requires the Board to notify the public when it has initiated

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development of a new NL or RL. AB 2560 would also require the Board to post the document the new NL or RL is based on and note whether it is peer reviewed and whether the Board used only a single study.

Finally, AB 2560 would ensure the appointed members of the Board are informed of DDW's activities by requiring the proposed NL or RL to be included as an informational item before the Board prior to being adopted by DDW.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If the District can provide any assistance to you or your staff in any way, please do not hesitate to contact OCWD's Legislative Liaison, Alicia Dunkin, at [adunkin@ocwd.com](mailto:adunkin@ocwd.com) or (714) 477-3750.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vicente Sarmiento".

Vicente Sarmiento, Esq.  
Board President

cc:

Senator Patricia C. Bates, Vice Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Brian Dahle, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Jerry Hill, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Nancy Skinner, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Henry I. Stern, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Bob Wieckowski, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
Senator Tom Berryhill, Chair, Senate Republican Caucus  
Gabrielle Meindl, Consultant, Senate Environmental Quality Committee