



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: March 6, 2018

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Denise England PHONE: 636-5000

SUBJECT: Letters of Support for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve sending letters of support for the State Water Resources Control Board's Budget Trailer Bill establishing the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act to the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget Committee

SUMMARY:

In 2017 Senator Monning introduced SB 623 which provided provisions that would address ongoing operation and maintenance costs of small, disadvantaged communities as well as funding solutions for private domestic wells serving disadvantaged residents. Often these communities face safe drinking water challenges such as aging infrastructure, lack of management and technical expertise, and sound capital improvement plans to operate and maintain a well-functioning system. Further the residents served by these small systems face water rates that are some of the highest in the State, but still do not cover the ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

In order to fund the aforementioned program, SB 623 provided a framework whereby fees would be collected from water system users and fertilizer sales. This framework is broadly supported by the agricultural community because it provides a scaled approach that is predictable and produces an equitable cost sharing between agriculture and public water system users. The bill also protects agriculture from regulatory action stemming from historic practices.

Governor Brown included key budgetary provisions of SB 623 in the FY 17/18 State

SUBJECT: Letters of Support for the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act
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Budget. The remaining components of SB 623 are now included as the State Water Resources Control Board's Budget Trailer Bill.

The Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act strikes the necessary balance between providing crucial resources for addressing critical drinking water needs, while protecting agriculture from certain nitrate related enforcement actions in the near-term.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

N/A

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's Strategic Plan includes an initiative to provide for the safety and security of the public which includes the goal of providing an adequate and safe water supply.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Denise England
Water Resources Program Director

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment: Letters

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF LETTERS OF)
SUPPORT FOR THE SAFE AND) Resolution No. _____
AFFORDABLE DRINKING WATER ACT)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: MICHAEL C. SPATA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

Approved sending letters of support for the State Water Resources Control Board's
Budget Trailer Bill establishing the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act to the
Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget Committee



County of Tulare

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chairman Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
(916) 319-2119

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Kuyler Crocker
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

J. Steven Worthley
District Four

Mike Ennis
District Five

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BOARD STAFF

Julieta Martinez
Melinda Benton
Carrie Crane
Samantha Ferrero

※

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Michelle Baldwin
Chief Clerk

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Administration Bldg.
2800 West Burrel
Visalia, CA 93291

TEL: (559) 636-5000
FAX: (559) 733-6898

To Whom It May Concern:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors supports the State Water Resources Control Board's Budget Trailer Bill (BTB) which creates the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Act and establishes a fund within the State Water Resources Control Board. The language proposes a modest fee structure that will be assessed on agriculture, urban and commercial water users to ensure necessary upgrades to infrastructure and provide critical financial assistance for operation and maintenance of drinking water systems in disadvantaged communities statewide.

California's farmers and dairies are heavily regulated for water quality issues. These regulations include surface runoff and groundwater quality. In 2007, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted new regulations requiring all dairies to account for manure and fertilizer nutrient applications and exports with limits on how much nitrogen could be applied to cropland. This program requires reporting to the water board of all nutrient applications and exports and is followed up with regular on-farm inspections. Other Regional Boards have followed suit with regulations tailored to their climate, topography, and facility types. Dairies and Irrigated Landowners have hired expert consultants to prepare nutrient management plans, waste management plans, and annual reports that utilize the information from tracking manure quantities and laboratory analyses of manure and plant tissue.

Furthermore, Central Valley dairy producers have formed the Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program to monitor the progress of these efforts on groundwater quality and report the results to the regional board in publicly available annual reports. This is an extensive effort funded by dairy farms (along with grant funds) that continues to seek improvements to on-farm practices to better protect groundwater quality.

While agricultural practices of the past may have resulted in nitrate reaching groundwater that have caused exceedances of nitrate drinking water standards, the agricultural practices of today significantly reduce or eliminate the potential for nitrates to reach the groundwater.

Nevertheless, farmers and researchers continue to seek opportunities to improve management practices and should not be subject to an enforcement action by the state water board or regional water boards, subject to certain conditions within the timeframe provided by this BTB.

Due to the challenges of reconciling nitrogen use by agriculture with human health and water resource protection, we have been working with the environmental justice community as well as other stakeholders for more than a decade in an effort to address the critical needs in disadvantaged communities relating to safe drinking water. Since these challenges are numerous, both from naturally occurring contaminants and human sources, we believe the solution should be shouldered by a broad array of sources and stakeholders.

The BTB strikes the needed balance between providing necessary resources for addressing critical drinking water needs, while protecting agriculture from certain nitrate related enforcement actions in the short-term.

Again, we are pleased to support the BTB and ask that you pass this item when it comes before you for a vote.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Worthley
Chairman of the Board
District Four

Kuyler Crocker
Vice Chairman of the Board
District One

Pete Vander Poel
District Two

Amy Shuklian
District Three

Michael Ennis
District Five

CC: Tulare County Delegation
Senator Bill Monning
Assemblyman Jay Obernolte, Assembly Budget Committee Vice Chair
Assemblyman Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3



County of Tulare

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Holly Mitchell
Chair Senate Budget Committee
State Capitol Room 5080
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900
(916) 651-4930

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Vice Chairman of the Board
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CC: Tulare County Delegation
Senator Bill Monning
Senator Jim Nielsen, Vice Chair, Senate Budget Committee
Senator Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2