

October 8, 2019



® Nirmala Benin
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Submitted electronically to: Nirmala.Benin@water.ca.gov

Re: California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Regarding AB 1668 Drought Preparation Report

Dear Mrs. Benin:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the AB 1668 drought preparation report. This report to the Legislature will help ensure that small water suppliers and rural communities are better prepared for the next drought. Drought impacts to small water suppliers and rural communities are a significant concern to CSAC and all of our 58 member counties. CSAC supports efforts that can help improve outcomes in future droughts. We also encourage that recommendations in this report be considered in the context of other statewide environmental efforts around water including water resiliency and water conservation. Counties support including recommendations in the report that encourage incorporating water shortage contingency plans for small rural communities and private wells into existing planning documents. In addition, CSAC supports state funding for these important planning activities to help ensure high quality data collection for drought response purposes.

The Department of Water Resources' County Drought Advisory Group (CDAG) had many discussions on the best way to improve preparation of small communities for the next drought. One of the key recommendations that we discussed was support for incorporating water shortage contingency plans into existing planning documents. Counties use a variety of tools to plan for and mitigate against future disasters and hazards; including local hazard mitigation plans, general plan elements, emergency operations plans, climate adaptation plans and others. Counties have experience developing these types of plans and they are useful methods of systematically identifying risk and providing actionable data. Providing counties the flexibility to use one or more of these plans will help significantly improve preparation for future droughts.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to participate in the County Drought Advisory Group as representative for CSAC. Counties welcome the opportunity to partner with that state on improving outcomes for small water systems and rural communities in future droughts and support flexibility in incorporating water shortage contingency plans into existing planning documents. Should you have any questions regarding CSAC's position, please feel free to contact Cara Martinson at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or cmartinson@counties.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Supervisor Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County
CSAC Representative to County Drought Advisory Group