

August 31, 2026

The Honorable Governor Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2739 (Soria) Water: affordability and system stabilization. – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 counties in California, I request your signature on Assembly Bill 2739 by Assemblymember Soria.

This bill would establish the Water Affordability and System Stabilization Fund and the Community Water Affordability Program, which are important steps in ensuring that local jurisdictions have the necessary resources to ensure access to clean, affordable drinking water for all residents.

Water affordability and system stability are increasingly interconnected challenges across California. Rising costs associated with infrastructure modernization, climate resilience, regulatory compliance, and energy continue to place pressure on water systems and the communities they serve, especially households living at or near poverty.

AB 2739 proposes a durable, California-based solution by addressing affordability at the household, system, and community levels. The Act advances a sustainable funding solution to support a statewide Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) program for water while also supporting strategic investments that stabilize water systems and help reduce cost pressures before they are passed on to ratepayers.

This bill's proposed funding structure provides predictable, long-term resources without placing new burdens on local governments or water ratepayers. This

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approach strengthens water planning, reduces reliance on episodic bond measures, and enhances statewide resilience while preserving local decision-making. Further, we commend the commitment of the bill sponsors to create a viable, sustainable funding source that does not include any new taxes or fees.

This bill represents an important step forward in advancing the Human Right to Water by supporting vulnerable households and strengthening the public water systems that serve communities across the state.

For the reasons stated above, CSAC requests your signature on AB 2739. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Delgado at cdelgado@counties.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Delgado". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Delgado" clearly legible.

Charles Delgado
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties