



California Legislature

May 18, 2016

The Honorable Kevin de León
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Pro Tempore de León and Speaker Rendon,

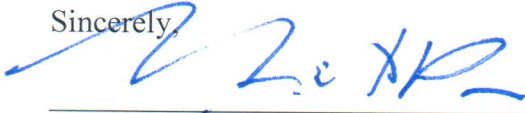
While this year's rainfall and snow pack have offered some welcome relief from the severe drought conditions, permanent water use efficiency remains an important aspect of achieving California's goals of long-term water supply reliability, drought preparedness, and greenhouse gas reduction. Replacing as many lawns as possible with drought tolerant landscaping offers fairly simple yet extremely effective, long-term assurances towards achieving all three of these important goals.

The drought has highlighted the appetite our constituents have for "cash for grass" programs and local water agencies have shown that they are willing and able to quickly and efficiently distribute local grant funds to customers who replace lawns with drought tolerant landscapes. In fact, these local programs are so popular that water suppliers often run out of money to fund those programs and many customers remain on waiting lists.

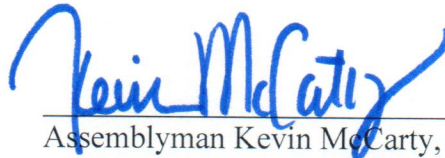
We believe appropriating \$100 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to augment local water agencies' turf replacement programs will result in timely and long-term water efficiency and would be a significant step towards preparing California for future droughts. Providing funding to augment existing local agency programs will prove more cost effective than centralized state-run programs.

We ask that the leadership in both houses advocate for and support the appropriation of \$100 million of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds to be used for augmenting local water agencies' lawn replacement programs. We look forward to your support of this important issue and stand ready to provide technical expertise directly from our water provider community should you have questions.

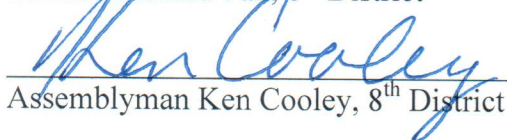
Sincerely,



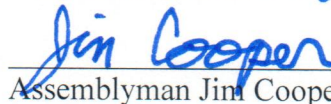
Senator Richard Pan, 6th District



Assemblyman Kevin McCarty, 7th District



Assemblyman Ken Cooley, 8th District



Assemblyman Jim Cooper, 9th District

cc: Senator Mark Leno, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Chair
Senator Lois Wolk, Budget Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation Chair
Assemblyman Phil Ting, Budget Committee Chair
Assemblyman Richard Bloom, Budget Subcommittee 3 on Resources and Transportation Chair

