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- Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

March 1, 2019

Senator Hertzberg  
State Capitol, Room 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 134 (Hertzberg): Water conservation: water loss performance standards: enforcement.**

**Position: Support**

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of the Regional Water Authority (“RWA”), I am writing to express RWA’s support for SB 134, your measure related to enforcement of water loss through leaks standards.

As introduced on January 15, 2019 SB 134 would allow for the enforcement of water loss through leaks only through the comprehensive water efficiency standards created by SB 606 (Hertzberg, Chapter 14, Statutes of 2018) and AB 1668 (Friedman, Chapter 15, Statutes of 2018).

Last year’s water use efficiency legislation created an enforceable water use objective. The water use objective was created as the sum of five elements, including water loss through leaks, and was intended to allow for local decision making on how to achieve the objective among those five elements. This bill would ensure flexibility in compliance with the water use objective and allow for the greatest “bang for buck” in the achievement of water efficiency.

In the absence of this bill, water suppliers would face “double jeopardy” enforcement of water loss through leaks due to current law allowing for enforcement through both the water use objective and a standalone standard. Without this bill water suppliers would be compelled to first comply with water loss through leaks standards. The result of this double jeopardy would be to limit water supplier’s discretion, creating increased costs without any additional water efficiency benefits.

For these reasons, RWA supports SB 134. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ryan Ojakian of RWA’s staff at (916) 967-7692 or rojakian@rwah2o.org.

Sincerely,

John Woodling  
Executive Director