



**Statement Supporting SB 699 from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, Before the California Senate Appropriations Committee**

May 13, 2019

Good morning Chair Portantino, Vice Chair Bates, and Members of this Committee:

My name is Nicole Sandkulla, and I'm the Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), a special district authorized by the California Legislature and the Governor in 2002.

It represents the water interests of 26 water suppliers in the Bay Area that buy water from the San Francisco Regional Hetch Hetchy Water System and deliver it to 1.8 million residents, 40,000 businesses, including most of Silicon Valley, and thousands of community agencies in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

BAWSCA supports SB 699. This Bill proposes needed amendments to extend two laws originally enacted in 2002. One of the original Bills was AB 1823 (Papan), which required San Francisco to implement capital improvements for its Regional Water System to ensure that it could withstand a major seismic event and continue to deliver essential water afterwards. That work is now 97% complete but two critical projects are not yet done, and continuing state oversight through SB 699 is necessary until these projects are complete.

SB 699 also extends the other original Bill, SB 1870 (Speier), which authorized formation of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Financing Authority, to issue revenue bonds to finance improvements for the water system from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2030.

BAWSCA is pleased to support SB 699, introduced by Senator Jerry Hill, which will provide this continuing protection to its 26 member agencies and the residents, businesses, and communities they serve in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

BAWSCA asks that you support SB 699.

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