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BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4
ON STATE ADMINISTRATION



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0038
(916) 319-2038
FAX (916) 319-2138
DISTRICT OFFICE
27441 TOURNEY ROAD, SUITE 160
VALENCIA, CA 91355
(661) 286-1565
FAX (661) 286-1408
EMAIL
Assemblymember.Wilk@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



SCOTT WILK
ASSEMBLYMAN, THIRTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

April 1, 2016

Felicia Marcus, Chair, and Members
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Attn: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board

RE: Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Draft Guidelines

Dear Chair Marcus and Members of the Board:

The purpose of this letter is to express strong concern over the Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Draft Guidelines as currently drafted. The Draft Guidelines are heavily biased toward projects that would clean up existing contamination, while failing to address the statutory directive to provide competitive grants for the prevention of groundwater contamination. The draft Guidelines and Evaluation Scoring Criteria are heavily biased toward funding for existing contaminated sites, and would unfairly disadvantage projects that would prevent pollution of groundwater, even to their exclusion from approved funding.

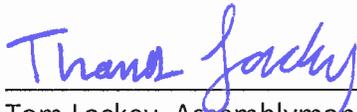
As stated in Proposition 1, Chapter 10 (California Water Code Section 79770), prevention of groundwater contamination is critical to successful groundwater management. Pollution prevention is a responsible approach to protecting water quality and achieving future water sustainability and is far less expensive than projects to clean up contamination after it has occurred. We do not believe that pollution prevention projects should have to compete directly with cleanup projects under the same scoring criteria, because, as stated in Proposition 1, both are critical to achieving sustainable groundwater management in California. While we recognize the importance of cleanup efforts, we strongly urge you to set up a separate allocation of the Chapter 10 groundwater sustainability grant funding, in the amount of \$40 million, for groundwater pollution prevention projects using different scoring criteria tailored specifically for this type of project. Creating a program to prevent contamination in the first place should be incentivized, and this approach would be completely consistent with the requirements of the Water Code while still leaving the vast majority of Chapter 10 funding for cleanup and remediation projects.

Thank you for your consideration of our letter. If you have any additional questions on this matter, please contact my office at (916)319-2038.

Sincerely,



Scott Wilk, Assemblyman
38th Assembly District



Tom Lackey, Assemblyman
36th Assembly District