Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of a broad and diverse coalition of organizations fighting to provide clean water for all Californians, we write to request your signature for SB 200, which would create a necessary Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and enact the sustainable ongoing funding component of the safe water budget proposal developed by the Governor, the Speaker and the Pro Tem. SB 200 will provide urgently needed sustainable, ongoing funding for safe drinking water to address California’s statewide drinking water crisis and guarantee that ALL California children, families and communities have access to safe and affordable drinking water, while also addressing California’s water quality crisis. Finally, we urge an Aye vote on SB 200 in the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee, and then we urge final Floor votes in both the Assembly and Senate as soon as possible -- because Californians without toxic tap water have waited long enough. We look forward to celebrating with all of you when SB 200 is signed into law.

Re: SB 200 (Monning, E Garcia, Bloom) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

July 9, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
California children, families and communities have access to safe and affordable drinking water, while also bringing stronger, more climate resilient, 21st century drinking water service to every community in our state.

SB 200 is the work of a historic multi-year campaign to establish a Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund, and is built upon a foundation of decades of advocacy by the very communities impacted by unsafe water. These communities have advocated, persisted and persevered, year after year, in their fight to turn the notion that every Californian has a basic Human Right to Water into a reality. This campaign, in partnership with an extraordinary array of close partners represented on this letter, has been rooted in a few key principles: that access to safe water is a basic human right; that a truly sustainable funding solution is needed, not a bandaid approach; and that all Californians must be included. SB 200 meets these criteria and as such we are strongly in support. Additionally, the Fund, complemented by groundwater protection efforts, will secure safe drinking water not only for current Californians, but for generations to come.

We acknowledge and are grateful to your leadership and commitment to this effort -- this victory would not have been possible otherwise. We are also grateful to Assembly Speaker Rendon and Senate pro Tem Atkins for their shared commitment to addressing safe water. Finally, we are grateful to and acknowledge the tremendous hard work of Senator Monning who, in partnership with Assemblymember E Garcia and Assemblymember Bloom, worked tirelessly to see the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund through to the finish line.

We look forward to celebrating with you once SB 200 is signed into law and this shameful chapter of our state’s history is put to a close. And we eagerly look forward to continued partnership as we move on to the next phase of this critical work, which is ensuring safe water project are finally brought to the communities that need them as quickly as possible. With that, we strongly urge your signature of SB 200.

Sincerely,

Jackie Rutheiser
Alliance of Child and Family Services

Jamie Morgan
American Heart Association/
American Stroke Association

Jeff Odefey
American Rivers

Raul Barraza
Arvin Community Services District

Miya Yoshitani
Asian Pacific Environment Network

Susana De Anda
Asociación de Gente
Unida por el Agua

Melissa Romero
CA League of Conservation Voters

Jared Sanchez
CA Bicycle Coalition

Diana Vazquez
CA Environmental Justice Alliance

Tracey Patterson
CA Food Policy Advocates

Noe Paramo
CA Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Justin Skarb
California Water Service

Torri Estrada
Carbon Cycle Institute

Nayamin Martinez
Central California
Environmental Justice Network

Genevieve Gale
Central Valley Air Quality
(CVAQ) Coalition
March 19, 2019

The Honorable Bill Quirk
Chair, Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials
Legislative Office Building, 1020 N Street, Room 171
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 217 (E Garcia) Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund – SUPPORT (as Amended 3/19/19)

Dear Assemblymember Quirk:

On behalf of a broad and diverse coalition of organizations fighting to provide clean water for all Californians, we write to register our strong support for AB 217 by Eduardo Garcia, which would create a necessary Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.

AB 217 will provide urgently needed sustainable, permanent funding for safe drinking water to address California’s statewide drinking water crisis and finally guarantee that ALL California children, families and communities can have access to safe and affordable drinking water.

In 2012, California became the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water. The state declared, “every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.” However, since then, too little progress has been made.

Jonathan Nelson
Community Water Center

Kirsten James
Ceres

Jennifer Clary
Clean Water Action

Christopher Sanchez
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

Kassandra Hishida
Community Alliance for Agroecology

Jonathan Nelson
Community Water Center

Genoveva Islas
Cultiva la Salud

Camila Chavez
Dolores Huerta Foundation

Pablo Garza
Environmental Defense Fund

Diane Takvorian
Environmental Health Coalition

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim
Esperanza Community Housing Corp

Andy Levine
Faith in the Valley

Jim Lindberg
Friends Committee on Legislation of CA

Phoebe Seaton
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Regina Banks
Lutheran Office of Public Policy

Dr. Roy Wilson
Martin Luther King Jr Freedom Center

Samuel Molina
Mi Familia Vota

Arnie Sowell
NextGen California

Steve Fleischli
Natural Resources Defense Council

Martha Arguello
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Los Angeles

Medha Chandra
Pesticide Action Network
North America

Eddie Carmona
PICO California

Matt Baker
Planning and Conservation League

Antonio Diaz
PODER

Chione Flegal
PolicyLink

DeAngelo Mack
Public Health Advocates
Kimberly Rosenberger  
Service Employees International Union

Stan Keasling  
RCAC

Tom Collishaw  
Self Help Enterprises

Sergio Carranza  
Pueblo Unido CDC

Mike Mielke  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Jay Ziegler  
The Nature Conservancy

Juliet Christian-Smith  
The Water Foundation

Mike Mielke  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Jay Ziegler  
The Nature Conservancy

Juliet Christian-Smith  
The Water Foundation

Alexander Harnden  
Western Center on Law & Poverty

CC: Office of Senator Bill Monning  
Office of Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia  
Office of Assemblymember Richard Bloom  
Alf Brandt, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Kip Lipper, Office of Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
Rachel Machi Wagoner, Office of Governor Newsom