June 26, 2017

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair  
Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SUPPORT AB 574-Potable Reuse: As Amended June 20, 2017

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) has taken a “Support” position on AB 574 by Assembly Member Quirk. For 60 years, CASA has been the leading voice for public wastewater agencies on regulatory, legislative and legal issues. We are an association of local agencies, engaged in advancing the recycling of wastewater into usable water, generation of renewable energy, and other valuable resources. CASA member agencies are intricately involved in the production of high quality recycled water for a variety of applications throughout the state. It is imperative that new water supplies continue being developed to ensure water supply reliability in California, and additional recycled water applications are a critical component in the state’s overall water portfolio.

AB 574 will clarify statutory definitions for distinguishing subcategories of potable reuse. Additionally, the bill redefines “surface water augmentation” to mean “reservoir water augmentation” and would redefine that term to mean the planned placement of recycled water into a raw surface water reservoir used as a source of domestic drinking water supply. Further, AB 574 will require the State Board to adopt statewide regulations for potable reuse for raw water augmentation by 2022.

Many of our agencies are involved in developing and pursuing large-scale projects to augment surface water supplies with potable reuse water. The next important milestone will be to develop regulations for projects that blend potable reuse water with raw water supplies. AB 574 will provide direction to state agencies to develop new drinking water supplies through potable reuse, while protecting public health using expert panels, and ensuring the necessary research is completed prior to adopting regulations. This bill provides the critical components necessary for moving the state closer to its goals for increasing the beneficial use of recycled water.

For these reasons, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies supports AB 574.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gauger  
Manager of Legislative Affairs

cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk  
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee  
Jennifer West, WateReuse California