March 15, 2017

The Honorable Bill Quirk
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, California 94249-0020

RE: SUPPORT AB 574-Potentable Reuse

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) is pleased to have taken a “Support” position on your measure, AB 574. 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 eliminate current confusing statutory definitions for “indirect” and “direct” potable reuse, while distinguishing subcategories of potable reuse. These subcategories, as generally reflected in the recent State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) report to the Legislature (“Investigation on the Feasibility of Developing Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse”) include: groundwater augmentation, reservoir augmentation, raw water augmentation and treated water augmentation. Further, AB 574 will require the State Board to adopt statewide regulations for potable reuse for raw water augmentation by 2021.

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 move California closer to reaching state adopted water recycling goals, consistent with the Governor’s California Water Action Plan. 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.

For these reasons, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies supports AB 574. Thank you for your leadership in advancing water recycling in California.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gauger
Manager of Legislative Affairs

cc: Josh Tooker, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
Jennifer West, WateReuse California