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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
HENRY STERN

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
CHAIR  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
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MEMBER  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
ENERGY, UTILITIES  
& COMMUNICATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
NO. 2 ON RESOURCES,  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
& ENERGY

May 16, 2022

Ms. Karla Nemeth, Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
1416 9th Street, Room 1115-1  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Human Health and Safety Deliveries from the State Water Project: Water Supply for Wildfire Safety and Protection**

Dear Ms. Nemeth:

As drought conditions worsen and the risk of wildfire elevates, I ask for your support to ensure that the communities I represent in the 27th Senate District, and throughout California, receive sufficient water supplies to protect their health and safety.

A large number of people in my District reside within areas that are both dependent on State Water Project (SWP) supplies and designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Effective June 1, 2022, many of these communities will be implementing a one-day-per-week watering restriction as part of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD's) Emergency Water Conservation Program. Further, I understand that a complete ban on all outdoor watering may be required later this year if conditions do not improve. Recalling the devastating impacts of the 2018 Woolsey Fire, I am very concerned that sufficient water supplies may not be available to maintain fire-resistant landscaping for wildfire safety and protection at the urban-wildland interface as designated by the Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map.

To address this critical concern, I have asked our region's local water and fire officials to work with MWD on the methodology to determine the water supply needs for wildfire safety and protection. I anticipate that MWD will be submitting this information to your office as part of its request for health and safety deliveries pursuant to Section 18(a) of the SWP contract. I would appreciate your favorable consideration of the request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Stern".

Senator Henry Stern

cc: Calleguas Municipal Water District (Goff)  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Hagekhalil)  
Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (Pedersen)  
Los Angeles County Fire Department (Osby)  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Adams)  
Ventura County Fire Department (Gardner)