



December 8, 2022

As general managers of water agencies from across the State, we are writing to congratulate you on becoming one of the newest members of the California State Legislature and to express our significant concern over California's ongoing and serious water supply crisis.

As you begin to develop your 2023 legislative priorities, we strongly urge you to put the water supply crisis at the top of your list of key issues to address immediately. While the issues in Sacramento are many, we can't urge you enough to discuss this water supply crisis and the potential solutions with your local water agencies to understand risks to your district, the economy, and the State.

In addition to the impact on your constituents, the water supply crisis will impact all sectors of the economy – agriculture, homebuilding, manufacturing, hospitality and tourism, and technology. A new report released by [UC Merced](#), notes that "direct economic impacts on farm activity alone will reach \$1.2 billion this year, up from \$810 million in 2021" with job losses in the agriculture industry reaching nearly 20,000 jobs.

This is an unprecedented time with changing and worsening climate conditions. Californians cannot wait any longer, the State needs to take extraordinary and immediate action, by creating regulatory certainty and making substantial investments in generational solutions, including more storage, improved conveyance, and a new water supply. While continuous improvement in water use efficiency remains an important tool, California simply cannot conserve its way out of this crisis.

We applauded Governor Newsom's announcement of California's new [water supply strategy](#) as a step in the right direction. The State strategy prioritizes water use efficiency, recycling, reuse, and desalination – all strategies that water agencies are pursuing and implementing. While these efforts will help California adapt to the current drought conditions, climate change and the loss of the snowpack, our largest reservoir, will leave California with a shortfall of 10 million acre-feet in the not-too-distant future. Consequently, comprehensive legislation and substantial, ongoing budget commitments to secure California's water future to maintain the economy, environment, and quality of life are imperative.

Members of [Solve the Water Crisis](#), a statewide education coalition, are working to increase awareness of California's water supply crisis. We are partnering with water agencies, business organizations, community groups, and local elected officials to inform the public about the crisis. Our network of interested and concerned parties has grown and now includes every region in the State.

Thank you for taking the time to review the enclosed materials and prioritizing California's water supply crisis. We will be contacting your office to schedule a meeting to discuss the water crisis impact on your district and look forward to a collaborative and constructive discussion as we head into 2023 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Drop in all board members