



April 13, 2005

Honorable Dave Cox  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Cox,

**Subject: Support for SB 773**

On behalf of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), I am pleased to support SB 773.

The RWA serves and represents the interests of 18 water providers in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties. RWA's mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, affordability and quality of water resources served to over a million people in the region.

SB 773 is intended to clarify the ability of water agencies to use innovative new technology, such as aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) facilities, to help meet water supply needs. ASR programs take excess surface water when it is plentiful and store it in the groundwater aquifer for use when surface water supplies are limited. ASR programs allow use of groundwater during dry years without reducing strained groundwater supplies.

While ASR projects are in operation in many areas of California and throughout the United States, the Central Valley is just beginning to consider this type of conjunctive use operation. Regional Boards throughout California have different approaches to ASR projects. Staff for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board has raised a number of regulatory issues that would limit the use of ASR. SB 773 would address this problem and provide for extensive reporting and monitoring of ASR projects.

This bill would benefit the RWA and its members by helping us to ensure that we can continue to meet our customers projected water needs. If you have any questions about this issue or our support for SB 773, please contact me at (916) 967-7692.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E D Winkler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Edward D. Winkler  
Executive Director

cc RWA Chair and Board of Directors  
Senate Committee on Environmental Quality  
ACWA