July 10, 2019

The Honorable Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 658 (Arambula) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Portantino:

On behalf of the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA), we write to express support for AB 658 (Arambula) which allows for the streamlined permitting of stormwater capture and recharge projects.

GRA membership includes approximately one thousand professionals located throughout California with technical and legal expertise in groundwater. GRA has helped formulate statewide policy on the development, management, and protection of the state's groundwater resources.

GRA recognizes that implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is going to require groundwater basins to be brought into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. GRA further recognizes that California has to significantly increase recharge statewide to bring balance to the water budget on a statewide basis. One opportunity for recharge is by capturing high precipitation events using a temporary permit from the State Water Resources Control Board.

AB 658 proposes to codify an executive order allowing for temporary permits for high-precipitation events for water storage and allows stored groundwater to be declared a beneficial use for purposes of water rights. GRA believes this would help to move more stormwater capture and recharge into the mainstream of established and ongoing programs.

For these reasons, GRA is in support of AB 658 and respectfully requests your “AYE” vote on this measure. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 916-596-9163.

Sincerely,

Timothy K. Parker, PG, CEG, CHG
GRA Legislative Committee Chairman
cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula
    Honorable Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Ashley Ames, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
    Kirk feely, Fiscal Director, Senate Republican Caucus
    GRA Legislative Committee, Board of Directors, and Staff