



April 12, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gatto
Assemblyman, Forty-Third Assembly District
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1463 (Gatto): Onsite Recycled Water

Dear Assemblyman Gatto,

On behalf of the California Onsite Water Association (COWA), I am writing to express support for AB 1463, which directs the State Water Resources Control Board to establish water quality standards and distribution, monitoring, and reporting requirements for onsite water recycling systems.

For 20-years COWA has represented decentralized onsite wastewater industry, providing education and training to all stakeholders within the State of California. In response to the ever-worsening drought and recognizing the value of all “decentralized” onsite waters we have recently re-focused the vision for COWA to embrace not just wastewater, but also grey water, rainwater and storm water.

Increasing the usage of recycled water for non-potable purposes is one way Californians can use water more efficiently and has the potential to play a significant role in our ability to maximize the sustainable yield for the waters of this state, a most precious resource. COWA is committed to maintaining high standards for water reuse to protect health, safety, and the environment. But it is vital that the barriers to onsite recycled water systems are reduced so that more Californians can benefit from this water-saving technology. COWA believes that AB 1463 will help facilitate the use of onsite recycled water systems while protecting public health and that is why we support this legislation.

But we believe that more can be done to embrace reuse. We encourage legislation that directs agencies to work together to break down the overly conservative barriers to reuse that currently exist within our state. Our reuse laws were originally drafted many years ago, before the thirty plus years of technological advances in this rapidly changing industry. It is becoming more and more apparent that the regulations



for reuse in our state are not keeping up with the changing world. Our current reuse regulations are possibly the most restrictive in the world and are a barrier to maximizing the use of our limited water resources.

COWA would encourage and support legislation that allows more opportunities for the decentralized reuse of grey water, rain water, **AND** black water. We would encourage looking to other states and other countries for successful examples of reuse programs. And we would offer the collective experience of our members and partner organizations if requested.

COWA thanks you for your leadership and requests your support for AB1463 as well as your support for additional water reuse potential.

Sincerely,

Mark Adams, PE
President, California Onsite Water Association