



September 2, 2022

VIA Email to the Office of the Governor and Author

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1157 (Hertzberg) – Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use – REQUEST FOR GOVERNOR’S SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

The League of Women Voters of California writes to request your signature on SB 1157 (Hertzberg), which would update the standard for indoor residential water use based on study and recommendation by the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources, as authorized in statute.

The LWVC supports wise, sustainable management of natural resources and energy in the public interest, with an emphasis on conservation and with protections for low- and moderate-income households and for the environment. Responding to climate change and aridification in California's Mediterranean climate requires re-evaluating the ways we have historically managed water. Study and investigation by DWR and the SWRCB as called for in the 2018 legislation have found that conservation strategies have been so successful that

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California's current median indoor residential water use, 48 gpcd, already exceeds the 2025 target standard of 55 gpcd.

Setting a standard for indoor water use efficiency that is in line with existing median indoor water use will:

- Help to ensure that water service providers are better prepared for aridification and climate change.
- Reduce energy costs associated with pumping, distributing, treating, and cleaning water supplies.
- Help to reduce water costs to ratepayers, including low-income ratepayers.
- Help to avoid costs for expensive new water supplies, including projects potentially harmful to the environment like new dams and diversions.
- Help demonstrate that cities can adapt to a future with lower water diversions from north and east state watersheds and the Bay-Delta.

Updating the state objective for efficient indoor residential water use to a demonstrably achievable standard is a necessary tool to help water agencies identify water waste and set realistic planning targets. **For these reasons, the League of Women Voters of California strongly supports SB 1157 (Hertzberg) and requests your signature. Thank you.**

Sincerely,



Carol Moon Goldberg

President