



July 26, 2021

**VIA Online Portal to Author and Senate Committee on Governance and Finance**

The Honorable Robert Rivas  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 5158  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 252 – Department of Conservation: Multibenefit Land Repurposing Incentive Program: administration – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Rivas:

**The League of Women Voters of California is pleased to support AB 252**, your bill establishing a program to provide grants to facilitate multibenefit land repurposing at the groundwater basin scale.

The League has long favored setting and enforcing standards for sustainable basin-level groundwater management, and we strongly support protections for the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use. To the extent that California's groundwater overdraft crisis is related to changes in the availability and timing of surface water supplies over recent decades, this bill is supported by the LWVC Climate Change Action Policy relative to climate change adaptation in rural, agricultural, and natural settings.

Necessary fallowing of agricultural land to reduce groundwater overdraft must be wisely managed for impacts on growers, agricultural workers, air quality, and wildlife habitat. We appreciate this bill's recognition of opportunities for increasing the flexibility of land uses, including floodplain restoration and cover cropping to conserve water and enhance carbon sequestration. We are especially impressed that the bill includes incentives for small farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for offering this innovative and timely solution to some major challenges we all face in reimagining the way we use much of California's land.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carol Moon Goldberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Carol Moon Goldberg  
President