



Assembly  
California Legislature

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TOXIC MATERIALS

LUIS A. ALEJO, CHAIR  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

(1/20/15) Board Meeting- Item 2  
CAA-UCLA  
Deadline: 01/15/15 by 12:00 noon

CHAIR, LUIS ALEJO  
VICE CHAIR, BRIAN DAHLE  
RICHARD H. BLOOM  
TIM M. DONNELLY  
JIMMY GOMEZ  
BONNIE LOWENTHAL  
PHILIP Y. TING



December 23, 2014

Ms. Felicia Marcus  
Chair, State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 "I" Street,  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attn: Conny Mitterhoffer

Dear Chair Marcus,

I am writing to express my support for the allocation of funds from the Cleanup and Abatement Account of the State Water Board for the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Distributed Potable Water Treatment Infrastructure Disadvantaged Communities Pilot Project, to be considered on your January 20th agenda.

Nitrate-polluted well water affects people all over the state. Drinking nitrate polluted water has serious health effects, including death of infants from blue baby disease. The Salinas Valley, part of my District, has a very high concentration of poor communities dependent on wells that are polluted with nitrates. Some of these communities have been waiting for safe drinking water for a long time and this project may be an important solution. This project may lead to or identify a viable long-term solution to this serious issue.

Treating water to remove nitrates has not been an option in disadvantaged communities up to the present because (1) small communities don't have the technological expertise to run their own treatment plant, (2) they cannot afford to pay expensive operations and maintenance costs, and (3) California has not had a clear path forward to dispose of the residual polluted water after treatment. This project will centralize the expert management of treatment systems that are in different geographical locations. It will use sophisticated smart technology to remotely manage these separate systems together to achieve economies of scale, and it will pilot a permitting process to discharge residual pollutants.

We are very happy that State Board experts and UCLA have worked together with the Salinas office of California Rural Legal Assistance, Monterey County Environmental Health and the Central Coast Regional

Water Board to identify and evaluate disadvantaged communities in the Salinas Valley. If this pilot project succeeds, there are many communities in Monterey County and in the Central Valley that will be able to take advantage of UCLA's system or systems like it. Please move this project forward by allocating the funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Luis Alejo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping tail.

Luis Alejo  
Assemblymember

cc: Madelyn Glickfeld  
UCLA IoES Water Resources Group