



Sacramento Groundwater Authority
*Managing Groundwater Resources
in Northern Sacramento County*

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Edward D. Winkler
Executive Director

June 5, 2003

California-American
Water Company

Carmichael
Water District

Citrus Heights
Water District

City of Citrus Heights

City of Folsom

City of Sacramento

County of Sacramento

Del Paso Manor
Water District

Fair Oaks Water District

Natomas Central Mutual
Water Company

Orange Vale
Water Company

Rio Linda / Elverta
Community Water
District

Sacramento Suburban
Water District

San Juan
Water District

Southern California
Water Company

Agricultural and
Self-Supplied
Representative

Honorable Sally Lieber
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol Room 4162
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Notice of Support - AB 698 (Lieber) PCE: Claims: Liability
(A: 05/06/2003)**

Dear Assembly Member Lieber:

The Sacramento Ground Water Authority (SGA) supports the concepts and principles expressed through your AB 698 (Lieber), as amended on May 6, 2003, relating to the California PCE Environmental Cost Recovery Act.

SGA is a joint powers authority created to collectively manage the Sacramento region's north area groundwater basin. Member agencies are responsible for providing high quality drinking water to more than a half-million residents in the greater Sacramento region. SGA is committed to aggressively protecting the north area groundwater basin from contamination. The threat of PCE contamination is of great concern to the Authority

The purpose of AB 698 is to establish a program to fund the costs of corrective actions associated with the cleanup of tetrachloroethylen (PCE) from dry cleaner releases. PCE is a common dry-cleaning solvent with chemical and toxicological properties that make it a significant environmental hazard and a serious threat to groundwater resources. Over 900 water production wells have had detectable concentrations of PCE in the State of California.

The goal of AB 698 is to implement a statewide program funded by the California PCE Environmental Cost Recovery Act to facilitate the cleanup of PCE releases where groundwater resources and drinking water supplies are at risk. The program would be funded by annual registration fees paid by current owners or operators of dry cleaning operations and by wholesale distributors. AB 698 would prohibit any person, after January 1, 2005, from selling or transferring any dry cleaning solvent to any person owning or operating a dry cleaning facility unless the owner or operator of the dry cleaning facility has a certificate of registration.

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Unlike petroleum businesses, most dry cleaner operators possess neither the funds nor insurance to underwrite the cleanup of soil and groundwater. AB 698 creates a funding mechanism that will allow state and local agencies to assist in the investigation and cleanup of PCE. Without this assistance from state and local agencies dry cleaning owners and operators will be unable to address the complexities of an environmental hazard that affects drinking water supplies.

Several other states have successfully implemented trust fund programs to ensure that funding is available to finance cleanup of legacy groundwater contamination associated with the dry cleaning industry and for new releases. California has an urgent need to establish the PCE Environmental Cost Recovery Act. Several high priority PCE water supply impacts have come up in the last few years, such as in south Sacramento, Santa Rosa and Roseville where water agencies are struggling to find money to pay for cleanup, treatment and for replacing valuable drinking water supplies. It is therefore appropriate that the users of PCE be responsible for the costs of cleanup rather than the general water rate payer.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Winkler
Executive Director

cc: Marva Diaz, Legislative Director to Assembly Member Lieber
Fax: 319-2122
Bob Reeb, ACWA