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**September 22, 2023**

*Transmitted via electronic transmission*

Governor Gavin Newsom  
California State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Transmitted via email: [Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov)**

**RE: Assembly Bill 1594 (Garcia)**

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) supports AB 1594, and respectfully requests your signature. AB 1594 would assist local governments with complying with the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation (ACF) while still providing critical services to customers.

MCWRA advocates for the water interests of its 57 members in 12 of the mountain counties within the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) of woodland and forested lands in the Sierra Nevada. These foothill and mountain areas contain the headwaters for 40% of the state's developed water supply, which also provides for hydropower production, irrigation, recreation, water recycling, tourism, and instream flows that fuel the engine of our State's economy.

AB 1594 would require any State regulation that requires the procurement of medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), to authorize public agency utilities to purchase replacements for traditional utility-specialized vehicles that are at the end of life, without regard to the model year of the vehicle being replaced, to maintain reliable service and respond to major foreseeable events, including severe weather, wildfires, natural disasters, and physical attacks. AB 1594 would apply to publicly owned electric utilities, community water systems, water districts, irrigation districts, flood control agencies, and wastewater treatment providers.

This year, CARB adopted the ACF to accelerate the market for ZEVs by requiring fleets to transition to ZEVs where feasible. The ACF requires California fleet owners and operators to start purchasing ZEVs in 2024, with the goal to move California's medium- and heavy-duty trucks to zero emission, where feasible, by 2045. California State and local government fleets, including city, county, special district, and State agency fleets, would be required to ensure 50 percent of vehicle purchases are zero-emissions beginning in 2024 and 100 percent of vehicle purchases are zero-emissions by 2027.

AB 1594 would provide flexibility for this transition, by allowing public water agencies and others to work with CARB to identify situations where traditional vehicles must be purchased to replace vehicles at the end of their useful life. It is important that public water and wastewater agencies have fleet vehicles that meet stringent requirements and perform specialized functions to avoid dire situations in which public water and wastewater agencies cannot complete essential services. This is especially true in MCWRA's mountain counties region where access to vehicles that meet the specific usage needs of the agency is especially critical in emergency situations such as a natural disaster, downed power lines, ruptured pipelines, or other instances.

AB 1594 would ensure State regulations, like the ACF, allow for vehicles that can properly support public utilities' essential services, protecting public health and safety. For this reason, MCWRA supports this bill and respectfully requests your signature on AB 1594. If you have any questions, please contact Justin Caporusso, MCWRA Executive Director, at (916) 412-0571.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Ratterman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Ratterman, President  
Mountain Counties Water Resources Association