

## ***What Business Leaders Are Saying: Protecting California's Groundwater is Good for the Economy***

*Throughout California, business leaders are talking about the need for groundwater management reform as key to ensuring a strong economy that protects jobs and the ability to stay competitive. More local authority to manage groundwater, against the backdrop of a statewide framework, will ensure that our economy stays vibrant.*

***Gary Toebben, president and CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce:***

*"California's groundwater challenges have reached a crisis level and action can no longer be deferred. The state needs tools to more sustainably manage its groundwater resources. AB 1739 and SB 1168 would help address this issue by enabling local agencies to regulate groundwater pumping, raise funds, permit wells, and develop groundwater management plans." ([Support letter, 8/20/14](#))*

***Diana Williams, CEO, West Valley-Warner Center Chamber of Commerce:***

*"Providing local communities with tools to sustainably manage their groundwater resources will help the City of Los Angeles cleanup polluted groundwater in the San Fernando Basin, which will help reduce our dependence on imported water. More local authority to manage groundwater will ensure that our economy stays strong and vibrant." ([Support letter](#))*

***Eric Garcetti, mayor, Los Angeles:***

*"Improving California's groundwater is vital to meet the state's needs under the current drought conditions. These bills will allow Los Angeles, with the help of the state, to clean polluted groundwater in the San Fernando Valley. By improving our groundwater supply, Los Angeles can become more self-sufficient and further reduce its dependence on imported water supplies. For these reasons I support both bills." ([Support letter, 8/19/14](#))*

***Ron Gastelum, member of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors:***

*"What better time than now to set the critically needed state policy framework to help areas facing serious groundwater overuse conditions? We need to work together to provide the tools to sustainably manage groundwater and effectively mitigate harm to our farms, cities, economies and families." ([Los Angeles Daily News, 8/6/2014](#))*

***Coby King, chairman, and Stuart Waldman, president, Valley Industry and Commerce Association:***

“It is now more important than ever that California regions sustain and utilize their groundwater basins, as it’s becoming increasingly difficult to rely on imported water sources from other parts of the state or from other states. And with the potential funding that would come from the 2014 state water bond, it is crucial that groundwater treatment plans are consistent but controlled by the local water agencies.”  
([Support Letter, 8/21/14](#))

***Jim Wunderman, president and CEO, Bay Area Council:***

“Overall, California pumps about 10-20 percent more water from the ground than is replenished by nature. This deficit is unsustainable, and exposes California’s economy to long-term risks related to water supply reliability, subsidence and flood damage. We must empower local groundwater agencies with the tools and resources necessary for common-sense groundwater approaches, as well as define the role of state agencies in groundwater management. Progress in this area cannot wait.”  
([Groundwater Voices Coalition](#))

***Victor Griego, member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Latino Business Association:***

“Groundwater is central to the state, without it millions of residents will not have access to ample and quality water. We need to work together in the common interests of all. Not doing so is a missed opportunity to prepare for inevitable future California droughts.” ([Groundwater Voices Coalition](#))

***Mary Leslie, president, Los Angeles Business Council:***

“Groundwater is a vital resource that in the current drought is in danger of over drafting. If left unchecked, this can cause a negative economic impact. Land values will decrease, agricultural output will decline, and sensitive habitats will be damaged. California must set effective policies at the local and state level to monitor the usage of groundwater to alleviate the immediate threat of depletion.”  
([Groundwater Voices Coalition](#))

***Lee Ann Eager, president and CEO, Fresno Economic Development Corporation:***

“Groundwater is vital to the economy, especially in Fresno. With California in its third year of drought, groundwater has become the largest source of water for the entire state. Unfortunately, what has been a savings account during normal years, it has now turned into a lifeline. We in the Central Valley and across the state need to come together. We need to tackle the challenge of locally and effectively managing our groundwater. With dependable and reliable groundwater, California can continue to flourish.” ([Groundwater Voices Coalition](#))