



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE  
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

April 17, 2019

The Honorable Devon Mathis  
State Capitol, Room 2111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 382 (Mathis) – SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Mathis:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to support your AB 382, which will create incentives for local water management agencies to undertake projects to improve the health of upper watersheds as part of their Integrated Water Management Plans (IRWMPs).

The Integrated Water Management Plan Act of 2002 established the importance of managing our water resources on a regional basis. Yet the law has had the effect of bifurcating many water-using regions from the upper watersheds that are the critical source of the water that is used in those regions. Regional water management groups are allowed to undertake a broad range of projects to meet IRWMP requirements, including improved water use efficiency, local water storage, improved water quality and flood management. But these agencies have been reticent to undertake projects outside their region in upper watersheds, despite their dependence on healthy watersheds for their own success in water management.

AB 382 would require the Department of Water Resources to give a preference to projects that improve upper watersheds even when they are outside the applicant's region and would lower the local match requirement to fund such projects. CAFF believes these are reasonable and needed incentives to encourage further linkage between the sound management of water at its source and its area of use. For these reasons, CAFF supports AB 382 and urges its passage in the Legislature.

Sincerely,

David Runsten  
Policy Director