

April 24, 2021 (1-3pm hearing)

Re: Budget Priorities (SB 5555)

Dear Legislators—Joint Ways and Means Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity give you my perspective on priority issues for the budget process. When you consider funding priorities for the 2021-2023 budget cycle I would like to draw attention to water issues and conservation strategies. Those are a priority concerns for me and I would like to urge you to make key funding commitments for the following water management issues. Challenges facing our communities associated to water shortages is an issue of grave concern. Gathering the much needed science and data to better understand these issues is essential.

I have been a part of the community based protection and restoration work here on the central coast. We work to protect and restore water quality and work on salmon recovery strategies. Effective partnerships takes an investment by all and leadership by the agencies - it is critical that the state prioritize getting the information needed and having people on the ground to track water laws and how they are implemented.

There are a number of POP that are critical to water issues - whether one is concerned with participation and leadership roles in the State's Integrated Water strategy or ensuring science is clearly available to those challenging issues the state will face into the future. I would urge you to please support the following: (POP 114), (POP 105), (POP 109) and (POP 110)