



February 14, 2017

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia, Chair
Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 18 (Garcia) – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Garcia:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is pleased to support your AB 18, which would authorize the issuance of bonds in an amount of \$3,005,000,000 for various climate, water, park, wildlife and recreational purposes.

CWA appreciates the inclusion of \$40 million for wildlife habitat-related purposes, particularly habitat conservation efforts related to the Pacific Flyway. As noted in the Central Valley Joint Venture Implementation Plan (which is supported by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a variety of bird conservation groups), there are habitat goals and objectives for both wintering and breeding waterfowl purposes that have still not been met. Attaining these goals and objectives will require significant funding, and the monies provided by AB 18 could help fulfill that need.

Our Association also supports the \$5 million allocation in AB 18 for the California Waterfowl Habitat Program (a.k.a. Presley Program). The Presley Program pays private landowners \$20 per acre to perform waterfowl habitat enhancement activities, such as conducting moist soil management practices to produce waterfowl food plants and providing summer water for waterfowl broods. Since its inception, the Program has benefitted 29,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the Central Valley and Suisun Marsh.

The Presley Program was historically supported with bond funds, but most of those monies have been depleted and currently landowner enrollment in the Program is highly restricted due to limited funding. The \$5 million allocation from AB 18 would help ensure that new landowners

can participate in the Program, and that landowners whose contracts have expired have an opportunity to re-enroll so that they can continue to provide high quality waterfowl habitat.

Thank you for your willingness to author AB 18.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Hennelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "M" and "H".

Mark Hennelly, Vice President of Legislative Affairs and Public Policy
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Members, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee