



August 17, 2018

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Fourth Assembly District
State Capitol, Room 5144
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2348 (Aguiar-Curry) California Waterfowl Habitat Program: eligibility: winter-flooded rice lands, as proposed to be amended – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry:

The undersigned organizations are pleased to change our position on AB 2348 to Support. As proposed to be amended, the bill would create a new program that would provide incentives to rice farmers to flood their fields in the winter.

In 2017, several of the undersigned actively supported AB 832, which would have created a tax credit for similar purposes to AB 2348. The undersigned support the flooding of rice in winter for waterfowl habitat and air quality purposes. It is becoming apparent that winter-flooded rice fields may provide benefits to endangered salmon and Delta smelt, as well.

On June 20, 2018, in the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee, the undersigned expressed their opposition to AB 2348, unless it were amended to take the winter flooding of rice program out of the California Waterfowl Habitat Program, which would have interfered and competed with the purposes for which the program was instituted. The proposed amendments to AB 2348 do precisely what the undersigned asked in that letter, so the undersigned are now fully in support.

If you have any questions this letter, please contact Jeffrey Volberg at jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org or (916) 217-5117, or Mark Smith at mark@caleec.com or (916) 335-5072, or Bill Gaines at bill@gainesandassociates.net or (916) 337-9031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Volberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jeffrey A Volberg
Director of Water Law & Policy
California Waterfowl Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Ortega". The signature is cursive and stylized, with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Ricardo Ortega
General Manager
Grassland Water District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Kirby". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Don Kirby, Cal-Ore Wetlands and Waterfowl Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Chappell". The signature is cursive and stylized, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Steve Chappell, Suisun Resource Conservation District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Miller". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ed Miller, VP, The Black Brant Group

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Slater". The signature is cursive and stylized, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dennis Slater, President, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association