



Bringing
Water
Together

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: ACWA SUPPORT FOR HR 872

Dear Congressman Calvert:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is pleased to support the Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act, HR 872, and urges its passage this Congress. ACWA represents more than 460 public water agencies that together supply over 90 percent of the water delivered in California for residential, agricultural, and industrial uses.

The FISH Act would vest all Endangered Species Act authorities for managing fish species solely within the Department of Interior and eliminate duplicative federal oversight. Under current law, both the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of Interior and the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Department of Commerce can issue biological opinions for the same species of fish or conduct separate consultation processes under ESA. As you are aware, the consequences of this duplicative authority have been especially acute in California's Bay-Delta. Consolidating ESA authority at the Department of Interior would improve management of California's water supply.

ACWA appreciates your leadership on this issue. If ACWA can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact the DC office at jayt@acwa.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David L. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Reynolds
Director of Federal Relations