



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

May 21, 2024

Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT - AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan)

Dear Chair Min and Honorable Members of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee,

The County of Humboldt supports AB 460 we urge your support of this bill.

Humboldt County supports AB 460 because it allows for existing water rights laws to be enforced more effectively by the State Water Board when water rights violators choose to intentionally divert water that is not allocated to them. This bill would only affect those who violate existing law. Effective enforcement of penalties for violators is critical as the state continues to work to judiciously allocate available water. AB 460 does not introduce any restrictions on legal water rights holders, but it does give the State Water Board the authority to halt illegal actions before they cause harm to downstream water users, fish, and the environment. AB 460 would increase the penalties for water rights violators and allow the State Water Board to immediately halt illegal actions to protect sensitive species and downstream water rights holders, while still ensuring that all potential water rights violators are granted the due process to which they are entitled.

Humboldt County depends on sufficient water and healthy rivers to support and restore strong fisheries, to sustain our rural economy, and to provide critical ecosystem services to our community and all residents of California. Thank you for your attention to AB 460. We strongly encourage your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

CC:
Senator Mike McGuire, Senate President pro Tempore
Assemblymember Jim Wood