

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
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March 27, 2025

The Honorable Monique Limón
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3220
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 556 (Hurtado), Floodplain Restoration – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Limón,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our support for SB 556 (Hurtado), which secures crucial Proposition 4 funds to advance floodplain restoration and habitat conservation projects in Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. These projects represent an essential investment in flood management, groundwater recharge, and environmental restoration for our region.

The historic flooding of 2023 underscored the urgent need for improved flood control infrastructure and sustainable water management in the southern San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin. The ongoing challenges of groundwater overdraft, land subsidence, and increasing climate volatility demand proactive solutions that SB 556 effectively addresses. By providing dedicated funding for multi-benefit floodplain restoration, this legislation will help mitigate flood risks, enhance groundwater sustainability, restore vital fish and wildlife habitats, and create economic opportunities for local communities.

Kern County has long faced disproportionate challenges in securing state investments for critical water infrastructure. SB 556 helps rectify this imbalance by directing much-needed resources to our communities. This bill will provide tangible benefits, including flood safety improvements, clean water access, job creation, and expanded recreational opportunities for our community.

We urge your support for SB 556 and stand ready to collaborate on efforts to ensure its successful passage. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to the well-being of California's Central Valley communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leticia Perez".

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange