May 17, 2022

The Honorable Steve Bennett

California State Assembly

1021 O Street, Ste. 4140

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Siskiyou County Opposition to AB2201**

Dear Mr. Bennett,

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District acting as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Shasta, Scott and Butte Valley Basins is writing to you in opposition of Assembly Bill 2201, while supporting the attached letter (Attachment A) from a coalition of opposition signed by the California Chamber of Commerce.

The GSA is concerned with the additional impacts to staff, resources and the additional burden this will place on all GSA’s and groundwater managers across the state. The GSA is in the initial phases of implementing its Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), while simultaneously grappling with the challenges of managing groundwater in compliance with both the Governor’s recent Executive Order N-7-22 (Section 9 pertaining to well permitting) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) irrigation curtailment orders, which includes an unprecedented inclusion of groundwater users. Siskiyou County, prior to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order, has been developing its own processes for handling new production well permit applications and ensuring the process will fulfill both the needs of the local community as well as the goals laid out in the GSP’s. Considering the above-mentioned actions related to permitting wells, AB 2201 appears to be an additional and unnecessary regulatory burden on water managers that has the potential to unreasonably complicate and conflict with the processes already in effect.

The GSA has long supported the creators of SGMA for touting that groundwater management will be handled at the local level. AB 2201, is appearing to remove that ability for GSA’s to locally manage their groundwater. Therefore, the Siskiyou County GSA strongly opposes AB 2201. For further communication and correspondence, please contact Matt Parker at 530-842-8019, or by email at mparker@co.sikiyou.ca.us. This letter was approved by the Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District acting as the GSA on May 17, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Sincerely,

Brandon A. Criss, Chair

Board of Directors