

Testimony
House Bill 1437 – State Water Commission
House Agricultural Committee
Representative Johnson, Chair
February 4, 2021

Chairman Johnson, and members of the House Agriculture Committee – I am Matt Lindsay, Engineering and Permitting Section Manager of the Office of the State Engineer and State Water Commission. I am attending to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1437.

The State Engineer is involved in the regulation of subsurface water management. Currently, the State Engineer's responsibility and role is developing the permit application for subsurface water management projects as well as collecting and maintaining a database of approved subsurface water management system permits. This database is publicly accessible through the agency's map services.

While the State Engineer supports this legislation, our office would like to note that the newly proposed section 61-32-03.2 in House Bill 1437 will not require the newly proposed subsurface water management system notifications to be forwarded to the State Engineer. Given the State Engineer already has the know-how and database infrastructure to track these types of notifications, we suggest this legislation be amended to require the water resource districts to forward notifications to the State Engineer as well. This would ensure that all drain-related information is held in a centralized location.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.