



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 3, 2022

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5140
Sacramento, CA 94249

**RE: Assembly Bill 2421 – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 17, 2022**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California, we support your Assembly Bill 2421, which would enhance local enforcement authority to prosecute and enjoin water theft and water pollution in order to combat water theft and illegal cannabis grows. RCRC is an association of thirty-eight rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

The issue of cannabis, particularly issues surrounding illicit cultivation, continues to be of importance to RCRC's member counties. Rural counties are frequently the targets of large-scale illegal cannabis grows. The problems related to illegal cannabis cultivation, including water theft; trespass; hazardous waste due to the use of unregistered pesticides and fertilizers; trash and debris; and associated criminal activities have greatly increased in rural counties. Many of the communities plagued with illicit cannabis cultivation are also in the midst of a drought emergency, reinforcing the need to protect this finite resource. Providing additional tools at the local level is an important step to protect public health as well as safety and to further discourage illicit cannabis operations, while strengthening the market for those who operate legally.

AB 2421 would amend the California State Water Code to provide authority to county counsels and city attorneys to civilly prosecute and enjoin water theft. It would also amend the California Fish and Game Code to authorize county counsels to civilly prosecute and enjoin water pollution. By removing existing limitations on prosecutorial authority, the bill provides more tools for local governments to use against the harmful community impacts of illicit cannabis cultivation as well as the degradation of our water and other natural resources.

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For these reasons, RCRC is pleased to support AB 2421. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate