



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Sebastian Ridley-Thomas  
Chairman  
Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 167A  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 832 (Aguiar-Curry) Pacific Flyway Protection Tax Credit**  
**Position: Support, as amended March 20, 2017**

Dear Assemblyman Ridley-Thomas:

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is pleased to support AB 832 by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry, as amended on March 20, 2017. The bill will help to offset the cost of winter-flooding of rice fields. Winter-flooding of rice fields is an agricultural practice that provides multiple public benefits. It protects air quality by eliminating the need to burn the stubble left after the harvest of rice, it provides habitat and food supplies for millions of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, and it is increasingly seen as a means of restoring salmon populations. The public benefits are made available through the expenditures and efforts of private landowners.


Every winter, California hosts approximately 7 million waterfowl. Flooded rice lands in the Central Valley provide up to 60 percent of the necessary food resources for the birds.

In recent years, drought has made the cost of water so great that many farmers have sought other means of eliminating post-harvest rice stubble. The tax credit made available by AB 832 would go a long way toward making water affordable again. It would also provide the state with a way to pay its share of the public benefits made available through winter-flooding of rice.

California Water Association is a conservation organization made up of 20,000 members. The protection, enhancement, and restoration of wetlands habitat are among our primary activities. This bill represents a critical investment by the state in our natural resources and natural heritage. Development for agriculture and other uses has converted 95 percent of the state's wetlands to other uses. This bill would help to restore a portion of that loss, while maintaining the land's use for agriculture.

For further discussion of this bill and its benefits, please call Jeffrey Volberg at (916) 217-5117, or email him at [jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:jvolberg@calwaterfowl.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Volberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with some overlapping loops.

Jeffrey A Volberg  
Director of Water Law & Policy  
California Waterfowl Association

Cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation