



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

August 12, 2016

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1298 (Hertzberg): Local government: fees and charges

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Senate Bill 1298 (Hertzberg). This bill would define "sewer" to include storm drainage, conforming to an existing definition in the California Public Utilities Code. This clarification would make it clear that local agencies have the authority to finance sewer system projects in the same manner that sewer service projects are financed.

Long Beach strives to be a leader in stormwater best management practices. Recently, the City has partnered with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) to design and construct the Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Recycle Facility, which will provide treatment of urban runoff prior to going into the lower Los Angeles River. It offers the City an opportunity to significantly reduce the use of potable water, which reduce the City's operating costs for departments that have access to this "new" source of potable water.

As the development of the LB-MUST Recycle Facility project moves forward, the City will require additional funding to further enhance the planned project. SB 1298 also would amend State law to clarify the statutory authority of local agencies to finance stormwater projects within the strict requirements for transparency and accountability of Proposition 218. This is one tool that local agencies, like Long Beach, can utilize to efficiently manage water supplies and effectively address water pollution.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SB 1298 (Hertzberg).

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District
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