



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

September 11, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 231 (Hertzberg): Local Government: Fees and Charges**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support Senate Bill 231 (Hertzberg). Under the Long Beach Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, the City of Long Beach is striving to meet some of the strongest water quality guidelines in the country. Progress on new and innovative stormwater projects is largely dependent on funding, which unfortunately, has been limited, and SB 231 provides a reasonable measure of relief in this respect.

By adding the definition of "sewer", which includes stormwater, to the list of Proposition 218 exemptions, SB 231 would enable local governments to fund stormwater management, similarly to the way in which water and trash services have been funded for years. Under SB 231, "sewer" will be interpreted to include services and systems necessary to collect, treat, or dispose of sewage, industrial waste, or surface or stormwater. This change, which is proposed in SB 231, is critical to minimizing environmental and health damage caused by stormwater pollution, and maximizing the benefits of effective stormwater management. SB 231 creates a funding source for upstream cities to meet their permit requirements which in turn will positively impact the cleanliness of the water as it makes its way downstream into our beaches.

As the second largest city in Los Angeles County, a city with an iconic coastline, and a city with the mouth of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers within our city limits, Long Beach has been a leader in stormwater management over the last decade. The City values environmental protection, and actively supports our regional economy to which tourism contributes significantly. It is essential that stormwater draining from the rivers and into the Pacific Ocean be clean. To this end, the City of Long Beach was one of the first cities in California to adopt a Low-Impact Development Ordinance, install stormwater management infrastructure at catch basins throughout our 50-square miles of urban and suburban land, as well as explore opportunities for stormwater capture and reuse. The changes proposed by SB 231 will greatly support existing and future efforts by cities to manage stormwater.

Given these reasons, I hope you sign SB 231 into law.

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70<sup>th</sup> District