



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Board of Supervisors

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Belia Ramos
Chair

June 20, 2017

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

RE: SUPPORT – Senate Bill 231 (Hertzberg); Stormwater, Sustainable Local Agency Funding.

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

The Napa County Board of Supervisors unanimously supports your measure, Senate Bill (SB) 231, that augments the tools that cities, counties, and other local agencies have to finance projects to manage stormwater.

SB 231 would make the classification of storm sewers consistent with the Proposition 218 classification of similar infrastructure services related to sewer, water, and refuse collection. The current inconsistency creates an unnecessary barrier to local governments' ability to raise funds to tap stormwater as a potentially large source of water supplies and to reduce pollutants in stormwater. The impact of this barrier has become overwhelming, as a combination of the following factors has hit local governments, including: California's continuing drought cycles, studies by scientists and water policy makers that storm sewers are as often as toxic as sanitary sewers (that have a Proposition 218 exemption), and requirements to reduce pollutants like mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in stormwater runoff.

SB 231 is an important step toward smarter management of stormwater as an integral part of both sewer and water systems. Further, we applaud you for maintaining the strict transparency and accountability requirements in Proposition 218, which ensure that local fees be used only for the purposes for which they were collected and only in amounts necessary to meet local needs.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously supports SB 231.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belia Ramos".

Belia Ramos
Chair, Napa County Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Bill Dodd
Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Members, Napa County Board of Supervisors
Minh Tran, Interim Napa County Executive Officer

Paul Yoder/Karen Lange, Shaw/Yoder/Antwih
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties

Brad Wagenknecht
District 1

Ryan Gregory
District 2

Diane Dillon
District 3

Alfredo Pedroza
District 4

Belia Ramos
District 5