



NORTH BAY WATER REUSE PROGRAM

Expanding Water Supplies with Regional Reuse

May 5, 2016

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

RE: SB 163 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

On behalf of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA), I am writing regarding your SB 163.

As you may recall from our January 12, 2016 letter expressing concerns regarding the bill (attached), we urged your careful consideration of the very substantial regulatory, financial and feasibility issues that pose barriers to compliance with a proposed eventual ban on ocean discharge.

Moreover, the attached letter emphasized some of the specific factors that would make such a ban infeasible in our region, including the extremely high cost of storage, infeasibility of discharge through irrigation during wet periods and the lack of distribution system capacity to accommodate the volume of water contemplated in SB 163.

While we join WaterReuse in continuing to urge you to consider other alternatives to move toward the maximization of recycled water use and the further reduction of ocean discharge – such as amending the bill to allow for careful and updated examination of the barriers to recycled water via a statewide task force - we must also regretfully join CASA and WaterReuse in registering our opposition to your measure at this time.

We agree with WaterReuse's position that mandates and the punitive measures are not appropriate given the significant expansion of water recycling in recent years. Again, as our initial letter indicated, the North Bay Water Reuse Authority was formed for the

**North Bay Water Reuse Authority • c/o Sonoma County Water Agency • 404 Airport Boulevard, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-235-8965 • NBWRA.org**

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District • Napa County • Napa Sanitation District • North Marin Water District • City of Petaluma • Marin County
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specific, focused purpose of maximizing recycled water in our three-county area for urban, agricultural and environmental purposes (including wetlands restoration). Yet imposing unworkable mandates on agencies such as ours would only add regulatory burdens and impose enormous cost onto our ratepayers.

While we are moving to an “oppose unless amended” position at this time based on the current version of SB 163, we remain open to further conversation with respect to the mutually desired goal of recycled water use maximization.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (707) 656-2241 or NBWRA state lobbyist Pilar Onate-Quintana at (916) 498-7736 with any questions regarding our perspective on issues raised by SB 163.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Rabbitt, Chair, North Bay Water Reuse
Authority Director, Sonoma County Water Agency
Supervisor, Sonoma County 2nd District