



April 20, 2016

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

RE: SB 163 – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

It is with regret that we must oppose your bill, SB 163 unless the statewide mandate to ban the discharge of wastewater into the ocean is removed from the measure. However, we do support the stated goal of SB 163, which is to foster greater recycling along the coast. For this reason we urge you to consider other approaches that are feasible and do not contain a one-size-fits-all solution for all of California's coastal communities.

In our view, mandates and the punitive measures in SB 163 are not appropriate given the significant expansion of water recycling in California, including potable reuse, which has greatly accelerated since 2010. (See attachments) Communities in record numbers are implementing water recycling programs as state funding has become available, indirect potable reuse regulations have been completed and community acceptance has increased. SB 163 ignores this progress and presumes that legislating an ocean discharge ban, with severe regulatory consequences for failure to comply, are needed in order to maximize water recycling in the state. We disagree.

We urge you to consider other approaches that would foster water recycling such as reinstating a statewide taskforce on water recycling that would focus on all the barriers to water recycling in California. We believe it is critical to plan the state's water recycling future, especially with the acceleration of potable reuse, the reduced wastewater supply as a result of conservation and the ongoing water supply needs of fish and wildlife. As discussed with you and your staff, we are also open to other more targeted legislative approaches that do not include a ban on ocean discharge and foster water recycling.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (916) 669-8401, or Richard Harris our legislative advocate at (916) 930-7743, if you have questions regarding the WaterReuse California position on SB 163.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer West".

Jennifer West
Managing Director