



CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
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RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA  
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May 30, 2017

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 231 (Hertzberg) – Local Government: Fees and Charges  
As Amended April 19, 2017 – SUPPORT  
Set to be Heard June 14 – Assembly Local Government Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) support SB 231 by Senator Hertzberg, a measure concerning fees and charges for sewer and stormwater services. SB 231 authorizes counties, cities, and local water agencies to finance stormwater projects in the same manner as other public works projects under Proposition 218.

Counties, cities, and local water agencies throughout California face many cost pressures and funding challenges that affect water, including maintenance of aging infrastructure and requirements to comply with higher regulatory standards. These entities need to fund stormwater and flood control projects to protect people and property from flooding, remove pollutants from stormwater, and increase groundwater recharge. However, financing these projects is costly and difficult under current law.

SB 231 would update the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act's definition of "sewer" to include storm drainage. Proposition 218, passed in 1996, imposes a variety of procedures for financing different kinds of water infrastructure projects. For example, water and sewer projects are subject to one set of procedures regarding public notification and protests, while stormwater projects are subject to a different process. These inconsistent rules have resulted in a lack of funding options to adequately capture and treat stormwater – a very necessary function.

SB 231 clarifies the statutory authority of counties, cities, and local water agencies to finance stormwater projects within the existing requirements of Proposition 218 for transparency and accountability. This will provide a more cost effective and efficient method to raise revenue urgently needed for these important public works projects.

CSAC and RCRC support solutions that provide local agencies with the needed flexibility to enact funding mechanisms that will enable them to improve water supply reliability and maintain water quality for public and environmental health. It is for these reasons that CSAC and RCRC support SB 231. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Cara Martinson at [cmartinson@counties.org](mailto:cmartinson@counties.org) or 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or Mary-Ann Warmerdam at [MWarmerdam@rcrcnet.org](mailto:MWarmerdam@rcrcnet.org), or 916- 447-4806.

Sincerely,



Cara Martinson  
CSAC Legislative Representative



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate

cc: Honorable Robert Hertzberg, California State Senate  
Members, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Misa Lennox, Principal Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee  
William Weber, Assembly Republican Consultant