



Express support, if amended, for SB 485
(Hernandez, D-San Gabriel Valley)—
County of Los Angeles: Sanitation Districts

Communications and Legislation Committee

Item 8-8

May 11, 2015

SB 485 (Hernandez) -- County of Los Angeles: Sanitation Districts

- Authorizes Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to divert, manage, treat, and discharge stormwater and dry weather runoff for beneficial uses
 - LACSD has no current authority to manage stormwater
 - Provides alternative for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) compliance

Background

- Los Angeles Region MS4 Permit
 - Stormwater compliance with Clean Water Act
 - Renewed in 2012
 - Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and cities are “permittees”
 - Prohibits non-stormwater discharges
 - One compliance option is to divert water to sewer
 - Metropolitan’s discharges conditionally exempt
 - Notification of LACFCD

Analysis of SB 485

- No direct impact on Metropolitan
- Helps LACFCD and cities with MS4 permit compliance
 - Diverts water for beneficial use
 - Protects receiving waters
- Potential for additional stormwater capture

Proposed Amendments

- April 30, 2015, amendments address concerns over water rights:
 - Clarify bill is not intended to alter:
 - Adjudicated rights
 - Rights issued by state
 - Rights granted by statute
 - LACSD must first obtain approval

Support

- Member Agencies
 - Long Beach
 - Pasadena
 - Torrance
 - Three Valleys Municipal Water District
 - Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD (in concept)
- Twenty-four other cities
- Advocacy Groups
 - California Association of Sanitation Agencies
 - Southern California Water Committee
 - Nine others

Opposition

- With proposed amendments, the following agencies will remove opposition:
 - San Gabriel Valley Water Company
 - Suburban Water Systems
 - SouthWest Water Company

Options

- Option 1:
 - Adopt CEQA determination and authorize General Manager to express support for SB 485, as proposed to be amended
- Option 2:
 - Take no position on SB 485

Staff Recommendation

- Option 1

