



MAYOR SAVITA VAIDHYANATHAN

CITY HALL

10300 TORRE AVENUE • CUPERTINO, CA 95014-3255

TELEPHONE: (408) 777-3193 • FAX: (408) 777-3366

svaidhyanathan@cupertino.org



October 2, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 231 (Hertzberg) – SIGN

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the City of Cupertino, I am writing to express SUPPORT for SB 231. The City, along with other San Francisco Bay Area public agencies which are members of the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program (SCVURPPP), share a Regional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge municipal stormwater to receiving water bodies in the San Francisco Bay Area. Since its inception, SCVURPPP has been a recognized leader in stormwater management and monitoring in the San Francisco Bay region, and continues to be dedicated to protecting and improving the quality of local water bodies.

It is important to recognize that municipal storm sewers provide essential public health and safety services including improvement to water quality in our waterways and water sources that are no less important than those provided by sanitary sewers. Storm sewers capture and safely manage runoff and flood waters, protecting lives and property. Under the increasingly strict NPDES permit, cities must significantly reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater. Financing local and regional programs to meet these strict requirements is becoming increasingly more expensive, stressing local government budgets and diverting funds from other vital community based programs and services. SB 231 will provide a means to fix this financing challenge.

Of equal importance is effectively managing California's urban stormwater runoff as a valuable natural resource. Capture of urban stormwater runoff through the storm sewer system and redirecting it to engineered infiltration basins and systems will increase California's groundwater reserve. Many California cities rely upon significant amounts of groundwater which is pumped, treated, and delivered to support California's vast agriculture, business, and residential communities. Similarly, sanitary sewer water is pumped, treated, and delivered to Californians to support the same agriculture, business, and residential communities; however, there is a

significant difference in how these two systems are financed. Both present outstanding opportunities for water independence during severe drought conditions, but funding stormwater sewer system management and development is not equal to funding sanitary sewer systems. SB 231 will also provide a means to fix this financing challenge.

SB 231 would amend Section 53750 of the Government Code to clarify that the definition of "sewer" includes systems for "drainage purposes" and "surface or storm waters". The bill would also add new Government Code Section 53751 to clarify the sources of the definition and that the interpretation of the term "sewer" includes storm sewers. Additionally, in the 1987 Clean Water Act amendments requiring the regulation of stormwater, Congress used the term "municipal storm sewers". It is imperative that storm sewers be treated as sewers under the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act, allowing local governments to finance storm sewer projects to address California's ever present water needs.

The City of Cupertino respectfully encourages your signature on the important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Savita Vaidhyathan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Savita Vaidhyathan

Mayor, City of Cupertino