



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Lili Bosse, Mayor

October 9, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 231 (Hertzberg) Local government: fees and charges**
City of Beverly Hills – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in **SUPPORT** of **SB 231 (Hertzberg)** and respectfully request you **SIGN** this legislation when it comes before your desk. This bill would provide cities, counties, and local water agencies broader authority to finance projects and manage stormwater.

The capture and careful management of stormwater is necessary now more than ever due to California's continuing cycles of drought. Stormwater capture is vital to creating a sustainable water supply; however, if it is not captured, it can carry pollutants through sewers and other channels to its final destination which is oftentimes the ocean. Local governments frequently face limited funds and resources to manage water supplies and address water pollution in our communities. Current law also limits local agencies in the type of infrastructure they can fund to manage storm and flood waters.

The City of Beverly Hills is doing its part at the local level, despite financial constraints. It is estimated that stormwater pollution costs the Los Angeles area economy more than \$26 million per year. Our City has undertaken a public information and outreach program to educate residents and businesses in the City about their obligations under the Storm Water

Management Program, which was established by a federal regulation to protect the environment and preserve the coastal water bodies. The City is also actively pursuing the construction of a stormwater facility at La Cienega Park which will serve the cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills.

All of these projects, while beneficial, do come at a significant cost to the City. Due to inadequate funding to stormwater projects and mandatory federal requirements, the City's General Fund is impacted, which in turn will divert resources from other public safety needs.

SB 231 (Hertzberg) is an important step towards smarter management of stormwater as an integral part of both sewer and water systems. Specifically, the bill defines "sewer" to include storm drainage, clarifying that local governments may build projects necessary to manage and reuse stormwater. This bill will provide opportunities to access state and federal dollars that require local matching funds. Additionally, the bill maintains the strict transparency and accountability requirements in Proposition 218, which ensures that local fees be used only for the purposes for which they were collected and only in amounts necessary to meet local needs.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills **SUPPORTS SB 231 (Hertzberg)** and respectfully requests that you **SIGN** this bill. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,



Lili Bosse

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: The Honorable Bob Hertzberg, 18th Senate District
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.