

DIRECTORS

DENIS R. BILODEAU, P.E.
JORDAN BRANDMAN
CATHY GREEN
NELIDA MENDOZA
DINA L. NGUYEN, ESQ.
KELLY E. ROWE, C.E.G., C.H.
STEPHEN R. SHELDON
TRI TA
BRUCE WHITAKER
ROGER C. YOH, P.E.



OFFICERS

President
STEPHEN R. SHELDON

First Vice President
CATHY GREEN

Second Vice President
TRI TA

General Manager
MICHAEL R. MARKUS, P.E., D.WRE

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 273 (Hertzberg) Water quality: municipal wastewater agencies – Support

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes in support of SB 273 (Hertzberg), which would authorize municipal wastewater agencies to enter into voluntary agreements with entities responsible for stormwater management to manage stormwater and dry weather runoff more effectively. OCWD supports policies, programs and projects that enhance stormwater capture.

SB 273 would also supplement the existing authority of all municipal wastewater agencies to enter into agreements that would allow them to divert and treat stormwater and dry weather runoff. SB 273 would stipulate that any agreement made under its provisions would be voluntary for all participants. Specifically, SB 273 would allow a municipal wastewater agency to acquire, construct, expand, operate, maintain, and provide facilities to do the following:

- Divert stormwater and dry weather runoff from the stormwater system to the wastewater collection system;
- Manage and treat stormwater and runoff;
- Discharge treated urban stormwater runoff to the stormwater drainage system or receiving waters; and,
- Reuse captured stormwater and runoff for a beneficial use.

Thank you, again, for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or OCWD Legislative Liaison Alicia Dunkin at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 if we may be of any assistance on water policy issues in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE
General Manager

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg
March 26, 2021
Page 2 of 2

cc:

Senator Dave Min, 37th District
Senator Patricia Bates, 36th District
Senator Tom Umberg, 34th District
Senator Bob Archuleta, 32nd District
Senator Josh Newman, 29th District
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74th District
Assemblymember Laurie Davies, 73rd District
Assemblymember Janet Nguyen, 72nd District
Assemblymember Tom Daly, 69th District
Assemblymember Steven S. Choi, Ph.D, 68th District
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk- Silva, 65th District
Assemblymember Phillip Chen, 55th District