



REPORT TO LAW & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE **4** City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

STAFF REPORT
March 15, 2011

Honorable Members of the
Law and Legislation Committee

Subject: Legislative Position: Support SB 52 (Steinberg) and AB 134 (Dickinson)
Relating to Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation:

Adopt support positions on SB 52 (Steinberg) and AB 134 (Dickinson), both of which help providing funding for recently mandated upgrades to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Contact: Dave Brent, Department of Utilities, Legislative Affairs, 916-808-1420.

Presenters: n/a

Department: Department of Utilities

Division: Office of the Director

Organization No: 14001011

Description/Analysis

Issue: In December 2010, the Regional Water Quality Control Board – Central Valley Region (Board) adopted a revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that imposes strict effluent limits on the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (District). These new mandates will require the District to spend an estimated \$2 billion on upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant serving the City of Sacramento and most of Sacramento County. Senate Bill 52 (Steinberg) would appropriate \$50 million from existing bonds to help pay for the District's treatment plant upgrades. Assembly Bill 134 (Dickinson) modifies the State Water Code to establish a path for the District to apply for appropriative water rights and sell treated wastewater within or outside the region.

Policy Considerations: These bills are consistent with the overall intent of the City's water policies adopted in the 2011 Legislative Platform. Specifically, these two bills protect the City's interests and ratepayers as it relates to implementation of the State mandated Delta Plan and support the beneficiary pays principal.

Environmental Considerations: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: The strict wastewater effluent limits imposed by the revised NPDES permit will require the District to construct treatment plant improvements estimated to cost approximately \$2 billion. These new requirements will improve water quality and provide benefit for downstream users of the Delta water supply. SB 52 and AB 134 will help ensure that the cost of these upgrades do not fall entirely on the Sacramento region and are shared by downstream beneficiaries.

Financial Considerations: SB 52 and AB 134 will help offset costs to local ratepayers.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): n/a

Respectfully Submitted by:



Dave Brent, Legislative Affairs

Approved by:



Marty Hanneman, Director

Recommendation Approved:


GUS VINA
Interim City Manager

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Attachment 1 - Draft Letter of Support SB 52

March 15, 2011

Senator Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support Position SB 52 (Water Quality: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (District))

Dear Senator Pro Tem Steinberg,

On behalf of the City of Sacramento, I would like to thank you for introducing SB 52 and for your continued efforts to help offset local costs to upgrade the District's wastewater treatment plant. SB 52 is consistent with the City's adopted policies on the Delta Plan and we are in support of the legislation.

As you know, this bill will appropriate \$50 million from existing water bond funds to help offset capital costs for treatment plant upgrades and provide relief to the City's ratepayers. SB 52 is consistent with this region's position that these treatment plant upgrades will help protect the beneficial uses of the Delta and the upgrades should be a shared responsibility of all beneficiaries of the Delta's water resources.

The City looks forward to working with you as this bill moves forward and in the continuing efforts to protect the Delta.

Sincerely,

Jay Schenirer, Chair
Law and Legislation Committee

cc: Assembly Member Roger Dickinson

Mayor Kevin Johnson and Members of Sacramento City Council
David Jones, Emmanuel and Jones and Associates

Attachment 2 - Draft Letter of Support AB 134

March 15, 2011

The Honorable Roger Dickinson
Member of the Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 94249-0009

Subject: Support Position AB 134 (Appropriation of Water: Sacramento County Regional County Sanitation District (District))

Dear Assemblymember Dickinson,

On behalf of the City of Sacramento, I would like to thank you for introducing AB 134 and for your efforts to help offset costs the District will incur to upgrade the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. AB 134 is consistent with the City's adopted policies on the Delta Plan and we are in support of the legislation. Specifically, the City supports the proposed legislation as a means to facilitate the District's ability to market its recycled waste water for the benefit of local ratepayers, the Delta and the State.

We understand that statewide opposition to this legislation will likely require amendments as the legislation moves through the process. We will continue to work closely with District staff and your office as this bill evolves.

Sincerely,

Jay Schenirer, Chair
Law and Legislation Committee

cc: Senator Darrel Steinberg, President Pro Tem

Mayor Kevin Johnson and Members of Sacramento City Council
David Jones, Emmanuels and Jones and Associates