



736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
State Capitol, Room 5175
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: Chinook.Shin@asm.ca.gov

**Re: AB 968 Retail Water Use: Water Efficiency Standards and
AB 1654 (Rubio): Urban Water Management Planning**

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rubio:

On behalf of the City of Arcata, we wish to express our support for AB 968 and 1654, your measures which would:

- Implement water use efficiency measures at the regional and local levels to reflect the best approach to meet water supply needs of the community;
- Achieve water shortage contingency planning and management;
- Enhance existing urban water management planning requirements and strengthen water suppliers' abilities to plan and prepare for future droughts.

AB 968 would require water suppliers to promote the efficient use of water versus increasing the efficiency of water use.

AB 968 would acknowledge that factors used to formulate long-term water use efficiency targets can vary significantly at various locations due to many factors. It is therefore optimal to utilize local and regional use efficiency measures that reflect the unique water supply and demand conditions that suit the needs of their communities.

AB 968 would establish standards that recognize and provide credit to water suppliers that made substantial capital investments in urban water use efficiency, sustainable drought resilient supplies and emergency supplies since the drought period tracking back to 1990. For Arcata this is important because we have maintained one of the lowest per capita water use rates in the state.

AB 1654 would enhance existing reporting and drought response requirements related to water shortage contingency analyses. Under the bill, urban retail water suppliers ("water suppliers") would report

City Manager
(707) 822-5953

Police
822-2428

Recreation
822-7091

Community Development
822-5955

Finance
822-5951

Transportation
822-3775

Environmental Services
Streets/Utilities
822-5957

Environmental Services
Community Services
822-8184

Engineering
& Building
825-2128

annually to the Department of Water Resources on the status of their water supplies for that year and whether supplies will be adequate to meet projected customer demand. If supplies are not adequate to meet demand, the water supplier would be required to implement the appropriate responses as described in their water shortage contingency analysis.

AB 1654 would also prohibit a water supplier from being required to reduce its use or reliance on any water supply available beyond the steps specified in its water shortage contingency analysis, protecting water suppliers' and their customers' investments in resilient water supply sources.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact the City's Environmental Services Director, Mark Andre at (707) 822-8184 or by email at: mandre@cityofarcata.org.

Sincerely,



Susan Ornelas, Mayor
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Assemblymember Jim Wood (via fax) 707-445-6607
Sara Rounds, League Public Affairs Program Manager (via email) srounds@cacities.org
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