



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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August 2, 2018

The Honorable Anthony Portantino, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: AB 1577 (Gipson) As Amended June 27, 2018 – SUPPORT
Relating to the Sativa-Los Angeles County Water District
Hearing Set August 6, 2018, in the Senate Appropriations Committee**

Dear Senator Portantino:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1577 (Gipson).

Current law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act (Act) provides for the operation of public water systems and authorizes the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) to order consolidation with a receiving water system if a public water system or a state small water system, serving a disadvantaged community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water. The Act also authorizes the Water Board to contract with an administrator to provide administrative and managerial services to a designated water system for the purposes of providing affordable, safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. The Water Board has authority to order the designated public water system to accept those administrative and managerial services, including full management and control, if sufficient funding is available and if the Water Board finds that consolidation with another system or extension of service from another system is either not appropriate or not technically and economically feasible.

On April 24, 2018, the Board adopted a motion directing the County's Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to investigate and to address the water quality complaints of brown water raised by Sativa customers earlier in the year when Sativa flushed its pipes after an extended period of time without proper maintenance. According to the motion, Sativa has been aware of its infrastructure challenges for some time and in 2016, Sativa was referred to DPW for technical assistance in seeking grant dollars, specifically through the Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, to upgrade their aging infrastructure. However, DPW reports that Sativa has made no effort to partner with them to explore opportunities.