



500 S. Main Street, Suite #410, Orange, CA 92868 | P: (714) 953-1300 | F: (714) 953-1302 | www.ACCOC.org

May 26, 2017

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048

RE: AB 1654 (Rubio) Water shortage: urban water management planning. – SUPPORT.

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its support of the proposed legislation Assembly Bill 1654 (Rubio), which would create a new process of drought-response planning and reporting by local water suppliers. By requiring water suppliers to describe and analyze the reliability of their water supplies in greater detail, AB 1654 would improve overall urban water management planning.

Under AB 1654, each urban retail water supplier would be required to report annually to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) the status of its water supplies for that year and whether the supplies will be adequate to meet projected customer demand. Annual reporting from every urban retail water supplier would allow the state to better identify suppliers experiencing water shortages, as well as suppliers prepared to deal with drought conditions. This would provide the state with the information it needs to assess statewide water supply conditions, and allow state agencies to respond appropriately.

AB 1654 would create better all-around drought planning and preparation. It would ensure that water suppliers are prepared to reduce demand through water conservation measures during times of drought, and would protect and encourage local investment in resilient water supplies. The result would be a California with greater overall water security and drought resilience.

California's recent drought demonstrated the pressing need for improvements in how we plan for and respond to exceptionally dry conditions. Water agencies across the state agree that smart, thoughtful enhancements to the state's drought planning laws can make California more responsive during times of water conservation. AB 1654 is one such enhancement, which is why it has been overwhelmingly supported by cities and water agencies alike.

The well-being of California's cities is of paramount importance to the ACC-OC. For this and the reasons described above, the Association of California Cities – Orange County supports AB 1654. Should you have any questions about our position or about the ACC-OC, please contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director, at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org.



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Sincerely,

Heather Stratman
Chief Executive Officer
Association of California Cities – Orange County

CC:

Orange County State Legislative Delegation
ACC-OC Board of Directors