



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 Laura Friedman
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

RE: AB 1668 (Friedman – D) Water management planning. – OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) would like to express its opposition to the proposed legislation Assembly Bill 1668 (Friedman). This bill creates a new drought response plan by making numerous changes to water supply planning, and drought planning to incorporate climate change, and enhance water supply analysis. This bill would require three separate reporting mechanisms, which would be unnecessary and burdensome to local governments.

AB 1668 would eliminate existing urban water shortage contingency analysis (WSCA) that is part of an urban water management plans (UWMP) and replaces it with a newly defined water shortage contingency plan (WSCP). AB 1668 Defines a WSCP as a document that is part of an UWMP, and requires the WSCP to include a water budget forecast, and requires a drought risk assessment to be included in an UWMP as part of information considered in developing demand management measures and water supply projects. Lastly, AB 1668 also requires a drought risk assessment to provide the basis for the risk assessment, compare total water supply available with total projected water use, and consider plausible changes to the historical drought hydrology on projected supplies and demands under climate change and other criteria.

If enacted, this bill would impose standardized water shortage levels and drought declarations with no oversight or accountability to the Legislature. The long-term results will be detrimental to our municipalities. Adopting a framework that would create better all-around drought planning and preparation, with flexibility for local governments is a much more effective model. It would encourage local investment in resilient water supplies, creating 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 drought resilient, unfortunately AB 1668 is not the best option to accomplish these goals.

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 opposes AB 1668. Should you have any questions about our position or about the ACC-OC, please



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contact Diana Coronado, ACC-OC's Legislative Affairs Director, at (714) 953-1300 or at dcoronado@accoc.org.

Sincerely,

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

CC:

Orange County State Legislative Delegation
ACC-OC Board of Directors