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May 26, 2017

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

**RE: AB 968 (Rubio) Urban water use: water efficiency. – 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 968 (Rubio), which would establish a new 2025 water use efficiency requirement for urban retail water suppliers. AB 968 would do so in a manner that incentivizes the development of resilient supplies such as recycled water, provides three options for determining targets, and protects existing water rights.

This bill makes water use efficiency a way of life in California. The efficiency targets laid out in AB 968 would account for local conditions, while also recognizing and incentivizing sustainable, balanced approaches to water management. It would also establish standards that recognize and provide credit to water suppliers that have made substantial capital investments in urban water use efficiency, sustainable drought resilient supplies, and emergency supplies since the drought of the early 1990s.

AB 968 would also require the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to establish a collaborative urban stakeholder process to continue improvement in water use efficiency beyond 2025, and would preserve the Legislature's authority and oversight over long-term water use target setting. The factors used to formulate long-term water use efficiency targets can vary significantly based on location. It is therefore optimal to utilize local and regional use efficiency measures that reflect the unique water supply and demand conditions of individual communities. By detailing a variety of target compliance mechanisms, AB 968 provides flexibility for cities when adopting water efficiency targets.

Urban retail suppliers are best equipped to operate their local water systems, understand their customer base, and balance actions to achieve greater water use efficiency while protecting the financial position of the water system. By recognizing this, AB 968 would be able to achieve significant improvement in urban water use efficiency in positive collaboration with local water districts.

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 968. 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](mailto: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