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SAN BERNARDINO**

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

March 27, 2014

Honorable Richard Gordon
California State Assembly
California State Capitol, Room 3013
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1799 (Gordon) – As introduced February 18, 2014 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gordon:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1799. This important measure would exempt specified governmental entities and special districts from the requirement to use endowments or other funding instruments to fund long-term stewardship of mitigation property, so long as the governmental entity or special district demonstrates financial reliability and provides either a board resolution or contractual agreement for the long-term stewardship of mitigation property.

Requiring public agencies to set aside funds in endowments permanently ties up taxpayer funds so they cannot be used to fund critical public projects. This negatively impacts public agencies' ability to carry out their work. AB 1799 would exempt public agencies from the endowment requirement and instead would permit the use of other specific methods to ensure funding for long-term stewardship of mitigation property. This measure will not result in reduced mitigation or reduced stewardship obligations, but it will provide greater flexibility in the use of tax dollars.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1799. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4821.

Sincerely,

JANICE RUTHERFORD
Board of Supervisors Chair
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation