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SAN BERNARDINO**

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

April 7, 2014

Honorable Dan Logue
California State Assembly
California State Capitol, Room 4158
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 1849 (Logue) – As introduced February 19, 2014 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Logue:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1849, which would exempt routine levee maintenance from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District is responsible for the development and management of an extensive system of regional flood control and water conservation facilities, consisting of 151 miles of levees, 226 miles of flood control channels, 40 miles of storm drains, 15 state jurisdictional dams, as well as 120 debris, detention and percolation basins.

Routine levee maintenance projects are negatively impacted when the County must satisfy requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which prohibits woody vegetation on levees, while complying with federal and state environmental requirements that sometime conflict, including CEQA. These requirements dramatically increase costs, especially when the County is mandated to provide mitigation for maintenance activities on facilities that have been in existence for decades. The requirements also delay much needed maintenance projects, imperiling the lives and property of our residents while not providing any significant benefit to the environment.

Allowing jurisdictions to conduct levee maintenance on a regular basis without unnecessary environmental review will save tax dollars, improve system performance, and most important, better protect the lives and property of the public we serve.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 1849. 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