



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
(909) 387-4821

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

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May 4, 2012

The Honorable Joe Simitian,
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Subcommittee No. 2
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Elimination of Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Simitian:

The County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes the Governor's proposals to eliminate the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, as well as eliminate categorical Board member associations, and reduce the number of board members from nine to seven.

As you are aware, the Governor's proposal to eliminate the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board would shift its functions to both the Lahontan and San Diego regions. The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board regulates a unique desert region in California. This region is hydrologically and climatically different from areas regulated by other Regional Water Quality Control Boards, particularly the coastal Regional Boards. Maintaining the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board is critical because of the Board's unique understanding of the region's issues.

Also proposed is the elimination of categorical board member associations, including local government. Counties and cities play a significant role in stormwater management and wastewater treatment. Losing their representation on the regional boards would remove the perspective of a substantial segment of the regulated community. The elimination of seats reserved for local government would further erode local control and hinder development of regulations and permits that respect the unique conditions of arid desert environments.

While the County supports streamlining services to improve efficiencies, the elimination of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the elimination of local government Board representation erodes local control and hampers decision-making authority.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes the elimination of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director, at (909) 387-4280. The County of San Bernardino thanks you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Cc: Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee Subcommittee No. 2

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.