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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3056
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 412 (Ochoa Bogh) Water quality: regional municipal separate storm sewer system permits – SPONSOR

Dear Senator Ochoa Bogh:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor 412, to amend the California Environmental Quality Act definition of emergency.

Senate Bill 412 would update the definition of "emergency" found within the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Public Resources Code to include pre-emptive measures to prevent subsequent emergency situations. This will help protect life, health, property, and essential public services from damage and loss that may be caused by the initial emergency. The current definition of "emergency" does not include necessary efforts to mitigate further emergencies that have been identified as likely to occur as the result of the initial emergency.

The El Dorado Fire that took place in San Bernardino County this past year that was so large the state issued an emergency declaration. The fire season, coupled with the upcoming storm seasons, presented a challenge to local jurisdictions to perform emergency activities in a short period of time in order to address the predicted debris and mud flows. Unfortunately, under the current definition of "emergency", these urgent, life-saving projects are not eligible for CEQA exemption, thus opening them up to long delays. This small change will allow local agencies to do the work necessary to prevent further loss to life and property damage

For the reasons listed above, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to sponsor SB 412. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Amanda Meere, Governmental and Legislative Analyst, at 909- 387-4280 or Amanda.Meere@cao.sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Environmental Quality
San Bernardino County State Legislative Delegation

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