



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

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August 27, 2007

The Honorable Tom Torlakson
7th Senate District
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SCA 12 (Torlakson) – Local Government: Property-Related Fees

Dear Senator Torlakson:

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors along with the California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities, and the Association of California Water Agencies supports SCA 12, which would provide the opportunity to create an additional resource to fund storm water and urban runoff management programs mandated by the Clean Water Act.

If passed by the Legislature and approved by the voters, SCA 12 would authorize cities and counties to adopt fees and charges for storm water and urban runoff management programs without having to meet the two-thirds voter approval requirement for property-related fees. This same type of exception to Proposition 218 is currently provided for refuse collection, sewer and water services.

Water quality issues have continued to poll very high with California voters, as evidenced by the passage of several water related bond issues over the last several years. With this background, it seems likely the voters will agree that storm water should be treated the same as water and sewer with regards to Proposition 218. At this point, the courts have held that storm water is not the same.

The County of San Bernardino supports SCA 12 and appreciates your efforts on improving the financial options for funding flood control, storm water and water quality programs throughout the state.

Sincerely,

PAUL BIANE
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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.