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June 19, 2017

ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT

SB 231 (Hertzberg) – Local Government: Fees and Charges As amended 4/19/17 – SUPPORT Assembly Third Reading File

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) support SB 231 by Senator Bob Hertzberg, which authorizes counties, cities, and local water agencies to finance stormwater projects in the same manner as other public works projects, like water or sewer, under Proposition 218.

Proposition 218, passed in 1996, imposes a variety of procedures for financing different kinds of water infrastructure projects. SB 231 would update the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act's definition of "sewer" to include storm drainage.

Under existing law, water and sewer projects are subject to one set of procedures regarding public notification and protests, while stormwater projects are subject to a different process. These inconsistent rules have resulted in a lack of funding options to adequately capture and treat stormwater.

Counties, cities, and local water agencies throughout California face many cost pressures and funding challenges on water projects, including maintenance of aging infrastructure and increasing requirements to comply with higher regulatory standards. Local agencies need to fund stormwater and flood control projects to protect people and property from flooding, remove pollutants from stormwater, and increase groundwater recharge.

Authorizing stormwater projects to utilize these procedures will provide a more cost effective and efficient method to raise revenue urgently needed for these important public works projects, and will help counties, cities, and local water agencies to improve water supply reliability and maintain water quality for public and environmental health.

For these reasons, **CSAC and RCRC support AB 231 and respectfully request your "AYE" vote.** Please contact Cara Martinson (916-327-7500, ext. 504, or cmartinson@counties.org) or Mary-Ann Warmerdam (916-447-4806 or mwarmerdam@rcrcnet.org) with any questions.