

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
651 Pine Street, Room 107
Martinez, California 94553-1293

John M. Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
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Contra Costa County



David J. Twa
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 335-1900

April 21, 2015

The Honorable Richard S. Gordon
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3013
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1362

Dear Assembly Member Gordon,

The County strongly supports your Assembly Bill 1362, which is a critical first step to providing cities and counties a mechanism to fund stormwater related infrastructure and services similar to the current mechanism in place for water and wastewater districts to fund their infrastructure and services.

The cost for the County to provide stormwater related services has increased dramatically over the last several years with no offsetting revenue source. The County is responsible for improving stormwater quality in our storm drain systems and creeks by removing pollutants such as mercury and trash, and building stormwater treatment facilities like grassy swales and green infrastructure projects along our roads. The County owns and operates miles of drainage pipes and ditches in seventeen unincorporated communities that are inadequate, old, and need replacing. The County Flood Control District is required to maintain flood capacity in its facilities while protecting and enhancing riparian and aquatic habitats.

Stormwater is viewed more and more as an essential resource that can augment our drinking water supplies and is critical in maintaining ecological health. As an essential resource more and more attention is placed on improving its quality and maintaining its infrastructure. Stormwater is becoming a vital service like drinking water and wastewater and should have a funding mechanism similar to the existing funding mechanism utilized by water districts and wastewater districts.

To achieve this parity, the legislature must pass a Constitutional Amendment that would allow the voters of California to decide if the process to fund stormwater infrastructure and services should be similar to the current process used by water districts and wastewater districts. Your assembly bill would provide implementation guidance for the Constitutional Amendment.

We strongly support AB 1362 and urge you to work with other members of the Legislature to introduce and pass a Constitutional Amendment so we can adequately protect and manage stormwater, our most precious resource.

Sincerely,

John Gioia, Chair
Contra Costa County
Board of Supervisors

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c: David Twa, CAO
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