

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Bob Hertzberg
Senator
California State Senate
State Capitol Swing Space, Room 8610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1157 (Hertzberg) – Oppose Unless Amended

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) respectfully opposes your bill SB 1157 related to indoor residential water use standards unless it is amended. OC San provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County, CA. OC San’s primary mission is to protect public health and the environment through its services.

OC San respectfully requests that you incorporate language that would delay the implementation of a 2030 standard and require additional quantitative analysis of an appropriate standard for 2030 and beyond. OC San believes that the revised standards included in the bill do not adequately mitigate or address the adverse impacts and significant costs that could occur. The proposed standard also does not consider the changes in water use habits and trends during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, OC San is concerned about the reduced flows to our treatment plants because of the proposed 2030 standard. As you know, OC San is a leader in wastewater recycling in the State and partners with the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to recycle nearly all of our reclaimable wastewater flows to drinking water quality standards for indirect potable reuse. A significant reduction of water use without the appropriate study would change the quantity and quality of the influent into the wastewater treatment process and would change the potency of the flow, making it harder and more expensive to treat, as well as ignore the significant investment OC San has made in our collection and treatment facilities and decades of partnership that OC San has fostered with the OCWD.

For these reasons, OC San respectfully must oppose your bill SB 1157 unless it is amended to require additional quantitative analysis before making a 2030 standard. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Withers
Board Chairman

CC: Orange County Legislative Delegation

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